

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS

Statement of Policy

Qualifications for admittance to the FE Examination and Certification as an Engineer-in-Training

Statutory Authority: Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976, as amended),
Title 40, Chapter 22, §40-22-220(B)

Legislation (Act 185 of 1993) was enacted by the South Carolina General Assembly effective June 25, 1993 to amend the statutes regulating the practice of engineering and surveying in South Carolina. The legislation added an additional provision for qualifications for admittance to the written examination in the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE), also referred to as the "EIT Examination".

Note: The South Carolina Board will not accept an application for certification as Engineer-in-Training from one who resides or is employed in another state, unless the applicant holds a Board-approved degree from a South Carolina college or university. Applicants must provide a valid U.S. social security number.

Information regarding qualifications and requests for forms must be directed to the State Board office, either in writing or by telephone: PO Box 11597, Columbia, SC 29211-1597 (Telephone: (803) 896-4422; Fax: (803) 896-4427).

§40-22-220(B). Qualifications for Certification as Engineer-in-Training: Effective June 25, 1993, the minimum evidence that an applicant is qualified for such certification is outlined in the following three categories: I (Group 1); II (Group 2); III (Group 3).

CATEGORY I. §40-22-220

Group (1)—EAC/ABET or CEAB Engineering Graduates:

The Board has interpreted this section to mean a four-year engineering degree accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (EAC/ABET). Based upon evaluation by ABET, four-year engineering degrees accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) will be recognized by the Board as equal to accreditation by EAC of ABET. The following are included in Group (1):

A. South Carolina Senior Students in EAC/ABET Engineering Programs:

A **senior engineering student** in an EAC/ABET program at The Citadel, Clemson University, or the University of South Carolina, who has sufficient credits and expects to graduate within the scholastic year during which the FE examination is taken, will be admitted to the examination after approval or certification by the Dean or Department Head at the student's institution. Forms and information will be made available in the office of the Dean. Institutions will be notified of application deadlines by the Board. Applicants should contact the institution for filing deadlines. Final approval for admittance to the examination must be provided by the Board office. Actual certification as an EIT for those passing the examination will be deferred until the Board receives evidence of graduation from the EAC/ABET program. Such evidence must be the applicant's transcript sent to the Board in an envelope sealed by the Registrar.

Group (1) Qualifications for Admittance to the Examination and Certification as an EIT:

B. Graduates of EAC/ABET and CEAB Engineering Programs:

Anyone other than a senior student as described above must obtain applications from the Board office. Transcripts must be sent to the Board in an envelope sealed by the Registrar. Applications must be filed with the Board by December 15th for the Spring administration and by June 15th for the Fall administration. The Board will provide information and instructions. Upon passing of the FE examination, applicants will be certified as an EIT.

C. South Carolina Students in an EAC/ABET Master's Program:

A student in an EAC/ABET Master's program who does not have an approved undergraduate degree **will not be admitted to the examination until the Master's degree has been received.** The Master's degree in this category will be accepted as the basic engineering degree. Transcripts must be sent to the Board in an envelope sealed by the Registrar. Application must be filed with the Board office, not the institution, by December 15th for the Spring administration and by June 15th for the Fall administration. The Board will provide information and instructions. Upon passing of the FE examination, applicants will be certified as an EIT.

D. Graduates of a Master's or Doctoral Engineering Degree Program with an Approved (NON-EAC/ABET) Undergraduate Degree:

A graduate of a Master's or Doctoral engineering degree program offered by a college or university which also offers an EAC/ABET baccalaureate engineering or EAC/ABET Master's engineering program in the same field of study who holds a Board approved NON-EAC/ABET engineering degree shall be admitted to the FE examination. The undergraduate degree must be evaluated by the Board's Education Consultant. (The education evaluation requires an additional fee and the process may take two to three weeks.) The graduate degree will be considered as the basic engineering degree, but the applicant will not be admitted to the examination until after the Master's or Doctoral engineering degree has been received. The Board will provide information and instructions. Upon passing of the FE examination, applicants will be certified as an EIT.

Group (1)—Qualifications for Registration as a Professional Engineer: All applicants successfully completing the requirements for certification as an EIT in the above categories may apply for admittance to the PE examination with four (4) years of **qualifying** experience after the date of graduation (approved degree). Upon admittance to and passing of the PE examination, the applicant will be registered as a **Category A Professional Engineer**.

CATEGORY II. §40-22-220

Group (2)—NON-EAC/ABET Engineering Graduates:

The Board has interpreted this section to mean foreign and other engineering degrees not accredited by EAC/ABET which substantially meet the accreditation criteria of EAC/ABET. The following are included in Group (2):

Group (2)—Qualifications for admittance to the FE Examination: Education must be evaluated by the Board's Education Consultant prior to acceptance of an application for processing. The education evaluation requires an additional fee and the process may take two to three weeks. The purpose of such evaluation will be to determine whether or not the curriculum presented by the applicant complies substantially with the accreditation criteria of EAC/ABET. Documents must be sent by the institution to the Board and must include course description, subjects taken, and verification of degree received;

Group (2)—Qualifications for admittance to the FE Examination—Continued

A syllabus for one or more specific courses may be requested by the Board as part of the evaluation process. In such cases, it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to have the institution send the applicable course syllabi directly to the Board. Course Syllabi so submitted must be those for the course or courses actually taken by the applicant. A failure to comply with these provisions will be just cause for rejection of the application. The following are included in Group (2):

A. Graduates of Board-Approved Four-Year NON-EAC/ABET or NON-CEAB Engineering Programs:

Transcripts must be sent to the Board in an envelope sealed by the Registrar for evaluation and approval prior to admittance to the examination.

B. Graduates of Board-Approved Four-Year Engineering Programs from Foreign Schools:

The Board will accept certified true-copies of transcripts that must include course description, subjects taken, and verification of degree received. Education must be evaluated and approved prior to admittance to the examination.

C. Graduates of NON-EAC/ABET Master's Programs in Engineering:

An applicant with a non-approved undergraduate degree (mathematics, biology, or NON-EAC/ABET) who holds a Board-Approved NON-EAC/ABET Master's Degree in Engineering, may be admitted to the FE examination **if** certification can be made by the institution granting the degree that deficiencies in an undergraduate degree in the same field of study have been made up before or during the graduate program. Such certification must be made by the Engineering Dean or Department Head and will also require evaluation by the Board Education Consultant. **If this education is approved, the Master's degree will be considered as the approved basic engineering degree. (See experience requirements below.)** Transcripts and certification must be sent by the institution for evaluation and approval by the Board prior to admittance to the examination.

CATEGORY III. §40-22-220

Group (3)—Graduates of TAC/ABET Four-Year Engineering Technology Programs:

The Board has interpreted this section to mean a four-year engineering technology degree accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (TAC/ABET). The following are included in Group (3):

Group (3)—Qualifications for Admittance to the FE Examination:

A. South Carolina Senior Students in TAC/ABET Four-Year Engineering Programs:

A **senior engineering technology student** in a TAC/ABET program at S.C. State University who has sufficient credits and expects to graduate within the scholastic year during which the FE examination is taken will be admitted to the examination after approval or certification by the Dean or Department Head at the institution. Forms and information will be available in the office of the Dean. Institution will be notified of application deadlines by the Board. Applicants should contact the institution for filing deadlines. Final approval for admittance to the examination must be provided by the Board office.

B. Graduates of TAC/ABET Four-Year Engineering Technology Programs: Transcripts must be sent to the Board in an envelope sealed by the Registrar. (Admittance to the FE examination will be deferred until the Board receives an official transcript.) Applications must be filed with the Board by December 15th for the Spring administration and by June 15th for the Fall administration. The Board will provide information and instructions.

Group (3)—Qualifications for Certification as EIT:

Actual certification for those passing the examination must be deferred until the Board receives evidence of graduation.

Group (3)—Qualifications for Registration as Category B Associate Professional Engineer:

Through June 30, 2020, individuals who have graduated in a TAC/ABET accredited engineering technology curriculum of four or more years and who have a specific record after graduation of eight or more years of experience in engineering work of a character satisfactory to the board, who are of good character and reputation, who can communicate effectively in the English language may take the NCEES Principles of Practice and the Fundamentals of Engineering examinations and become an associate engineer licensed for Category B practice. As of July 1, 2020, Category B licensure ceases to exist.

Group (3)—Qualifications for Category B License Holder to Upgrade to a Category A Professional Engineer:

Through June 30, 2020, individuals who have graduated in a baccalaureate TAC/ABET accredited curriculum and who have successfully passed the NCEES Principles of Practice and Fundamentals of Engineering examinations, and who have completed eight or more years of qualifying experience as an engineer and who are otherwise qualified for licensure, may present their credentials for evaluation by a committee of professional engineers licensed in this State composed of no less than three practicing engineers, a member or former member of the board, and a professor of engineering. Applicants for licensure under this subsection must demonstrate sufficient rigor in their scope or depth of qualifying experience, such that the committee can determine that they can meet established standards of engineering practice. Only applicants who are approved under the review process may be licensed as professional engineers. Absent a showing of a change or qualifications to correct deficiencies identified in the review process, no application may be reviewed by the committee more than twice.