

**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION  
FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND SURVEYORS**

**Statement of Policy**

**Minimum Qualifications for Certification  
as TIER A Land Surveyor**

**Statutory Authority: Code of Laws of SC (1976, as amended), Title 40, Chapter 22;  
Code of Registration, Chapter 49**

**Filing Dates: Applications** must be filed by December 15<sup>th</sup> for consideration to be admitted to the Spring examination and by June 15<sup>th</sup> for consideration to be admitted to the Fall examination.

**Transcripts:** Education must be evaluated and approved prior to acceptance of application. Transcripts may be submitted for evaluation prior to filing application; if not, transcripts must accompany application in a sealed envelope from the Registrar (see Education Policy Statement).

**Exhibits:** Applicants are required to submit several copies or prints of plats **which must be certified by the Registered Land Surveyor in responsible charge of the survey indicating what part of the work was performed by the applicant**, such as field work, drafting, etc. The plats or maps submitted must meet the requirements called for in the Code of Regulations, Chapter 49, Article 4, Minimum Standards Manual for the Practice of Land Surveying in South Carolina.

**Original Registration:** The minimum evidence satisfactory to the Board that an applicant is qualified for certification as Land Surveying-in-Training and registration as a TIER A Land Surveyor must be met by both education, experience and examinations. All applicants are required to take and pass sixteen hours of written examinations. An applicant will not be accepted for original registration from an applicant who resides or is employed in another state unless there are extenuating circumstances.

**Comity Registration:** An application will be considered for registration by comity from an applicant who is appropriately registered in the state in which the applicant resides or is employed unless there are extenuating circumstances satisfactory to the Board. An application will be accepted for registration by comity if the applicant meets the requirements for education, experience and examination as prescribed by the statutes, and the rules and regulations of this Board in effect at the time of filing said application. An applicant registered in another state may be required to take such examinations as the Board deems necessary to establish that his qualifications meet the requirements of the statutes, rules and regulations of the Board. The applicant shall in all cases be required to pass a written examination including questions laws, procedures and practices pertaining to the practice of land surveying in this State (State Specific Land Surveying Examination-2 hours). Note: The South Carolina Board does not recognize "Veterans Preference Points" awarded by other states: therefore, if an applicant did not make the raw passing score recommended by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCESS) on either the Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FLS) or Principles and Practice of Land Surveying (PLS) examinations, the applicant will be required to retake such examinations and achieve the national passing score prior to registration in South Carolina.

**Education:** In addition to one of the following degrees an applicant must have completed courses in surveying and mapping of not less than twelve hours or the equivalent in quarter hours satisfactory to the Board (See Education Policy Statement):

- 1) Four-year land surveying degree accredited by the Related Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (RAC/ABET);
- 2) Four-year civil engineering technology degree accredited by the Technical Accreditation Commission (TAC) of ABET;
- 3) Four-year engineering or related science degree approved by the Board;
- 4) Two-year associate engineering technology degree accredited by TAC/ABET.

**Experience:** “Qualifying experience approved by the Board is experience beyond elementary surveying duties such as chaining, rodman, and bush cutting duties. In order for work to be considered as qualifying experience, an advanced level of responsibility must have been placed on the applicant. Responsibility should involve mature judgment and expertise gained in such job assignments as instrument man, assistant crew chief or crew chief. Work claimed as qualifying experience should demonstrate a sound working knowledge of surveying with respect to research (records and field), instrumentation, note keeping, calculations and mapping. An applicant is expected to have at least 1.0 years of field experience at the “crew chief” level at the time of filing. An experience record in boundary and route surveying, topographical surveying, construction surveying, control/geodetic surveying, and rights of way delineation is beneficial to the applicant in the Board’s evaluation of the application. Recognizing that boundary surveys are the types of surveys which more critically affect the public welfare, experience in boundary surveys should constitute a significant portion of the applicant’s experience record and will be given more weight by the Board in considering an applicant’s qualifications for licensure.

- (a) **Qualifying Experience for Land Surveyor-in-Training (LSIT).** An applicant who meets the four-years education requirement outlined above must have **one** year of progressive experience of a character satisfactory to the Board, performed under a practicing Registered Land Surveyor. An applicant who meets the two-year education requirement outlined above must have **Three** years of progressive practical experience of a character satisfactory to the Board, performed under a practicing Registered Land Surveyor.
- (b) **Qualifying Experience for TIER A Land Surveyor.** An applicant applying for licensure as a land boundary surveyor who meets the four-year education requirements must have two years of progressive practical experience. Effective July 1, 2004 an applicant in this category must have four years of qualifying experience.

An applicant applying for licensure as a land boundary surveyor who meets the two-year education requirements must have four years of progressive practical experience. Effective July 1, 2010 this provision will be void.

**Examinations:** Applicants must take and pass the written examinations in the Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FLS) and the Principles and Practice of Land Surveying (PLS) and the State Specific Land Surveying Examination. Under the requirements of §40-22-225, upon graduation from either a four-year college or a two-year college, the applicant will be allowed to take the LSIT examination upon graduation. The LSIT will not be issued until he/she meets the experience requirements in said paragraph.

**Refer to Code of Laws: §40-22-225(B)(C) and Codes of Regulations: 49-203B.**