

Engineer Licensure

in the State of Florida

Committed to protecting the interest of public health and safety by properly regulating the practice of engineering.



Online at **fbpe.org**



Why Become a Licensed Engineer?

If you are considering a career as an engineer, obtaining professional licensure will significantly affect how you are viewed within the industry and by your peers, provide a broader spectrum of employment opportunities, and establish you to society as an authority within your profession.

Licensure is the highest standard of competence within the engineering industry and is a symbol of achievement and dedication to the safety, health, and welfare of the public. Professional licensure protects the public by enforcing standards that restrict practice to those individuals who have met specific qualifications in education, work experience, exams, and ethics.

Licensed engineers are a select group. Since the requirements are stringent and because there are some exemptions that allow engineers to work under the supervision of a professional engineer (PE), not all engineers become licensed. However, those who do achieve licensure enjoy the professional benefits that accompany this distinction. As a licensed professional engineer, you are able to sign and seal designs, be the principal of a firm, perform consulting services, bid for government contracts, and offer services to the public.

Where Do I Begin?

The Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Exam is typically the first step in the process to obtaining a professional engineer license. It is designed for applicants who are in their final year of completing an undergraduate engineering degree or soon after graduation. No engineering experience is required to take this exam; however, evidence of acceptable education is required. This exam is available as a computer-based test (CBT) only and is administered in four exam windows a year.

The process for preparing to take the FE Exam has three steps:

- 1 You should apply with the Florida Board of Professional Engineers (FBPE) to obtain approval of eligibility to take the exam. Qualifications to apply for the FE Exam require that you be a graduate of, or be within one year of graduation from, a four-year EAC/ABET engineering program. If you are a graduate, eligibility is verified with submission of final transcripts; otherwise, a "Letter of Good Standing" from the school registrar attesting that you are in your final year of studies is required.
- **2** Upon approval from FBPE, contact the National Council of Examiners for Engineering & Surveying (NCEES) to register for the exam, obtain candidate number, and pay the administration fee.
- **3** Contact the Pearson VUE authorized test center of your choice in the applicable exam window and make an appointment to take the FE Exam.





The CBT version of the FE exam is a six-hour session and is offered as seven discipline-specific, stand-alone versions. Each of the exams contains the core engineering content relevant to that engineering discipline, plus appropriate discipline-specific content.

Exam grades are made available by NCEES at the end of each week during the exam windows. Applicants can test one time per exam window and may attempt the exam three times within a 12-month period. Florida Statutes allow three failures on the exam before the candidate is required to take 12 additional college credit hours or complete an examination review course prior to further exam approvals.

FE Application & Requirements

Applications and additional information regarding the FE Exam can be accessed on our website at fbpe.org, under "Application Process" in the Licensure section.

FE CBT Exam Process & Fees

To learn more about NCEES, the FE CBT exam process and to register for the next administration, go to NCEES' website at ncees. org/cbt.



FE Exam Center Locations

To search for locations of Pearson VUE's professional testing centers go to pearsonvue.com/ncees/locate/.



Next Stop... Licensure

Once you have passed the FE Exam, and the Florida Board of Professional Engineers has a final transcript showing your date of graduation and has issued you a certificate, you are classified as an Engineer Intern (EI) or Engineer in Training (EIT). In this capacity, you will continue on your journey toward professional licensure by gaining engineering experience. Many states have specific requirements about the type and amount of experience one must gain to receive appropriate credit for work experience. The State of Florida requires four years of verifiable experience as an EI or EIT to become eligible for the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) Exam.

After you have gained the required experience, you are now ready to take the second exam in the licensure process, the PE Exam. This is the second and final part to becoming licensed in Florida. When you pass the PE Exam, you will be assigned a license number and you may begin working as a licensed professional engineer.

As a licensed professional engineer in Florida, you are required to renew your license every two years and, during that period, complete 18 hours of continuing education, including one hour focusing on Florida laws and rules of professional engineers, one hour of professional ethics, and four hours related to area of practice. More information about licensure renewal and continuing education requirements can be found on our website at fbpe.org/continuing-education/.

To qualify and apply for the PE Exam you must:

- 1 Possess an ABET-equivalent B.S. degree in engineering, or the equivalent of same as verified by an approved evaluator;
- **2** Successfully complete the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam;
- 3 Provide four years of verifiable full-time engineering experience. Experience usually begins upon graduation, but you can earn up to 12 months experience while pursuing your B.S. degree for any full-time work in engineering within the last two years before graduation. Experience credit may be awarded at 50 percent of the real full-time work performed.
- 4 Supply three verifiable personal licensed PE references; and
- **5** Successfully complete the Laws & Rules Study Guide.

Like the FE Exam, the PE Exam requires you to do the following:

- 1 Apply for the PE Exam with FBPE. Applications and additional information regarding the PE Exam can be accessed on our website at fbpe.org/licensure/application-process/, under "Application Process" in the Licensure section.
- **2** Submit your application and all of the previously mentioned credentials, along with the exam fee, to the Board for processing.

Once your application is approved, register with NCEES for the exam administration. You can register online at nees.org. This exam is given in a variety of engineering disciplines and is administered via pencil and paper twice a year, in April and October.



About the Board of Professional Engineers

With over 41,000 active licensed engineers in Florida, the Florida Board of Professional Engineers is committed to protecting the interest of public health and safety by properly regulating the practice of engineering.



Established under Florida statute, the Florida Board of Professional Engineers comprises 11 members, nine of whom are licensed professional engineers representing multiple disciplines and two laypersons who are not and never have been engineers or members of any closely related profession or occupation.

FBPE is dedicated to always providing quality service, timely assistance, and accurate information, and encourages any communication as it relates to ensuring the quality of engineering in Florida.

About the Florida Engineers Management Corporation

Under Section 471.038, F.S., administrative, investigative, and prosecutorial services are provided to the Florida Board of Professional



Engineers by the Florida Engineers Management Corporation. FEMC is a non-profit, single-purpose corporation that operates through a contract with the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

The FEMC Board of Directors is composed of seven members. Five members are appointed by the Florida Board of Professional Engineers and must be Florida registrants. Two members are appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and must be laypersons not regulated by the Board.

As designated by the Legislature, FEMC staff provide services to FBPE, such as reviewing applications, licensing qualified applicants, investigating any and all alleged violations, and enforcing prosecution of any individual or firm found to be in violation of Florida Statutes or Rules for this profession.

For more information on Board members and for contact information, go to fbpe.org and select "About FBPE" or "About FEMC."



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