

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Continuing Education Requirements

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FBPE Chair*



If you haven't heard, Florida now requires a total of 18 continuing education (CE) hours to renew an engineering license. There are also additional requirements placed on how those hours are to be earned. The required 18 hours of CE are to be obtained in 4 categories: Laws & Rules (1 hour), Ethics (1 hour), Area of Practice (4 hours), and Topics Pertinent to the Practice of Engineering (12 hours).

Laws & Rules

Licensees are required to obtain one (1) hour of continuing education focusing on Florida's professional engineering laws (*F.S. 471*) and rules (*F.A.C. 61G15*). This hour can be obtained by

- Successfully completing an FBPE approved laws & rules course from an FBPE approved CE provider,
- Serving on the Florida Board of Professional Engineers,
- Serving as a consultant engineer used by the Board in the resolution of Board business, including rule-making and prosecution of discipline cases and complaints, or
- Serving as a member of the Legislature or as an elected state or local official.

Ethics

Licensees are required to obtain one (1) hour of continuing education focusing on ethics for professional engineers. These courses are expected to cover the basic engineering canons. This hour can be obtained by

- Successfully completing an FBPE approved ethics course from an FBPE approved CE provider,
- Serving on the Florida Board of Professional Engineers, or
- Serving as a member of the Legislature or as an elected state or local official.

Area of Practice

Licensees are required to obtain four (4) hours of continuing education focusing on each licensee's particular area(s) of practice. These hours can be obtained by

- Successfully completing an "Advanced" Florida Building Code course approved by the FBPE within the disciplines of civil, structural, mechanical, electrical or general engineering; or
- Presenting or attending seminars, in-house or non-classroom courses, workshops, or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, webinars, conventions, or conferences, including those presented by vendors provided the vendor is an FBPE approved CE provider.

Topics Pertinent to the Practice of Engineering

The remaining twelve (12) hours of continuing education may correlate to any topic pertinent to the practice of engineering. These hours can be obtained in the following ways

- Up to 4 hours may be earned by serving as an officer or actively participating on a committee of a board-recognized professional or technical engineering society;
- Complete an "Advanced" Florida Building Code course approved by the FBPE within the disciplines of civil, structural, mechanical, electrical or general engineering; or
- Presenting or attending seminars, in-house or non-classroom courses, workshops, or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, webinars, conventions, or conferences, including those presented by vendors provided the vendor is an FBPE approved CE provider.

Activities that **DO NOT** qualify include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Self-generated courses, i.e. courses generated and presented by the licensee to himself or herself for continuing education credit,
- Personal self-improvement courses,
- Equipment demonstrations or trade show displays,
- Enrollment without attendance,
- Repetitive attendance or teaching of the same course,
- Tours of buildings, structures, schools, museums and the like, unless there is a clear objective to maintain and strengthen competency in a technical field,
- Regular employment,
- Personal, estate or financial planning, or
- Courses the content of which is below the level of knowledge and skill that reflects the responsibility of an engineer in charge.

If you have any questions about these requirements or need to confirm whether a CE course is acceptable, contact the Board office at 850-521-0500 or send an email to cedesk@fbpe.org. You can access a listing of Florida's Board-approved CE providers by going to Department of Business and Professional Regulation's (DBPR) website at <https://www.myfloridalicense.com/CESearch.asp?SID=&div=09>.

I hope that you find this reminder helpful, especially since there are only 15 months left to obtain these hours.

William C. Bracken, PE, SI, CFM is a licensed Professional Engineer and Special Inspector in the State of Florida and is the President and Principal Engineer for Bracken Engineering located in Tampa, Florida. Mr. Bracken has served on the FBPE Board since 2012 and was the Board's Vice-Chair for 2013-2014. He is currently serving his first term as the FBPE's Chair.

CE F.A.C. Rule Change & Ethics Course Application Update

In FBPE's last quarterly Connection newsletter, we provided information related to the new education requirements for Florida's engineer licensees, as well as a status on the rule update and application process for the new one (1) hour Ethics course requirement. We stated at that time, both the F.A.C. rules and a new course application would be available in mid-summer of 2015 to reflect the changes made to the Section 471.017, F.S., *Renewal of License*.

The Board has been actively working to make the appropriate changes to the Florida Administrative Code and the proposed new language within *Rule 61G15-22.0001, F.A.C.- License Renewal, Continuing Education*, has been noticed and is being reviewed for final approval. A new application for providers seeking to conduct Ethics course has also been drafted and reviewed, and our goal is to have these made officially available on our website in November of 2015.

In the interim, we **ARE** accepting applications for providers seeking to add an Ethics Course to their curriculum via the *CE Laws & Rules Provider Initial Application*. Go to our website and access the *Provider Application Process & Renewal* page under *Continuing Education* or follow this link <https://www.fbpe.org/index.php/component/jdownloads/send/3-provider-application-process/3-continuing-ed-provider-lar-initial-rev102011>.

For CE Providers Planning to Conduct Laws & Rules and Ethics Courses

- Download the application mentioned above and mark through the *Laws & Rules* course title and replace with *Ethics*. Provide all the appropriate information on the form regarding the course along with any documentation. Make a note on the application that you are requesting the fee to be waived since you are an existing and current CE Provider. Submit the application to FBPE as instructed on the form.

For CE Providers NOT Conducting Laws & Rules Courses - Adding Ethics Course Only

- If you are a CE provider **NOT** currently conducting a laws and rules course but want to add an Ethics course to your approved courses, you will use the same application mentioned above to apply. However you will have to submit the \$50.00 fee with your application.

To access the current proposed language for the update to *Rule 61G15-22.0001, F.A.C.- License Renewal, Continuing Education*, go to the Department of State's website and access the FAC and Florida Administrative Register at <https://www.flrules.org/> or follow this link, [FAC Proposed Rule Change for 61G15-22.001](#).

To view a listing of current Continuing Education providers offering Board-approved Ethics Courses go to DBPR's website at <https://www.myfloridalicense.com/CESearch.asp?SID=&div=09>. Be sure to select "Engineers" in the Board search field and "Ethics" in the Requirements search field.

If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this article please contact the Board office at (850) 521-0500, ext. 113 or email Nancy Wilkins at cedesk@fbpe.org.