PE

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

LIKELY CANDIDATES FOR CREDENTIAL	
MILITARY - OFFICER	YES
MILITARY - ENLISTED	NO
INDUSTRY	YES
GOVERNMENT	YES

REQUIREMENTS

The Professional Engineer (P.E.) credential is offered by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). Below are the major steps to becoming a licensed engineer:

- Generally, engineering licensing boards require P.E. candidates to have a bachelor's degree from an Engineering Accreditation Commission/ Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology-accredited program.
- Most states require four years of accessible, progressive, and verifiable work experience.
- Licensure candidates typically must pass the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam and the NCEES Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam.
  - » The FE is generally your first step in the process to becoming a P.E. It is designed for recent graduates and students who are close to finishing an undergraduate engineering degree.
  - » The PE tests for a minimum level of competency in a particular engineering discipline. It is designed for engineers who have gained a minimum of four years' post-college work experience in their chosen engineering discipline.
- Some state or territory licensing boards may require an initial registration to gain permission to take the PE.
- Complete any additional requirements your state/territory may have.
- After successfully passing the exam, apply for licensure and the NCEES Records Program to ease the process of reciprocity in other states.

TEST FORMAT

- The FE is offered in seven disciplines and is comprised of two parts:
  - » Morning: General Engineering
  - » Afternoon: Engineering Discipline (e.g., Civil)
- The PE is offered in 16 disciplines and is comprised of two parts:
  - » Morning: Discipline Breadth (e.g., Civil)
  - » Afternoon: Discipline Depth (e.g., Construction)

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

Various publications and resources are provided to assist candidates in preparation for the exams. Additional resources can be found on the NCEES Exam Prep Portal (ncees.org).

- Each engineering discipline has different exam specifications and design standards. These can be identified by filtering the NCEES engineering website for the specific engineering exam and discipline you are pursuing.
- The FE and PE do not allow any resources to be brought into the exam. The NCEES FE Reference Handbook is the only resource allowed during the exam. The PE only allows the PE Reference Handbook and design standards to be used during the exam. Since the exams became computer based tests, no personal materials are allowed.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Each state/territory has different requirements. Generally, 15 Professional Development Hours (PDHs) per year, with one focused on professional engineering ethics, are the minimum requirement to maintain your licensure.
- Licensure renewal is generally completed on a biannual basis.
- PDHs may be earned by attending live or online seminars, conferences, workshops, or training. Presenting, publishing papers, and participating in professional organizations can also earn PDHs.