

TITLE 250: BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND
LAND SURVEYORS
CHAPTER 3.00: APPLICATION AND EXAMINATION

250 CMR 3.04

3.04: Examinations and Interviews

- (1) Examination Requirements for Professional Engineer Applicants.
To be eligible for registration as a professional engineer, an applicant shall meet the minimum qualifications set forth in M.G.L. c. 112, § 81(J)(1). Unless waived by statute, an applicant is required to pass the Fundamentals of Engineering Examination, a personal interview if required by the Board, and the Principles and Practice of Engineering examination prior to registration.
- (a) Fundamentals of Engineering Examination.
1. The Fundamentals of Engineering Examination shall be the uniform eight hour written examination prepared by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).
 2. The Fundamentals of Engineering Examination is normally held in April and October of each year on a date set by NCEES.
 3. The Fundamentals of Engineering Examination are graded by NCEES and the passing grades are established by the Board.
 4. An applicant for Engineer-in-Training status based upon a Bachelor of Science degree may be admitted to the Fundamentals of Engineering Examination if the applicant has reasonable expectation of obtaining the Bachelor of Science Degree within seven calendar months of the date of the examination, but those having a degree other than a Bachelor of Science in Engineering will not receive certification as an Engineer-in-Training until the required experience is acquired.
- (b) Personal Interview. An applicant may be required to sit for a personal interview prior to registration. Each applicant for licensure under M.G.L. c. 112, § 81(J)(1)(e) will be required to attend a personal interview

with the Board for the purpose of evaluating the applicant's engineering experience. There is no fee for the interview.

1. If an applicant scheduled for an interview fails to accept the appointment after two offered appointments, the application automatically lapses.
2. If an applicant scheduled for interview fails twice to appear for an interview after accepting an appointment, the application automatically lapses.
3. 250 C.M.R. 3.04(1)(b)(1) and (2) do not apply to an applicant actively serving in the armed forces.

(c) Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination.

1. The Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination shall be the uniform written eight hour examination prepared by NCEES. The format of the examination is determined by NCEES and applicants must select questions in accordance with the method in effect and as required by the Board for each particular examination. Specific instructions regarding selection of questions required for an examination will be forwarded to applicants prior to the examination when the information is received from NCEES.
2. The Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination is normally held in April and October of each year on a date set by NCEES.
3. The Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination is graded by NCEES and the passing grades are established by the Board.
4. The Admission Form for the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination is not sent to the applicant until after all other requirements for Professional Engineer status are satisfied. If the applicant fails the examination once, the examination may be repeated upon payment of the required fee. If the applicant fails the examination twice, the application is rejected.
5. An applicant seeking approval to sit for the Principles and Practice of Engineering examination for a third time must submit documentation demonstrating that he or she has

successfully completed an educational program aimed at helping the applicant succeed on the examination and, if the Board determines it is necessary, appear before the Board for a personal interview.

6. An applicant who fails the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination three or more times, must meet the above requirements and wait at least one year before retaking the examination.

(d) Applicants with Twenty Years of Experience. An applicant for registration under M.G.L. c. 112, § 81(J)(1)(e), may be registered as a professional engineer without passing the written Fundamentals in Engineering examination if the following requirements are met:

1. the applicant demonstrates through documentation and personal interview, to the Board's satisfaction, that he or she has 20 years or more of acceptable qualifying experience in engineering work, as outlined in M.G.L. c. 112, § 81(J)(1)(e), 250 C.M.R. 3.02: Education and Experience and 250 CMR 3.03: Experience Evaluation, and
2. the applicant passes the written Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination.

(2) Examination Requirements for Professional Land Surveying Applicants. To be eligible for registration as a professional land surveyor, an applicant shall meet the minimum qualifications set forth in M.G.L. c. 112, § 81(J)(2). Unless waived by statute, an applicant shall be required to pass the Fundamentals of Land Surveying Examination, an oral examination with a subcommittee of the Board, and the Principles and Practice of Land Surveying examination prior to registration.

(a) Fundamentals of Land Surveying Examination.

1. The Fundamentals of Land Surveying Examination shall be the uniform written eight hour examination prepared by NCEES.
2. The Fundamentals of Land Surveying Examination is normally held once a year in October on a date set by NCEES. The examination is normally held on a Saturday and applicants will be notified of the examination site where space is available.

3. The first four hours (Part One) of the Fundamentals of Land Surveying (Surveyor-in-Training) Examination is a closed book examination. Part Two of the Fundamentals of Land Surveying Examination is an open book examination.
 4. The Fundamentals of Land Surveying Examination is graded by NCEES and the passing grades are established by the Board.
 5. An applicant for Surveyor-in-Training status based upon a Bachelor of Science in Surveying or Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree may be admitted to the Fundamentals of Land Surveying Examination if the applicant has reasonable expectation of obtaining the Bachelor of Science degree within seven calendar months of the date of the examination. Certification as a Surveyor-in-Training shall not be received, however, until experience requirements are completed.
 6. The admission form for the Fundamentals of Land Surveying Examination is not sent to the applicant until after all other requirements for Land Surveyor status are satisfied.
 7. If the applicant fails the Fundamentals of Land Surveying Examination once, the examination may be repeated upon payment of the required fee. If the applicant fails the examination twice, the application is rejected.
- (b) Oral Examination. All applicants for registration as a professional Land Surveyor must pass an oral examination by a subcommittee of the Board prior to receiving approval to take the written Principles and Practice of Land Surveying examination. There is no fee for the oral examination.
1. In determining whether an applicant for registration shall be permitted to take the written Principles and Practice of Land Surveying examination, the subcommittee shall consider the applicant's experience, education and qualifications, including but not limited to the following:
 - (a) the applicant's experience performing retracement type surveys,
 - (b) the applicant's understanding of the Law of Evidence as it pertains to retracement type surveys,

(c) the applicant's ability to perform retracement type surveys that would conform to the requirements of 250 CMR 6.00: Procedural and Technical Standards for the Practice of Land Surveying.

2. An applicant who fails the oral examination must wait six months before sitting for another oral examination.
3. If an applicant scheduled for an oral examination fails to accept an appointment after two offered appointments, the application automatically lapses. This does not apply to an applicant actively serving in the armed forces. If an applicant required to take an oral examination fails twice to appear for the examination after accepting an appointment, the application automatically lapses.

(c) Principles and Practice of Land Surveying Examination:

1. The Principles and Practice of Land Surveying Examination shall consist of two parts. The first part shall be the six hour written Principles and Practice of Land Surveying examination prepared by NCEES. The second part shall be a two hour written Legal Principles and Massachusetts Law Examination prepared by the Board. Applicants required to take the examination must pass both parts to become registered to practice Land Surveying.
2. The first part of the Principles and Practices examination are graded by NCEES and the passing grades are established by the Board. The second part of the Principles and Practice of Land Surveying Examination, the two hour Legal Principles and Massachusetts Law Examination, is prepared and graded by the Board and passing grades are established by the Board.
3. The Principles and Practice of Land Surveying Examination is an open book examination.
4. The admission form for the Principles and Practice of Land Surveying Examination is not sent to the applicant until after all other requirements for Land Surveyor status are satisfied. If the applicant fails the examination once, the examination may be repeated upon payment of the required fee. If the applicant fails the examination twice, the application is rejected.

5. An applicant seeking approval to sit for the Principles and Practice of Land Surveying examination for a third time must submit documentation demonstrating that he or she has successfully completed an educational program aimed at helping the applicant succeed on the examination and, if the Board determines it is necessary, appear before the Board for a personal interview.
 6. An applicant who fails the Principles and Practices of Land Surveying examination three or more times, must meet the above requirements and wait at least one year before retaking the examination.
- (d) Applicants with 20 Years Experience: An applicant for registration under M.G.L. c. 112, § 81(J)(2)(f), may be registered as a professional land surveyor without passing the written Fundamentals in Land Surveying examination if the following requirements are met:
1. The applicant demonstrates through documentation and personal interview, to the Board's satisfaction, that he or she has 20 years or more of acceptable qualifying experience in land surveying, as outlined in M.G.L. c. 112, § 81(J)(2)(f), 250 C.M.R. 3.02: Education and Experience and 250 CMR 3.03: Experience Evaluation,
 2. The applicant passes the oral examination required in 250 C.M.R. 3.04(2)(b), and
 3. The applicant passes the written Principles and Practice of Land Surveying Examination.
- (3) General Application and Examination Rules.
- (a) An application closed as a result of the applicant failing any one examination twice may be opened at the request of the applicant if a repeat of the examination is desired. The required fee will be paid for each such repetition. An application closed for any other reason may not be reopened unless it is found that it was closed by error.
 - (b) The Board may waive requirement for any written examination if the applicant has previously passed an equivalent written examination offered by this Board or offered by any other Board belonging to NCEES.

- (c) If an applicant fails to take an examination within 20 months after notification of eligibility is received, the application automatically lapses. This does not apply to an applicant actively serving in the armed forces.
- (d) If an applicant takes an examination, fails to pass and does not take the examination again within 20 months, the application automatically lapses. This does not apply to an applicant actively serving in the armed forces.
- (e) If an applicant takes an examination twice and fails both times, the application is automatically rejected.
- (f) The applicant will be advised whether the examination is passed or failed. The information will be given to anyone who inquires.
- (g) A person presently registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Professional Engineer or Land Surveyor, without examination, if record of practice is satisfactory to the Board, can request waiver of the examination in the Fundamentals of Engineering or Land Surveying and take only the eight hour written Principles and Practice of Engineering or Land Surveying without prejudice. If the examination is successfully passed, the registrant will then have it entered into record as "registered by examination".

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

[250 CMR 3.00: M.G.L. c. 112, §§ 81D through 81T](#)