



When Can I Take the PE Exam? States Allowing Examination Before Experience

The data in this document is current as of July 2018



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Introduction

The following is a compilation of state laws that allow candidates for a professional engineer license to take the PE exam before gaining four years of experience. It has been developed by the National Society of Professional Engineers to provide detailed information about the breadth and scope of these laws nationwide.

Until relatively recently, candidates for licensure as a professional engineer have needed to gain four years of approved work experience before taking the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) Exam. In recent years, however, attitudes within the profession toward the early taking of the PE exam have begun to shift. In 2013, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) removed from its Model Law the requirement that candidates earn four years of experience before taking the exam. Separating the experience requirement from eligibility for taking the PE exam is sometimes called decoupling. For the National Society of Professional Engineers, as stated in Position Statement No. 1778, “Licensing boards and governing jurisdictions are encouraged to provide the option of taking the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam as soon as an applicant for licensure believes they are prepared to take the exam. The applicant would not be eligible for licensure until meeting all requirements for licensure— 4-year Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology/Engineering Accreditation Commission accredited degree, passing the Fundamentals of Engineering exam and the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam, and 4 years of progressive engineering experience.”

In 2005, Nevada became the first state to allow the early taking of the PE exam. As of July 2018, there were 15 states that allowed the early taking of the PE exam: Arizona, California, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming.

NSPE is providing this resource so that NSPE members, state societies, professional engineers, and the public can better understand the laws and regulations related to the practice of engineering. This assessment is intended to provide useful information that NSPE and its state societies can share with legislators and policymakers in their work to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

For the most complete and current information, please visit the applicable state licensing board website. Licensing board website links may be found at www.nspe.org/resources/licensure/licensing-boards.

STATE Alabama

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Alaska

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Arizona**STATUTE R4-30-204(C)**

In Arizona, PE exam applicants must have 60 months of education/experience and have passed the FE exam. If an applicant has an ABET accredited degree and has passed the FE, that person can apply directly with NCEES to take the exam but must self-attest to meeting any experience requirement.

Examinations**C. National Council Examinations:**

1. Applicants for architect, landscape architect, engineer, or land surveyor registration who wish to sit for a professional examination, and who have earned an educational degree recognized by the applicable national council, may apply directly to the applicable national council to take that exam.
2. Applicants not possessing the appropriate degree pursuant to subsection (C)(1) may apply to the Board for examination approval and after Board review, may be recommended to the applicable national council for entry into the applicable national examination. Applicants must meet all national council requirements for successful completion of applicable examinations.
3. An applicant for professional examination in any category must take the examination within one year after receiving approval. If an applicant fails to take an examination within one year after receiving approval, the applicant must submit a new application for professional examination to the Board.
4. An applicant who has failed any division of a national multi-divisional examination shall be required to meet the applicable national council's requirements for successful completion of the examination.

5. Examinations administered by a national council of which the Board is a member, or a professional association approved by the Board, shall be given at the times and places determined by the testing agency. Once approved to sit for a non-Board-administered examination, the applicant shall communicate all questions and concerns regarding extensions, additional time, special accommodation, reexamination, exam review and refunds to the applicable testing agency. The Board shall not refund any examination fee paid to a testing agency.

STATE **Arkansas**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE **California**

STATUTE **6753**

California allows graduates of accredited engineering programs to take the PE exam after gaining two years of experience.

Equivalentents for experience; education; teaching

With respect to applicants for licensure as professional engineers, the board:

- (a) Shall give credit as qualifying experience of four years, for graduation with an engineering degree from a college or university the curriculum of which has been approved by the board.
- (b) May at its discretion give credit as qualifying experience up to a maximum of two years, for graduation with an engineering degree from a nonapproved engineering curriculum or graduation with an engineering technology degree in an approved engineering technology curriculum.

STATE **Colorado**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Connecticut

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Delaware

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE District of Columbia

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Florida

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Georgia

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Guam

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Hawaii

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Idaho**STATUTE 54-1212**

Registrants can directly register with NCEES without first applying to the board to take the PE exam.

General requirements for examination and license.

Except as herein otherwise expressly provided, no license as a professional engineer or professional land surveyor, or certification as an engineer intern or land surveyor intern, shall be issued until an applicant has successfully passed an examination given by or approved by the board, nor shall a license as a professional engineer or professional land surveyor, or certification as an engineer intern or land surveyor intern, be issued to an applicant having habits or character that would justify revocation or suspension of his license or certificate, as provided in section 54-1220, Idaho Code. Except for military personnel stationed in the state of Idaho on military orders and except for persons employed full-time in the state of Idaho, only residents of the state of Idaho and students enrolled at an Idaho university or college may qualify for initial licensure. The following shall be considered as minimum evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is qualified for certification as an intern or licensure as a professional engineer or professional land surveyor:

(1) As a professional engineer:

- (a) Graduation from an approved engineering program of four (4) years or more in a school or college approved by the board as being of satisfactory standing, passage of examinations on the fundamentals of engineering and professional engineering acceptable to the board, and a specific record, after graduation, of an additional four (4) years or more of progressive experience in engineering work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board, and indicating that the applicant is competent to practice professional engineering; or
- (b) Graduation with a bachelor's degree in a related science from a school or college approved by the board, and evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant possesses knowledge and skill approximating that attained through graduation from an approved four (4) year engineering program, passage of examinations on the fundamentals of engineering and professional engineering acceptable to the board, and a specific record, after graduation, of four (4) years or more of progressive experience in engineering work of a grade and character satisfactory to the board and indicating that the applicant is competent to practice professional engineering.

STATE Illinois**STATUTE 225 ILCS 325/10**

In 2009, Illinois changed its requirements so that engineers could take the PE any time after passing the FE exam.

Sec. 10. Minimum standards for licensure as professional engineer. To qualify for licensure as a professional engineer each applicant shall be:

- (a) a graduate of an approved engineering curriculum of at least 4 years who submits acceptable evidence to the Board of an additional 4 years or more of experience in engineering work of a grade and character which indicate that the individual may be competent

to practice professional engineering, and who has passed an examination in the fundamentals of engineering as defined by rule and an examination in the principles and practice of engineering as defined by rule. Upon submitting an application with proof of passing both examinations, the applicant, if otherwise qualified, shall be granted a license to practice professional engineering in this State; or

- (b) a graduate of a non-approved engineering curriculum or a related science curriculum of at least 4 years and which meets the requirements as set forth by rule by submitting an application to the Department for its review and approval, who submits acceptable evidence to the Board of an additional 8 years or more of experience in engineering work of a grade and character which indicate that the individual may be competent to practice professional engineering, and who has passed an examination in the fundamentals of engineering as defined by rule and an examination in the principles and practice of engineering as defined by rule. Upon submitting the application with proof of passing both examinations, the applicant, if otherwise qualified, shall be granted a license to practice professional engineering in this State; or
- (c) an Illinois engineer intern, by application and payment of the required fee, may then take an examination in the principles and practice of engineering as defined by rule. If the applicant passes that examination and submits evidence to the Board that meets the experience qualification of subsection (a) or (b) of this Section, the applicant, if otherwise qualified, shall be granted a license to practice professional engineering in this State.

Sec. 11. Minimum standards for examination for enrollment as engineer intern. Each of the following is considered a minimum standard that an applicant must satisfy to qualify for enrollment as an engineer intern:

- (a) A graduate of an approved engineering curriculum of at least 4 years, who has passed an examination in the fundamentals of engineering as defined by rule, shall be enrolled as an engineer intern, if the applicant is otherwise qualified; or
- (b) An applicant in the last year of an approved engineering curriculum who passes an examination in the fundamentals of engineering as defined by rule and furnishes proof that the applicant graduated within a 12 month period following the examination shall be enrolled as an engineer intern, if the applicant is otherwise qualified; or
- (c) A graduate of a non-approved engineering curriculum or a related science curriculum of at least 4 years and which meets the requirements as set forth by rule by submitting an application to the Department for its review and approval, who submits acceptable evidence to the Board of an additional 4 years or more of progressive experience in engineering work, and who has passed an examination in the fundamentals of engineering as defined by rule shall be enrolled as an engineer intern, if the applicant is otherwise qualified.

STATE **Indiana**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE **Iowa**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed

STATE **Kansas**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE **Kentucky**

STATUTE **322.040**

In October 2013, Kentucky began allowing candidates to apply to take the PE exam without any experience if they have passed the FE exam and met the state's education requirements.

Requirements for licensure as a professional engineer – Education, experience.

- (1) A person shall qualify for licensure as a professional engineer by meeting the requirements set forth in paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection.
 - (a) A person shall qualify if he or she has:
 1. Graduated from an engineering program of four (4) years or more accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology or any engineering program deemed equivalent by the board;
 2. Four (4) or more additional years of progressive experience in engineering or teaching of a grade and character which indicates to the board that the applicant is competent to practice engineering; and
 3. A passing score on:

- a. The Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination; and
 - b. The Fundamentals of Engineering Examination. The board may allow students enrolled in the final year of an undergraduate engineering program to take this examination. Upon passing the examination, the applicant shall be designated an engineer in training.
- (b) If an instructor in an engineering program accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology or an engineering program deemed equivalent by the board is not eligible for the exemption under subsection (2) of this section, the instructor shall have four (4) years from the date of hire to qualify for licensure by showing that he or she has:
1. Graduated from an engineering program of four (4) years or more accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, or an engineering program deemed equivalent by the board;
 2. Four (4) or more additional years of progressive experience in engineering or teaching of a grade and character which indicates to the board that the applicant is competent to practice engineering;
 3. Passed the Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination; and
 4. Either passed the Fundamentals of Engineering Examination or graduated from a board-approved doctoral engineering degree program.

STATE Louisiana**STATUTE §1509**

The Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board allows candidates to take the PE exam before meeting the state's experience requirement.

Experience at Time of Application

- A. Experience must not be anticipated.
- B. For applicants for professional engineer licensure under §903.A.1 of these rules, the “verifiable record of four years or more of progressive experience obtained subsequent to meeting the educational and applicable experience qualifications to be an engineer intern” must be gained by the time of application for licensure. However, for any such applicant who has already been duly certified as an engineer intern by the board and has received approval to take the examination in the principles and practice of engineering under §1305.B of these rules, such experience need not be gained by the time of application for licensure part I, rather such experience need only be gained by the time of application for licensure part II.

- C. For applicants for professional land surveyor licensure under §909.A.1 of these rules, the “verifiable record of four years or more of combined office and field experience in land surveying including two years or more of progressive experience on land surveying projects under the supervision of a professional land surveyor” must be gained by the time of application for licensure.

STATE Maine

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Maryland

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Massachusetts

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Michigan

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Minnesota

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Mississippi

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Missouri

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Montana

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Nebraska

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Nevada**STATUTE NRS 625.193**

In 2005, Nevada became the first state to allow graduates to take the PE any time after passing the FE exam. The four-year experience requirement remains, but it can be fulfilled after a candidate takes the PE exam.

Examination for licensure as professional engineer: Scope; waiver; administration.

1. The examination for licensure as a professional engineer must consist of:
 - (a) An examination on the fundamentals of engineering that must cover the subject matter of a general education or training in engineering. If the applicant for licensure as a professional engineer has graduated from an engineering curriculum that is approved by the Board and has 15 years or more of experience in engineering, the examination on the fundamentals of engineering may be waived by the Board.
 - (b) An examination on the principles and practices of engineering that must cover the discipline of engineering in which the applicant is applying for licensure.
2. An applicant for licensure as a professional engineer must pass the examination on the fundamentals of engineering or receive a waiver of that requirement before the applicant may take the examination on the principles and practices of engineering.
3. When determining the content of the examinations on the fundamentals of engineering and the principles and practices of engineer-

ing, the Board shall consider the recognized disciplines of engineering and may conform the examination to the particular qualifications of the applicant.

4. The Board may require additional examinations for licensure in specialized areas of practice within one or more recognized disciplines of engineering.
5. The Board may administer or authorize an accredited college or university that offers a program in engineering approved by the Board to administer the examination on the fundamentals of engineering to persons who are not applicants for licensure as professional engineers in this state.
6. The Board may prescribe or limit the use of notes, texts and reference materials by applicants who are taking the examinations.
7. The Board may require the examinations or any portion of the examinations set forth in this section to be completed:
 - (a) In writing, with a pen or pencil of a type that has been approved by the Board;
 - (b) With a computer that has been provided or approved by the Board; or
 - (c) Orally, in the manner prescribed by the Board.

STATE **New Hampshire**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE **New Jersey**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE **New Mexico**

STATUTE **16.39.8.9.B**

New Mexico's law allows candidates to apply to take the PE exam after a minimum of two years of experience, if they have passed the FE exam and met the state's education requirement. Once candidates pass the exam and obtain the remaining years of experience, they may apply for licensure.

Specialization and the performance of services only in specific areas of competence.

- (1) Licensees shall undertake assignments only when qualified by education, experience or examination in the specific technical fields of engineering or surveying involved.
- (2) Licensees shall not affix their signatures or seals to any plans or documents dealing with subject matter in which they lack competency, nor to any such plan or documents not prepared under their responsible charge.
- (3) Licensees may accept an assignment when the total work involves technical fields beyond those in which they are qualified, providing their services are limited to those phases in which they are qualified and that the phases in which they are not qualified are performed by licensees who are properly qualified. In this instance, each qualified licensee will sign and seal the documents for their phase of the assignment.

STATE **New York**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE **North Carolina**

STATUTE § 89C-13

In 2016, HB 742 was signed into law and took effect for the spring 2017 PE exam. Beginning November 1, 2016, PE applicants who qualify will no longer make application to the North Carolina Board to take the PE exam. The applicant will go directly to NCEES and sign up to take the PE exam.

General requirements for licensure.

Engineer Intern. – To be certified as an engineer intern, an applicant shall (i) pass the fundamentals of engineering examination and make application to the Board, (ii) be of good character and reputation, (iii) submit three character references to the Board, one of whom is a professional engineer, (iv) comply with the requirements of this Chapter, and (v) meet one of the following requirements:

- (1) Education. – Be a graduate of an EAC/ABET accredited engineering curriculum or of a related science curriculum which has been approved by the Board as being of satisfactory standing.
- (2) Education and experience. – Be a graduate of an engineering curriculum or related science curriculum of four years or more, other than curriculums approved by the Board as being of satisfactory standing in subdivision (1) of this subsection, and possess engineering experience satisfactory to the Board with a specific record of four or more years of progressive experience on engineering projects of a grade and character satisfactory to the Board.

(a1) Engineer Applicant. – To be licensed as a professional engineer, an applicant (i) shall be of good character and reputation, (ii) submit five character references to the Board, three of whom are professional engineers or individuals acceptable to the Board with personal knowledge of the applicant's engineering experience, (iii) comply with the requirements of this Chapter, and (iv) meet the requirements related to education, examination, and experience set forth in this subsection.

An applicant seeking licensure as a professional engineer shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Education requirement. – Possess one or more of the following educational qualifications:

- a. A bachelor's degree in engineering from an EAC/ABET accredited program or in a related science curriculum which has been approved by the Board as being of satisfactory standing.
- b. A bachelor's degree in an engineering curriculum or related science curriculum of four years or more, other than curriculums approved by the Board as being of satisfactory standing in sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision.
- c. A master's degree in engineering from an institution that offers EAC/ABET accredited programs.
- d. An earned doctoral degree in engineering from an institution that offers EAC/ABET accredited programs and in which the degree requirements are approved by the Board.

(2) Examination requirements. – Take and pass the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination. Take and pass the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) examination as provided by G.S. 89C-15, after having met the education requirement set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) Experience requirement. – Present evidence satisfactory to the Board of a specific record of progressive engineering experience that is of a grade and character that indicates to the Board that the applicant is competent to practice engineering. The Board may adopt rules to specify the years of experience required based on educational attainment, provided the experience requirement for an applicant who qualifies under sub-subdivision (1)a. of this subsection shall be no less than four years and for an applicant who qualifies under sub-subdivision (1)b. of this subsection, no less than eight years.

STATE **North Dakota**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Ohio

In November 2017, the Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors decided to allow decoupling for comity applicants on a case-by-case basis, based on a court decision in Summit County, Ohio. The ruling did not require the board to decouple but remanded the application back to the board for reconsideration. Based on discussions with the board's legal counsel, it was determined that the court implied that the board has discretion as to whether comity applicants are required to have four years of experience before taking the PE exam.

STATE Oklahoma**STATUTE Section 475.12a**

The enactment of H.B. 1282 in 2017 provided for the early taking of the PE exam.

Section 475.12a. Qualifications for licensure - engineering

- A. Certification or Enrollment as an Engineer Intern. The following shall be considered as minimum evidence that the applicant is qualified for certification as an engineer intern:
1. Graduating from an engineering program of four (4) years or more accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (EAC/ABET), or the equivalent, or a related science degree program approved by the State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, or an engineering master's degree program from an institution that offers EAC/ABET-accredited programs;
 2. Passing the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination; and
 3. Submitting three (3) professional or character references.
- B. Licensure as a Professional Engineer. To be eligible for licensure, an individual must meet all of the following requirements:
1. Be of good character and reputation;
 2. Satisfy the education and experience criteria set forth in this section;
 3. Pass the applicable examinations set forth in this section; and
 4. Submit five references acceptable to the Board, three of which shall be professional engineers having personal knowledge of the applicant's engineering experience.

- C. Comity Licensure for a Professional Engineer. The following shall be considered as minimum evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant is qualified for licensure by comity as a professional engineer:
- D. Initial Licensure as a Professional Engineer. An applicant who presents evidence of meeting the applicable education, examination, and experience requirements pursuant to this subsection shall be eligible for licensure as a professional engineer.
1. Education Requirements. An individual seeking licensure as a professional engineer shall possess one or more of the following education qualifications:
 - a. a bachelor's degree in engineering from an EAC/ABET-accredited program, or the equivalent,
 - b. a bachelor's degree in a Board-approved related science degree program,
 - c. a master's degree in engineering from an institution that offers EAC/ABET-accredited programs,
 - d. a master's degree in engineering from an EAC/M-ABET-accredited program, or
 - e. an earned doctoral degree in engineering acceptable to the Board.
 3. Examination Requirements. An individual seeking licensure as a professional engineer shall take and pass the NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination and the NCEES Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) examination as follows:
 - a. the FE examination may be taken at any time according to NCEES examination policy and procedures, but is recommended to be taken during the student's senior year of college,
 - b. the PE examination may be taken by a graduate of an approved degree program pursuant to this section, or
 - c. the Board may waive the FE examination requirement for the issuance of a license if the applicant possesses, at a minimum, fifteen (15) years of progressive experience on engineering projects which indicate to the Board the applicant may be competent to practice engineering. The Board shall evaluate all elements of the application, according to Board rules, to assess waiver requests.
 4. Experience Requirements. An individual seeking licensure as a professional engineer shall present evidence of a specific record of progressive engineering experience satisfying one of the following. This experience should be progressive and of a grade and character that indicate to the Board that the applicant may be competent to practice engineering:

- a. an individual with a bachelor's degree in engineering pursuant to subparagraph a of paragraph 1 of this subsection: four (4) years of experience after the bachelor's degree is conferred,
 - b. an individual with a bachelor's degree in a Board-approved related science degree program pursuant to subparagraph b of paragraph 1 of this subsection: six (6) years of experience after the bachelor's degree is conferred,
 - c. an individual with a master's degree in engineering pursuant to subparagraph c or d of paragraph 1 of this subsection: three (3) years of experience after the master's degree is conferred, or
 - d. an individual with an earned doctoral degree acceptable to the Board: two (2) years of experience after the doctoral degree is conferred.
5. Partial experience credit may be awarded for experience earned prior to conferment of the qualifying degree, at the discretion of the Board, as described in Board rules. In no case shall the experience credit exceed one-half (1/2) of that required for approved qualifying experience. The experience credit shall not be claimed if the applicant is also claiming the experience time as experience credit for a cooperative education program.
 6. EAC/ABET accredited engineering cooperative education programs may be considered as experience credit earned prior to the qualifying degree if the program meets the experience requirement pursuant to this subsection. Otherwise, a maximum of six (6) months experience may be claimed. Experience credit for a cooperative education program shall not be claimed if the applicant also claims the experience time as experience credit earned prior to the degree.

STATE Oregon**STATUTE 820-010-1000**

To qualify for registration as a professional engineer in Oregon, an applicant for registration must provide all of the following:

- (1) Evidence satisfactory to the Board of passing or having previously passed the Fundamentals of Engineering examination administered by NCEES.
- (2) Evidence satisfactory to the Board of passing or having previously passed a Principles and Practice of Engineering examination:
 - (a) Administered by NCEES, in one or more branches of engineering recognized by the Board; or,
 - (b) Administered by the California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists in the Geotechnical branch of engineering; or,

- (c) Administered by the Board, in Acoustical Engineering or Forest Engineering.
 - (d) For reinstatement applicants, an examination identified in (a), (b), or (c) of this rule must have been passed by the applicant within five years prior to application for reinstatement.
- (3) Evidence satisfactory to the Board of having obtained a Board approved combination of education and experience.

STATE **Pennsylvania**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE **Puerto Rico**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE **Rhode Island**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE **South Carolina**

STATUTE **Section 40-22-220**

South Carolina Code of Laws does not prohibit early taking of the PE exam.

Licensure requirements; engineer-in-training; professional engineer; examination.

- (A) A person having the necessary qualifications prescribed in this chapter to entitle him to registration is eligible for licensure. A person must be certified as an engineer-in-training as a prerequisite to licensure.
- (B) To be eligible for certification as an engineer-in-training, an applicant must be of good character and reputation and be able to communicate effectively in the English language. The minimum evidence satisfactory to the board that an applicant is qualified for certification as an engineer-in-training is:

- (1) graduation from an EAC/ABET accredited engineering curriculum of four or more years and passing NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering examinations required by the board;
- (2) graduation in a bachelor's degree program, completion of an engineering curriculum found to be substantially equivalent to an engineering curriculum accredited by EAC/ABET, and passing the NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering examination;
- (3) graduation in a bachelor's degree program, completion of an engineering curriculum found to meet the NCEES Engineering Education Standard, and passing the NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering examination; or
- (4) graduation in a TAC/ABET accredited engineering technology curriculum of four or more years from a school or college approved by the board as being in satisfactory standing, and passing the NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering examination required by the board.

STATE **South Dakota**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE **Tennessee**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE **Texas**

STATUTE **§133.3**

At the February 11, 2016, Regular Board of Professional Engineers Meeting, the Board approved rules to allow for the “decoupling” of the experience requirements for licensure and the approval to take the PE exam. These rules were officially implemented May 2, 2016. The only requirement to be eligible for the decoupling process is to be a Texas EIT.

Engineer-in-Training Application and Certification

- (a) To become enrolled as an Engineer-in-Training (EIT), an individual must:
 - (1) submit an EIT application in a format prescribed by the Board,
 - (2) submit an official transcript in accordance with §§133.33 or 133.35 of this chapter (relating to Proof of Educational Qualifications), and

- (3) pay the fee as established by the Board.
- (b) A certificate as an engineer-in-training expires eight years from the date of issuance. Although the certificate has an expiration date, the records of the Board will indicate that an individual has passed the Fundamentals of Engineering examination and these records will be maintained in the file indefinitely and will be made available as requested by the individual or another licensing jurisdiction.
- (c) The certificate may be renewed upon receipt of an application in a format prescribed by the Board and payment of the EIT certification fee established by the Board.
- (d) Effective January 1, 2002, official transcripts will be kept on file and an EIT may request its use when filing the professional engineer application.
- (e) If the applicant for EIT certification does not submit all documents required within 90 days of the original application date, the application shall expire and the applicant must reapply and pay a new application fee.

STATE **US Virgin Islands**

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE **Utah**

STATUTE **R156-22-302h**

Utah candidates may register for the PE exam if they have completed the minimum education requirements and passed the FE exam.

Qualifications for Licensure - Examination Requirements for Professional Engineer.

In accordance with Subsection 58-22-302(1)(f), the examination requirements for licensure as a professional engineer are defined, clarified, or established as the following:

- (1) the NCEES FE examination with a passing score as established by the NCEES except that an applicant who has completed one of the following is not required to pass the FE examination:
 - (a) a Ph.D. or doctorate degree in engineering from an institution that offers EAC/ABET undergraduate programs in the Ph.D. field of engineering; or

- (b) a Ph.D. or doctorate degree in engineering from a foreign institution if the engineering curriculum is determined by the NCEES Credentials Evaluations to fulfill the required curricular content of the NCEES Engineering Education Standard.
- (2) the NCEES PE examination with a passing score as established by the NCEES; or
- (3) the NCEES SE examination with a passing score as established by the NCEES.
- (4) If an applicant for reinstatement of licensure as a professional engineer passed the examinations required for licensure as an engineer under prior Utah statutes and rules, the prior examinations will be acceptable to qualify for reinstatement of licensure rather than the examinations specified under Subsection R156-22-302h(1).
- (5) Prior to registering directly with NCEES to sit for the NCEES PE examination, an applicant shall:
 - (a) complete the education requirements set forth in Subsection R156-22-302b; and
 - (b) provide verification to NCEES of passing the NCEES FE examination.
- (6) The admission criteria to sit for the NCEES FE examination is set forth in Section 58-22-306.
- (7) In accordance with Subsection 58-22-302(4)(d)(ii), an applicant for licensure as a professional engineer by endorsement shall comply with the examination requirements in Subsection R156-22-302h, except that the Board may waive one or more of the following:
 - (a) the NCEES FE examination, for an applicant who:
 - (i) is a principal for five of the last seven years preceding the date of the license application; and
 - (ii) was not required to pass the NCEES FE examination for initial licensure from the recognized jurisdiction the applicant was originally licensed;
 - (b) the NCEES PE examination for an applicant who:
 - (i) has been a principal for five of the last seven years preceding the date of the license application;
 - (ii) has been licensed for ten years preceding the date of the license application; and
 - (iii) was not required to pass the NCEES PE examination for initial licensure from the recognized jurisdiction the applicant was originally licensed.

STATE Vermont

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Virginia

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Washington

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE West Virginia

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Wisconsin

Taking the PE exam before gaining approved experience is not allowed.

STATE Wyoming

STATUTE Rules, Chapter 3, Sections 3 & 7

Wyoming is a decoupled state, meaning you do not need to take the examination prior to the four years of experience. Individuals can file an “Early Examination” application.

Section 3. Professional Engineer Licensure by Examination.

- (a) An “examination in the principles and practices of engineering” is defined as an NCEES Principles and Practices exam (PE) in any of the examination areas offered by NCEES, or the NCEES Structural exam (SE).

- (b) The four (4) years of engineering experience must be obtained after graduating with the degree described in Section 1 (a) of this Chapter. One (1) year of experience will be granted for those applicants who have earned both an undergraduate and graduate degree in engineering as defined in Section 1 (a) of this Chapter