



**California Board for Professional Engineers,
Land Surveyors, and Geologists**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)
REGARDING GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS
LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS**

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DISCLAIMER

This document has been prepared in an attempt to address common questions asked by applicants. It is not intended to be an all-inclusive summary of the laws and regulations. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this publication, it does not have legal effect. Should any difference or error occur, the laws and regulations will take precedence. The full text of the [laws and regulations](#), are available on the Board's website.

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1.0 - DEFINITIONS

ABET: “ABET” means ABET, Inc., formerly known as the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology [[Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 404\(a\)](#)]. For more information, visit the [ABET website](#).

Accreditation, Institution Level: Accreditation is a review process to determine if an academic entity meets defined standards of quality. Most colleges and universities in the United States participate in institutional level accreditation (i.e., accreditation of the entire school). For more information, visit the [U.S. Department of Education accreditation website](#).

Accreditation, Program Level: Individual departments and programs within a college or university may elect to voluntarily participate in program level accreditation specific to their discipline.

Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (BPELSG or the “Board”): Regulatory entity that protects public safety by promoting standards for competence and integrity through licensing and regulating the Board’s professions. The Board is a semi-autonomous body whose members are appointed by the Governor and Legislature.

Civil Engineering Work (as it relates to the definition of engineering geology): Refer to the definition of civil engineering in section 6731 of the Business and Professions Code ([The Professional Engineers Act](#)).

Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA): The state agency that protects consumers by regulating businesses and professions. DCA includes several regulatory entities (boards, bureaus, committees, programs, commissions) including BPELSG.

Earth Science: An all-embracing term for sciences related to the Earth (analogous, in educational parlance, to “life science”). It is occasionally used as a synonym for geology or geological sciences, but its usage is misleading because in its wider scope, earth science may be considered to include such subjects as meteorology, physical oceanography, soil chemistry, and agronomy. CF: Geological Sciences (“Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition”, American Geological Institute, 2005, page 199).

Engineering Geology: The application of geologic data, principles and interpretation so that geologic factors affecting planning, design, construction, maintenance, and vulnerability of civil engineering works are properly recognized and utilized [[Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3003\(b\)](#)].

Geological Sciences: Any of the subsidiary specialties that are part of the science of geology; e.g., geophysics, geochemistry, paleontology, petrology, etc. CF: Earth Science (“Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition”, American Geological Institute, 2005, page 266).

Geology and Geophysics Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Geologist and Geophysicist Act: The California laws regulating the practices of geology and geophysics in California. The Geologist and Geophysicist Act is statutory law enacted by the legislature and is codified in [Business and Professions Code sections 7800-7887](#).

Geology: The science which treats of the earth in general; investigation of the earth's crust and the rocks and other materials that compose it; and the applied science of utilizing knowledge of the earth and its constituent rocks, minerals, liquids, gases and other materials for the benefit of mankind [[Business and Professions Code section 7802](#)].

Geophysics: The science which involves study of the physical earth by means of measuring its natural and induced fields of force, including, but not limited to, electric, gravity, and magnetic, and its responses to natural and induced energy and the interpreting of these measurements and the relating of them to the physics of the earth [[Business and Professions Code section 7802.1](#)].

Hydrogeology: The application of the science of geology to the study of the occurrence, distribution, quantity and movement of water below the surface of the earth, as it relates to the interrelationships of geologic materials and processes with water, with particular emphasis given to groundwater quality [[Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3003\(h\)](#)].

National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG): A not for profit organization that provides a forum for individual state geology licensing boards to share information. One of ASBOG's principal services is to develop national exams for determining qualification of applicants seeking licensure as professional geologists. For more information, visit the [ASBOG website](#).

Regulations Relating to the Practices of Geology and Geophysics: Regulations are rules issued by government departments or agencies to carry out laws. Administrative agencies such as the Board, adopt, amend, and repeal regulations to clarify and make specific statutory provisions under the authority granted to them by either constitutional provisions or statutes. The regulations relating to the practices of geology and geophysics are in the [Title 16, California Code of Regulations sections 3000-3067](#).

Responsible Charge: Independent control and direction by the use of initiative, skill, and independent judgment of geological or geophysical work or the supervision of such work [[Business and Professions Code section 7805](#)].

2.0 - TYPES OF LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

2.1 Geologist-in-Training (GIT) Certificate

What is a Geologist-in-Training (GIT) certificate?

The GIT certificate signifies that the holder has passed the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam and has met the other qualifying requirements (see next question). The certificate is issued in recognition of this achievement. It is *not* a license to practice geology. The use of the title is restricted to those who have passed the ASBOG FG exam and been issued a GIT certificate in California.

How do I qualify for the GIT certificate?

An applicant for certification as a Geologist-in-Training shall comply with the requirements specified in the Business and Professions Code section 7841.2 and Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022(a).

The board no longer verifies an applicant's eligibility for certification as a Geologist-in-Training (GIT) other than to require the applicant to attest to their eligibility. The applicant is responsible for understanding the education requirements for certification as a GIT, which are the same education requirements for licensure as a Professional Geologist (PG). By submitting a GIT application, the applicant attests that they have read and meet the education requirements for certification as a Geologist-in-Training as specified in [Business and Professions Code section 7841.2\(a\)\(3\)](#) and [Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022\(a\)](#).

Can I take the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam to get my Geologist-in-Training (GIT) certificate before I graduate?

Yes, as long as you have completed a combination of at least 30 semester hours, or the equivalent, in courses that, in the opinion of the Board are relevant to geology. At least 24 semester hours, or the equivalent, shall be upper division or graduate courses. The ASBOG FG exam is the only exam you can take prior to completing your work experience.

2.2 Professional Geologist (PG) License

What is a Professional Geologist (PG) license?

A Professional Geologist license is the formal permission from the State of California for an individual to practice geology for others in this state. It is required by law.

Does the Board have a temporary license category that will allow a geologist licensed in another jurisdiction to practice in California?

No.

What is the practice of geology “for others”?

The Practice of Geology or Geophysics is defined in [Section 3003\(f\) of the regulations](#).

The practice of geology or geophysics "for others" includes but is not limited to the performance of geological or geophysical services by any individual, firm, partnership, corporation or other association or by the employees or staff members thereof, whether or not the principal business of such organization is the practice of geology or geophysics, when the geological or geophysical reports, documents or exhibits constituting the practice of geology or geophysics are disseminated or made available to the public or any individual or combination of individuals other than the employees or staff of such organization in such a manner that the public or said individual or combination of individuals may reasonably be expected to rely thereon or be affected thereby.

This applies to governmental entities including any commission, board, department, district or division of the state or any political subdivision thereof or of any county, city, or other public body or by the employees or staff members of such commission, board, department, district or division of the state or any political subdivision thereof or of any county, city, or other public body. Officers and employees of the United States of America practicing solely as such officers or employees are exempt from California licensure requirements.

How do I qualify for a Professional Geologist (PG) license in California?

An applicant for licensure as a Professional Geologist shall comply with the requirements specified in [Business and Professions Code section 7841](#) as described below:

(a) Not have committed any acts or crimes constituting grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480.

(b) Meet **either** of the following educational requirements fulfilled at a school or university whose curricula meet criteria established by rules of the board:

(1) Graduation from a college or university with a major in geological sciences or any other discipline that, in the opinion of the board, is relevant to geology.

(2) Completion of a combination of at least 30 semester hours, or the equivalent, in courses that, in the opinion of the board, are relevant to geology. At least 24 semester hours, or the equivalent, shall be in upper division or graduate courses.

(c) Have a documented record of a minimum of five years of professional geological experience of a character satisfactory to the board, demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of this work upon licensure as a geologist. This experience shall be gained under the supervision of a geologist or geophysicist licensed in this or any other state, or under the supervision of others who, in the opinion of the Board, have the training and experience to have responsible charge of geological work. Professional geological work does not include routine sampling, laboratory work, or geological drafting.

Each year of undergraduate study in the geological sciences shall count as one-half year of training up to a maximum of two years, and each year of graduate study or research counts as a year of training.

Teaching in the geological sciences at college level shall be credited year for year toward meeting the requirement in this category, provided that the total teaching experience includes six semester units per semester, or equivalent if on the quarter system, of upper division or graduate courses.

Credit for undergraduate study, graduate study, and teaching, individually, or in any combination thereof, shall in no case exceed a total of three years towards meeting the requirement for at least five years of professional geological work as set forth above.

The ability of the applicant shall have been demonstrated by the applicant having performed the work in a responsible position, as the term "responsible position" is defined in regulations adopted by the board. The adequacy of the required supervision and experience shall be determined by the board in accordance with standards set forth in regulations adopted by it.

(d) Successfully pass a written examination that incorporates a national examination for geologists created by a nationally recognized entity approved by the board, and a supplemental California specific examination. The California specific examination shall test the applicant's knowledge of state laws, rules and regulations, and of seismicity and geology unique to practice within this state.

Do I have to get a Geologist-in-Training (GIT) certificate before I can apply for the Professional Geologist (PG) license?

No. The GIT certification is an optional step. Obtaining a GIT certificate shows that the holder has passed the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam and has self-certified to meeting the educational requirements. You may apply for the PG license without having a GIT certificate or having already passed the FG exam.

2.3 Professional Geophysicist (PGP) License

What is a Professional Geophysicist (PGP) license?

A Professional Geophysicist (PGP) license is the legal permission from the State of California for an individual to practice geophysics for others in this state.

Does the Board have a temporary license category that will allow a geophysicist licensed in another jurisdiction to practice in California?

No.

Is there a Geophysicist-in-Training certificate?

No.

What is the practice of geophysics “for others”?

The Practice of Geology or Geophysics is defined in [Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3003\(f\)](#).

The practice of geology or geophysics "for others" includes but is not limited to the performance of geological or geophysical services by any individual, firm, partnership, corporation or other association or by the employees or staff members thereof, whether or not the principal business of such organization is the practice of geology or geophysics, when the geological or geophysical reports, documents or exhibits constituting the practice of geology or geophysics are disseminated or made available to the public or any individual or combination of individuals other than the employees or staff of such organization in such a manner that the public or said individual or combination of individuals may reasonably be expected to rely thereon or be affected thereby.

This applies to governmental entities including any commission, board, department, district or division of the state or any political subdivision thereof or of any county, city, or other public body or by the employees or staff members of such commission, board, department, district or division of the state or any political subdivision thereof or of any county, city, or other public body.

How do I qualify for a Professional Geophysicist (PGP) license in California?

An applicant for licensure as a Professional Geophysicist shall comply with the requirements specified in [Business and Professions Code section 7841.1](#) as described below:

- (a) Not have committed any acts or crimes constituting grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480.

- (b) Meet **one of the following** educational requirements fulfilled at a school or university whose curricula meet criteria established by rules of the board.
- (1) Graduation with a major in a geophysical science or any other discipline that, in the opinion of the board, is relevant to geophysics.
 - (2) Completion of a combination of at least 30 semester hours, or the equivalent, in courses that, in the opinion of the board, are relevant to geophysics. At least 24 semester hours, or the equivalent, shall be in the third or fourth year, or graduate courses.

(c) Have at least seven years of professional geophysical work that shall include either a minimum of three years of professional geophysical work under the supervision of a professional geophysicist, except that prior to July 1, 1973, professional geophysical work shall qualify under this subdivision if it is under the supervision of a qualified geophysicist, or a minimum of five years' experience in responsible charge of professional geophysical work. Professional geophysical work does not include the routine maintenance or operation of geophysical instruments, or, even if carried out under the responsible supervision of a professional geophysicist, the routine reduction or plotting of geophysical observations.

Each year of undergraduate study in the geophysical sciences referred to in this section shall count as one-half year of training up to a maximum of two years, and each year of graduate study or research counts as a year of training.

Teaching in the geophysical sciences referred to in this section at a college level shall be credited year for year toward meeting the requirement in this category, provided that the total teaching experience includes six semester units per semester, or equivalent if on the quarter system, of the third or fourth year or graduate courses.

Credit for undergraduate study, graduate study, and teaching, individually, or in any combination thereof, shall in no case exceed a total of four years towards meeting the requirements for at least seven years of professional geophysical work as set forth above.

The ability of the applicant shall have been demonstrated by his or her having performed the work in a responsible position, as the term "responsible position" is defined in regulations adopted by the board. The adequacy of the required supervision and experience shall be determined by the board in accordance with standards set forth in regulations adopted by it.

- (c) Successfully pass a written examination that shall test the applicant's knowledge of state laws, rules, and regulations, and of the principles and practices of geophysics within this state. The Board shall administer the test on the state laws and the board's rules and regulations as a separate part of the examination for licensure as a geophysicist.

2.4 Geology Specialty Certifications (CEG/CHG)

What is certification in a specialty of geology?

A licensed Professional Geologist can apply to the Board for a specialty certification in accordance with [Business and Professions Code section 7842](#). A specialty certification is a title authority license. That means only the use of the title is restricted by law, not the practice of the profession, and only those individuals issued the specialty certification may use the title associated with it.

What geology specialty certifications does the Board offer?

The Board offers two specialty certifications: Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG) and Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG).

Can a Professional Geologist (PG) practice engineering geology or hydrogeology without a specialty certification?

Yes. Any California licensed Professional Geologist (PG) can practice engineering geology or hydrogeology under their PG practice authority license, provided they are competent to do so. However, they cannot use the protected titles Certified Engineering Geologist or Certified Hydrogeologist or the abbreviations CEG or CHG.

How do I qualify for a geology specialty certification in California?

An applicant for a geology specialty shall comply with the following requirements, as specified in [Business and Professions Code section 7842](#):

(a) An applicant for certification in a specialty in geology shall meet all of the requirements of Section 7841, shall be a geologist licensed under this chapter, and, in addition, his or her seven years of professional geological work shall include one of the following:

(1) A minimum of three years performed under the supervision of a geologist certified in the specialty for which the applicant is seeking certification or under the supervision of a licensed civil engineer if the applicant is seeking certification as an engineering geologist, except that prior to July 1, 1970, professional geological work shall qualify under this subdivision if it is performed under the supervision of a geologist qualified in the specialty for which the applicant is seeking certification or under the supervision of a licensed civil engineer if the applicant is seeking certification as an engineering geologist.

(2) A minimum of five years' experience in responsible charge of professional geological work in the specialty for which the applicant is seeking certification.

- (b) In addition to meeting the requirements of subdivision (a), an applicant for certification in a specialty of geology shall successfully pass a written examination in that specialty.

Can I apply for the Professional Geologist (PG) license and a specialty certification at the same time?

Yes, if you meet all the qualification requirements (education and experience) for each license. You must submit separate applications and pay separate application and exam fees for each application. However, if you do not pass all the Professional Geologist (PG) exams and you pass the Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG) or Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG) exam, you will not be issued the CEG or CHG certification until you pass the exams required for the PG license and have been issued a PG license.

3.0 - GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

3.1 Application Submittal

How do I submit an application to the Board?

Geologist-in-Training (GIT) and Professional Geologist (PG) Applicants: GIT and PG applicants must use [BPELSG Connect](#) to submit an application for licensure/certification. Check the [Exam Schedule](#) for exam dates. ***A complete application must be submitted 100 days prior to the scheduled exam date (Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3021(b)). A complete PG application is defined as an application that includes a minimum of three (3) references with a response from each professional reference, all relevant transcripts, a passing score on the Laws and Rules exam, and [verification of ASBOG exams passed outside of California](#) (if applicable).*** PG applicants are encouraged to submit their application *well in advance of the 100 days* in order to allow sufficient time for each professional reference to complete their response to the reference, for the applicant to submit all of their relevant transcripts, complete and pass the Laws and Rules exam, and request a verification of ASBOG exams passed outside of California (if applicable). GIT applicants do not submit transcripts or references with their application; however, GIT applicants are also encouraged to submit their application well in advance of the 100 days. For additional information view the [application and examination information](#) page. For detailed instructions on how to submit an application in [BPELSG Connect](#), see the appropriate question below.

Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG), Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG), and Professional Geophysicist (PGP) Applicants: CEG, CHG, and PGP applicants must use the appropriate paper [application form](#). The application must be submitted by the final filing date located on the [Exam Schedule](#). Use the checklist attached to the application form for detailed instructions regarding the documents that must be submitted with the application.

Do I need to create an account in BPELSG Connect?

You will need to create a [BPELSG Connect](#) account if you are submitting an initial application or if you have a previously approved application and need to re-take the Professional Geologist California Specific Exam (CSE). You *do not* need to create an account in BPELSG Connect if you only need to re-take the ASBOG exams.

How do I use BPELSG Connect to complete and submit a Geologist-in-Training (GIT) application for certification? What documents and information will I be required to submit?

- 1) Create a user profile in [BPELSG Connect](#) using an email address as your username. Once registered, you will receive an email with a temporary password to login and create a personalized password. If during the registration process you did not opt out of receiving

SMS (text) messages, you will also receive a SMS message alerting you that you have received a new email from the BPELSG Connect system.

- 2) Upon confirming registration with a new password, you will be asked if you have a current license/certification with BPELSG. If you answer “Yes” to that question, you can link any current California licenses in your name, which are in good standing. You will need to know the license/certification type and license number to successfully link a license. If you do not link your active certificates/licenses during this step, you will be able to do it later from your dashboard by using the “Link Existing” button.
- 3) From the dashboard click on “Profile” to enter your preferred address of record or confirm what is currently shown, is accurate.
- 4) From the dashboard, click on the “New Application” button to start your application. When prompted, use the dropdown box to choose the application type.
- 5) When the application loads, application tabs will appear to the left side of the screen. As you progress through the tabs, the tabs will change color based on the status. A green check mark indicates the tab is complete; a red “X” indicates the tab has been started but is not complete. You will be required to complete *all tabs* before you submit the application.
 - **Instructions:** Read the instructions carefully.
 - **General Information:** Verify and/or enter all required personal information.
 - **Qualifications:** The board no longer verifies an applicant’s eligibility for certification as a Geologist-in-Training (GIT) other than to require the applicant to attest to their eligibility. The applicant is responsible for understanding the education requirements for certification as a GIT, which are the same education requirements for licensure as a Professional Geologist (PG). By submitting a GIT application, the applicant attests that they have read and meet the education requirements for certification as a Geologist-in-Training as specified in [Business and Professions Code section 7841.2\(a\)\(3\)](#) and [Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022\(a\)](#). For detailed information about education requirements view section *4.0 Education Requirements* of this document.
 - **Exam:** You will be asked if you have taken and passed the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) examination. (Please note: The ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology exam results before November 1, 1996, will not be accepted.)

If you have passed the ASBOG Fundamental of Geology (FG) exam outside of California a [License/Exam Verification](#) is required. The form must be completed by the appropriate state agency and mailed to the Board at the following address: 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento, California, 95833-2944. Original forms are required.

Geology and Geophysics Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Applicants who need to take the exam will pay exam and seat fees directly to ASBOG's exam vendor Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT) and sign up for the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) examination through Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT) *after* their application has been approved. Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT) will send the email to all eligible exam candidates in early February for the spring exam, and in late August for the fall exam.

- **Special Considerations:** You will be asked to answer questions to determine if you are eligible for an expedited application review process in accordance with [Business and Professions Code Section 115.4](#), [Business and Professions Code Section 115.5](#) or [Business and Professions Code section 135.4](#). If you are eligible and wish for your application to be expedited, you will be required to upload the appropriate documents.
- **Fingerprint:** All applicants are required to submit a full set of fingerprints prior to certification/licensure. Applicants residing in California must use the electronic Live Scan fingerprinting process and will be asked to upload a copy of their completed Live Scan Form in the Fingerprint Tab. Out-of-state applicants may either submit the traditional fingerprint cards or travel to California to use the Live Scan process. Applicants who need to request fingerprint cards will be able to request fingerprint cards within the Fingerprint Tab. Both completed fingerprint cards need to be mailed to the Board along with the BPELSG Connect payment receipt that you will receive after application submittal. There is a separate fee for submitting fingerprint cards. *If you have submitted fingerprints to this Board within the last 24 months, you will not be required to supply any fingerprinting documents or information.* For more information regarding fingerprinting please visit the Board's [Fingerprinting Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).
- **Action By Another State:** You will be asked if you have ever had an engineering, land surveying, geologist or geophysicist related certificate or license denied, disciplined, suspended, surrendered, or revoked in any state (other than for lack of minimum qualification or failure of examination). If you answer "Yes", you will be asked to explain and upload any applicable documents.
- **Affidavit:** You will be asked to sign and date the application declaration.
- **Fee and Payment:** You will have the option to make the payment for the [application fee and fingerprint card fee](#) (if applicable) by credit card, debit card, personal check, money order, or cash. If you choose to pay by check, money order, or cash, BPELSG Connect will provide you with a confirmation document that you will need to print and mail to the Board along with the payment. Please be aware that choosing the check, money order, or cash option will significantly delay the processing of your application, since application review will not start until payment is received and processed.

- 6) After application payment and submittal, you will be returned to your dashboard, where you can view the status of your application. If you click on the application number, you can download and print or save a PDF version of your application for your records. If you pay by credit card or debit card, you will receive a payment confirmation receipt via email. You can also view and print your payment receipt by clicking on the “Profile” link on your dashboard and finding the view/print link under the “Payment Detail” section.

How do I use BPELSG Connect to complete and submit a Professional Geologist (PG) application for licensure? What documents and information will I be required to submit?

- 1) Create a user profile in [BPELSG Connect](#) using an email address as your username. Once registered, you will receive an email with a temporary password to login and create a personalized password. If during the registration process you did not opt out of receiving SMS (text) messages, you will also receive a SMS message alerting you that you have received a new email from the BPELSG Connect system.
- 2) Upon confirming registration with a new password, you will be asked if you have a current license/certification with BPELSG. If you answer “Yes” to that question, you can link any current California licenses in your name, which are in good standing. You will need to know the license/certification type and license number to successfully link a license. If you do not link your active certificates/licenses during this step, you will be able to do it later from your dashboard by using the “Link Existing” button.
- 3) From the dashboard click on “Profile” to enter your preferred address of record or confirm what is currently shown, is accurate.
- 4) From the dashboard, click on the “New Application” button to start your application. When prompted, use the dropdown box to choose the application type.
- 5) When the application loads, application tabs will appear to the left side of the screen. As you progress through the tabs, the tabs will change color based on the status. A green check mark indicates the tab is complete; a red “X” indicates the tab has been started but is not complete. You will be required to complete *all tabs* before you submit the application.
 - **Instructions:** Read the instructions carefully.
 - **General Information:** Verify and/or enter all required personal information.
 - **Qualifications:** You will be asked if you are licensed as a Professional Geologists in any other state which required the passing of the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology and/or ASBOG Practice of Geology exams. (Please note: The ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology or the ASBOG Practice of Geology exam results before November 1, 1996, will not be accepted.)

If you have passed the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and/or ASBOG Practice of Geology (PG) exams outside of California a [License/Exam Verification](#) is

required. The form must be completed by the appropriate state agency and mailed to the Board at the following address: 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento, California, 95833-2944. Original forms are required.

You will also be asked if you have previously applied for Geologist-in-Training (GIT) certification or previously filed an application for licensure as a Professional Engineer (PE), Professional Land Surveyor (PLS), Professional Geologist (PG) or Professional Geophysicist (PGP) with this Board.

- **Exam:**

- Laws and Rules Examination

Upon submittal and payment of an application, a link to the Laws and Rules Exam will appear on your dashboard. The exam must be completed and passed before the Board will review your application. *It is recommended that you complete the exam shortly after application submittal because not completing and passing the exam is considered an application deficiency and will significantly delay the processing of your application.* All questions have equal weight. You must achieve a minimum of 70% to pass this examination. The Board must ensure that California licensed Professional Geologists and Geophysicists are familiar with the provisions of the [Geologist and Geophysicist Act \(Business and Professions Code section 7800-7887\)](#) and the [Regulations Relating to the Practices of Geology and Geophysics \(Title 16, California Code of Regulations sections 3000-3067\)](#). The Geologist and Geophysicist Act and the Regulations Relating to the Practices of Geology and Geophysics contain the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to the practice of professional geology and geophysics.

- ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and Practice of Geology (PG) Exams

You will be asked if you have passed the ASBOG exams.

Applicants who need to take the exams will pay exam and seat fees directly to ASBOG's exam vendor Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT) and sign up for the exams through Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT) *after* their application has been approved. Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT) will send the emails to all eligible exam candidates in early February for the spring exam, and in late August for the fall exam.

- Professional Geologist California Specific Exam (CSE)

[Business and Professions Code section 7841\(d\)](#) requires Professional Geologist (PG) applicants, including comity applicants, to successfully pass the CSE. The exam tests the applicant's knowledge of the seismicity and geology unique to practice within this state. For information on how to sign up for the exam, please see the question in this document titled: *How do I take the Professional Geologist California Specific Exam (CSE) after my Professional Geologist (PG) application is approved?*

Geology and Geophysics Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **Education:** Within the Education Tab, you will enter in your applicable educational information and confirm that you have submitted your transcripts to the Board. Applicants must request official transcripts for all relevant degrees and course work. If your university/college provides electronic transcripts, they must be sent directly from the university/college via email to BPESLG.Transcripts@dca.ca.gov. If your university/college provides paper transcripts, they must be mailed to the Board. Unsealed transcripts are not accepted. Foreign transcripts that are not in English do not need to be sealed, but applicants must submit the original transcripts along with a notarized English translation. Degree evaluations are not accepted. If you have submitted official transcripts showing all current course work to the Board with a previously approved GIT application (in a timeframe when transcripts were required for GIT applications), you are not required to resubmit transcripts. If you did not submit transcripts with a prior GIT application, you will now need to submit transcripts for your PG application. For detailed information about education requirements view section *4.0 Education Requirements* of this document.
- **Experience:** Professional Geologist (PG) applicants are required to provide a minimum of three (3) professional Work Experience Engagements/References demonstrating a sufficient number of months of qualifying geological experience. Contact information for each professional reference will be required. For detailed information about experience requirements view section *5.0 Documenting Experience* of this document.
- **Special Considerations:** You will be asked to answer questions to determine if you are eligible for an expedited application review process in accordance with [Business and Professions Code Section 115.4](#), [Business and Professions Code Section 115.5](#) or [Business and Professions Code section 135.4](#). If you are eligible and wish for your application to be expedited, you will be required to upload the appropriate documents.
- **Fingerprint:** All applicants are required to submit a full set of fingerprints prior to certification/licensure. Applicants residing in California must use the electronic Live Scan fingerprinting process and will be asked to upload a copy of their completed Live Scan Form in the Fingerprint Tab. Out-of-state applicants may either submit the traditional fingerprint cards or travel to California to use the Live Scan process. Applicants who need to request fingerprint cards will be able to request fingerprint cards within the Fingerprint Tab. Both completed fingerprint cards need to be mailed to the Board along with the BPESLG Connect payment receipt that you will receive after application submittal. There is a separate fee for submitting fingerprint cards. *If you have submitted fingerprints to this Board within the last 24 months, you will not be required to supply any fingerprinting documents or information.* For more

information regarding fingerprinting please visit the Board's [Fingerprinting Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

- **Action By Another State:** You will be asked if you have ever had an engineering, land surveying, geologist or geophysicist related certificate or license denied, disciplined, suspended, surrendered, or revoked in any state (other than for lack of minimum qualification or failure of examination). If you answer “Yes”, you will be asked to explain and upload any applicable documents.
 - **Affidavit:** You will be asked to sign and date the application declaration.
 - **Fee and Payment:** You will have the option to make the payment for the [application fee and fingerprint card fee](#) (if applicable) by credit card, debit card, personal check, money order, or cash. If you choose to pay by check, money order, or cash, BPELSG Connect will provide you with a confirmation document that you will need to print and mail to the Board along with the payment. Please be aware that choosing the check, money order, or cash option will significantly delay the processing of your application, since application review will not start until payment is received and processed.
- 6) After application payment and submittal, you will be returned to your dashboard, where you can view the status of your application. If you click on the application number, you can download and print or save a PDF version of your application for your records. If you pay by credit card or debit card, you will receive a payment confirmation receipt via email. You can also view and print your payment receipt by clicking on the “Profile” link on your dashboard and finding the view/print link under the “Payment Detail” section.

How do I obtain a copy of the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) or Professional Geologist (PG) application that I submitted to the Board?

After you pay and submit your application in BPELSG Connect, you will be returned to your profile dashboard where you can click on the application number to download and print or save a PDF version of your application for your records.

I completed paper reference forms for my Professional Geologist (PG) application prior to the launch of the PG application in BPELSG Connect. Can I still use the paper reference forms for my application in BPELSG Connect?

Yes, but only if the paper reference forms were signed and completed prior to April 17, 2023. You need to mail the references to the Board along with the application submittal email that you will receive *after* you submit your application in BPELSG Connect. The references should be mailed to: 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95833

When you are completing your application in [BPELSG Connect](#), you will still be required to input a minimum of three (3) references to move forward and submit the application. You will need to fill out Part A for all the references as if those reference are going to respond electronically;

however, we won't expect a response from those references and we will upload the paper reference as part of the application.

I previously submitted a paper Geologist-in-Training (GIT) or Professional Geologist (PG) application that was deemed deficient and was not approved. Do I need to reapply in BPELSG Connect?

Please email BPELSG.Evaluator4@dca.ca.gov with your full name and a description of your circumstances. You will receive a response regarding the steps to take to resolve the deficiency. Depending on the situation, you may need to reapply in BPELSG Connect.

Do I have to be a U.S. Citizen or a resident of California to apply for licensure/certification?

No, neither U.S. Citizenship nor California residency is required.

Do I have to include my social security number or individual taxpayer identification number on my application?

Yes. You must provide your social security number or individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), or your application will *not* be processed. For more information, please visit the [Information Collection, Access, and Disclosure](#) page on the Board's website.

Does the Board require applicants to be fingerprinted?

Yes. View the [Fingerprinting FAQs](#) on the Board's website for all fingerprint related questions.

Should I submit my résumé, thesis, reports, or published papers with my application?

Do not submit any documents that are not requested on the application. If the Board determines that supplemental information or documentation is necessary to process your application, Board staff will contact you.

What can the Board do to expedite the license process for honorably discharged military service personnel, military spouses, or refugees, asylees, and holders of special immigrant visas?

The Board can expedite the application review process in accordance with [Business and Professions Code Section 115.4](#), [Business and Professions Code Section 115.5](#) or [Business and Professions Code section 135.4](#). If you are eligible and wish for your application to be expedited, you will be required to upload the appropriate documents with your application.

3.2 Application and Exam Fees

What are the application fees and exam fees?

View the [Applicants Fee Schedule](#) for fees paid to the Board.

ASBOG exam fees and seat fees are paid directly to ASBOG's exam vendor Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT) upon email notification from Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT). View the [ASBOG Candidate Handbook](#) for additional information.

Do I need to pay an application fee when I re-take an exam?

No, the application fee is only required for new applications. Read the pertinent sections of the [application and examination page](#) and [Re-Examination Information](#) for detailed information.

What forms of payment are accepted for the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) application, Professional Geologist (PG) application, Professional Geologist California Specific Exam (CSE), and fingerprint card (if applicable) fees?

You will have the option to pay the [fees](#) by credit card, debit card, personal check, money order, or cash. If you choose to pay by check, money order, or cash, BPELSG Connect will provide you with a confirmation document that you will need to print and mail to the Board along with the payment. Please be aware that choosing the check, money order, or cash option will significantly delay the processing of your application, since application review will not start until payment is received and processed.

What forms of payment are accepted for the Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG), Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG) or Professional Geophysicist (PGP) application, exam, and fingerprint card (if applicable) fees?

Submit one check or money order payable to the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) along with your application.

3.3 Application Review

How do I check the status of my Geologist-in-Training (GIT) or Professional Geologist (PG) application?

Once you have submitted your application through BPELSG Connect, you will be able to monitor the status of your application, address any deficiencies, and communicate with Board staff by logging into your [BPELSG Connect](#) user profile.

Do not contact the Board for status updates; login to your BPELSG Connect account and refer to your dashboard for status updates. The statuses are as follows:

- *Under Review*-The application has been received by the Board and is pending review by licensing evaluator staff.

- *Technical Review*-The application has been forwarded to the Senior Registrar and is pending technical review.
- *Deficiency*-Board staff has determined that the application is missing required information. Check the email from Board staff to resolve the deficiency.
- *Exam Eligible*-The applicant is eligible to take the Laws and Rules exam and/or the state-specific exam. Check under the “Action” column for clarification. (Professional Geologist applicants only)
- *Final Review*-The application is pending final review prior to licensure/certification.
- *Approved*-The application is approved for licensure/certification.

If you are a Professional Geologist (PG) applicant you can also check to see if your professional references have filled out Part B of the Work Experience Engagements/References (although you will not be able to see how they responded), and if they have not responded in a timely manner, you can resend the references to them.

How do I check the status of my Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG), Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG) or Professional Geophysicist (PGP) application?

You must allow the Board a minimum of 60 days for the Board to process your application from the date it is received. Do not contact the Board within the initial 60-day period to ask about the status of your application. If you have not received any communication from the Board after the initial 60-day period, you may contact the Board's Licensing Unit at (916) 999-3600 or BPESLG.Evaluator4@dca.ca.gov; otherwise, you will receive an email update from the Board after your application has been technically reviewed by Board staff.

What will happen if my Geologist-in-Training (GIT) or Professional Geologist (PG) application is determined to be deficient?

If your application is determined to be deficient, Board staff will send you an email. To correct the deficiency, login to [BPESLG Connect](#), follow all directions within the email and all directions within BPESLG Connect, click the “Save & Next” button, and click the “Re-Submit” button. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that all identified deficiencies are resolved within the BPESLG Connect system.

What will happen if my Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG), Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG) or Professional Geophysicist (PGP) application is determined to be deficient?

If your application is determined to be deficient, Board staff will send you an email detailing the deficiencies. Follow the directions in the email.

What happens if the Board finds that an applicant is not qualified for a license or certification? May an applicant appeal if found not qualified to become licensed?

If the Board denies your application, you will be notified in writing of the reasons for the denial and your options for appealing the denial. Application fees are not refundable and are expended by the processing and evaluation of each application submitted.

If the Board determines that I don't have enough work experience to obtain my Professional Geologist (PG) license and take the required exams, can I convert my application to a Geologist-in-Training (GIT) certificate application if I meet the GIT requirements?

No. The PG application cannot be converted to a GIT application. You will need to file a separate GIT application.

3.4 Registering for Exams After Application Approval

How do I take the ASBOG exam(s) after my Geologist-in-Training (GIT) or Professional Geologist (PG) application is approved?

The ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and Practice of Geology (PG) exams are administered in a computer-based testing (CBT) format. All approved applicants will pay exam fees and seat fees directly to ASBOG's exam vendor Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT) and sign up for the exam(s) through Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT) upon email notification. Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT) will send the email to all eligible exam candidates in early February for the spring exam, and in late August for the fall exam (from the following email address: registrations@isoqualitytesting.com). Please do not contact ASBOG or Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT) regarding your eligibility; wait for your email notification. If you are eligible, but you do not receive your email notification in the timeframe described above, you may contact the Exam Unit at (916) 999-3644 or BOEXAM@dca.ca.gov. Be sure to check your SPAM and junk email boxes before contacting the Board.

How do I take the Professional Geologist California Specific Exam (CSE) after my Professional Geologist (PG) application is approved?

Once your Professional Geologist (PG) application is exam eligible you will need to login to [BPELSG Connect](#) to pay for and request to take the Professional Geologist California Specific Exam (CSE). You will have a choice between the [spring or fall exam dates](#). After payment, you will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) notice via email with instructions on how and when to schedule your exam with [Prometric](#). Contact the Board if you do not receive your ATT after payment is made. It is recommended that you schedule your exam as soon as you receive the ATT notice to increase your chances of obtaining your preferred testing location and time. Be sure to check your SPAM and junk email boxes before contacting the Board.

How do I take the exam after my Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG), Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG) or Professional Geophysicist (PGP) application is approved?

You will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) notice via email 4-6 weeks prior to the exam date with instructions on how and when to schedule your state-specific exam with [Prometric](#).

3.5 Re-taking an Examination

How do I submit a Re-Exam Request in BPELSG Connect to re-take the Professional Geologist California Specific Exam (CSE)?

Read the pertinent sections of the [application and examination page](#) and [Re-Examination Information](#) for detailed instructions. Please note that there is a different process for re-taking the ASBOG exams than re-taking the Professional Geologist California Specific Exam (CSE).

How do I re-take the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and/or Practice of Geology (PG) exams?

You do not need to create a BPELSG Connect account to re-take the ASBOG exams. Read the [application and examination page](#) and [Re-Examination Information](#) for detailed instructions.

My paper Geologist-in-Training (GIT) or Professional Geologist (PG) application was previously approved. Do I need to submit a new initial application in BPELSG Connect to re-take an exam? Do I need to create a BPELSG Connect account?

If you have sat for one or more of the required exams within the last two (2) years, you *do not* need to submit a new initial application; however, you will be required to create a [BPELSG Connect](#) account to submit a Re-Exam Request in BPELSG Connect to re-take the Professional Geologist California Specific Exam (CSE) if you are a Professional Geologist (PG) applicant. Geologist-in-Training (GIT) and Professional Geologist (PG) applicants *do not* need to create a BPELSG Connect account to re-take the ASBOG exams. Read the [application and examination page](#) and [Re-Examination Information](#) for detailed instructions.

You may be required to submit a new application in BPELSG Connect if you *have not* sat for one or more of the required exams within the last two (2) years. Please email BPELSG.Evaluator4@dca.ca.gov with your full name and a description of your circumstances. Depending on the situation, you may need to reapply in BPELSG Connect.

I created a BPELSG Connect account to submit a Re-Exam Request to re-take the Professional Geologist California Specific Exam (CSE), but I do not see my previously approved application on my dashboard. Shouldn't my application transfer to BPELSG Connect?

When you create a [BPELSG Connect](#) account, you will see your CSE exam eligibility *after* you submit your Re-Exam Request in BPELSG Connect; however, you *will not* see your previously approved application. Also, you *will not* see your ASBOG exam eligibility status in BPELSG Connect because you do not submit a Re-Exam Request in BPELSG Connect to re-take the ASBOG exams. Read the [application and examination page](#) and [Re-Examination Information](#) for information regarding how to re-take the ASBOG exams.

3.6 After Passing the Exams

After I have passed the required exam(s), do I need to take any further action before I receive my certificate or license? When will I get my license or certificate after I pass the required exams?

Geologist-in-Training (GIT) Applicants:

Your application will remain in a deficiency status in BPELSG Connect until you have passed the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam. Once you have passed the exam, you will be required to login to [BPELSG Connect](#), upload your exam results, and resolve the deficiency. Your GIT certificate will be issued once the ASBOG exam deficiency has been resolved, and all other certification requirements have been met, including the fingerprint requirement.

Since the GIT certificate is not a license, the GIT number will not appear on the website and no wallet card will be issued; however, your GIT number will appear on your BPELSG Connect dashboard once certified. The wall certificate will be mailed approximately 4-6 weeks after certification.

Professional Geologist (PG) Applicants:

Your application will remain in a deficiency status in BPELSG Connect until you have passed the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and Practice of Geology (PG) exams. Once you have passed the exams, you will be required to login to [BPELSG Connect](#), upload your exam results, and resolve the deficiency. There is no action required after you pass the Professional Geologist California Specific Exam (CSE). Your license will be issued once the ASBOG exam deficiencies have been resolved, you have passed the CSE, and all other license requirements have been met, including the fingerprint requirement.

You will be able to view your license number on your BPELSG Connect dashboard and [License Lookup](#) once licensed. Your wall certificate will be mailed to you approximately 4-6 weeks after your license number is issued. You will also receive a plastic pocket ID card in the mail approximately 12 weeks after your license number is issued.

Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG), Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG), and Professional Geophysicist (PGP) Applicants:

Your license will automatically be mailed if you have passed the required exam and have met all other licensure requirements, including the fingerprint requirement.

Upon passing the required exam, your license number will be issued within 2-4 weeks. You can search by name on [License Lookup](#) to check if your license has been issued. Your wall certificate will be mailed to you approximately 4-6 weeks after your license is issued. You will also receive a plastic pocket ID card in the mail approximately 12 weeks after your license is issued.

4.0 – EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 General Information

Do I need to submit transcripts for my Geologist-in-Training (GIT) application?

No. The board no longer verifies an applicant's eligibility for certification as a Geologist-in-Training (GIT) other than to require the applicant to attest to their eligibility. The applicant is responsible for understanding the education requirements for certification as a GIT, which are the same education requirements for licensure as a Professional Geologist (PG). By submitting a GIT application, the applicant attests that they have read and meet the education requirements for certification as a Geologist-in-Training as specified in [Business and Professions Code section 7841.2\(a\)\(3\)](#) and [Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022\(a\)](#).

Am I required to resubmit transcripts to the Board for my Professional Geologist (PG) application if I already submitted them with my Geologist-in-Training (GIT) application?

If you submitted official transcripts to the Board showing all course work, with a previously approved GIT application (during the timeframe transcripts were required for GIT applications), you are not required to resubmit transcripts. If you did not submit transcripts with a prior GIT application, you will now need to submit transcripts for your PG application.

How do I submit transcripts for my Professional Geologist (PG) application? Can I submit electronic transcripts?

Applicants must request official transcripts for all applicable degrees. If your university/college provides electronic transcripts, they must be sent *directly from the university/college* via email to BPELSG.Transcripts@dca.ca.gov. If your university/college provides paper transcripts they must be mailed to the Board. Unsealed transcripts are not accepted. Foreign transcripts that are not in English do not need to be sealed, but applicants must submit the original transcripts along with a notarized English translation. Degree evaluations are not accepted.

My school doesn't document courses in semester hours. How do I figure out if I have the required amount of coursework?

If your college or university uses a different credit system, you will have to convert the units to semester hours to determine if you have the required semester hours. Some schools will list the most common conversions on the transcript legend. If your transcript doesn't include a conversion, contact your school registrar for assistance.

How do I know which classes are upper division?

In general, upper division courses are junior or senior level classes that require a prerequisite. Most colleges and universities have a course numbering system that clearly identifies which

courses are lower division or upper division. The course numbering system is usually included in the transcript legend. If it isn't, check your school catalog or contact your school registrar for information.

Will the Board pre-review my transcripts for me before I apply?

No.

How do I know if my school has institution level accreditation, or if my school's geoscience department has program level accreditation?

Accreditation status may be listed on the legend that comes with your transcripts. If it isn't included on the transcripts, most schools have information on both institution level and program level accreditation listed on their website. You can also contact your school's registrar for assistance or visit the [ABET website](#) to look up your school.

4.2 Geologist-in-Training (GIT) and Professional Geologist (PG)

What degrees are acceptable for the Professional Geologist (PG) license in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 7841(b)(1) and for the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) certificate in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 7841.2 (a)(3)(A)?

As defined in the regulations [Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022(a)(1)], graduation from a college or university with a major in geological sciences or any other discipline relevant to geology, refers to graduation with a baccalaureate degree or higher in geology or a related geological science, from a program accredited by the Applied and Natural Science Accreditation Commission of ABET Inc. [\[Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022\(a\)\(1\)\]](#).

I don't have an ABET program level accredited degree. Can I still apply for the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) certificate or the Professional Geologist (PG) license?

Yes. The law provides two educational pathways to qualify. If your degree is not ABET accredited, you can qualify under the "30 semester hours/24 upper division or graduate" rule described in [Business and Professions Code section 7841\(b\)\(2\) and section 7841.2 \(a\)\(3\)\(B\)](#).

Does the Board have a list of required classes that must be part of the "30 semester hours" for the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) certificate or the Professional Geologist (PG) license requirements in accordance with Business and Professions Code sections 7841(b)(2) and 7841.2(a)(3)(B)?

The Board does not provide a list of "required classes"; however, there is a list of minimum coursework described in the regulations [\[Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022\(a\)\(2\)\]](#).

Geology and Geophysics Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Review the definitions in the regulation to evaluate whether your courses meet the requirements. It is your responsibility to understand the coursework definitions and requirements before applying. To ensure you qualify, the Board recommends utilizing the chart below before attesting that you meet the education requirements.

Please note that additional geologic coursework necessary to meet the total 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours requirement may be selected at the applicant’s discretion but must be relevant to geology as defined in the Geologist and Geophysicist Act.

REQUIRED CORE GEOLOGICAL SCIENCE COURSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS SECTION 3022(a)(2)(A)			
REQUIREMENT	COMPLETED COURSES	NUMBER OF SEMESTER/QUARTER HOURS	UPPER/LOWER DIVISION OR GRADUATE LEVEL
Earth Materials (4 semester hours/6 quarter hours)			
Structural Geology (3 semester hours/4.5 quarter hours)			
Stratigraphy and Sedimentation (3 semester hours/4.5 quarter hours)			
Upper Division Field Geology (5 semester hours/7.5 quarter hours)			
REQUIRED APPLIED UPPER DIVISION GEOLOGY COURSES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS SECTION 3022(a)(2)(B)			
NAME OF COMPLETED COURSES (Must include at least two of the topics described in California Code of Regulations section 3022(a)(2)(B) for a total of 6 semester hours/9 quarter hours)		NUMBER OF SEMESTER/QUARTER HOURS	UPPER DIVISION OR GRADUATE LEVEL
ADDITIONAL COURSEWORK REQUIRED TO MEET THE 24 SEMESTER HOURS/36 QUARTER HOURS OF UPPER DIVISION OR GRADUATE LEVEL TOTAL REQUIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 7841(b)(2)			
LOWER DIVISION COURSES		UPPER DIVISION OR GRADUATE LEVEL	

Can I use combined courses, independent study courses, research projects, theses, or dissertations to satisfy the coursework requirements?

Yes, but you will be required to provide sufficient documentation to substantiate that these types of courses satisfy one or more of the coursework requirements described in the regulations.

Can I use workshops, professional development seminars, conferences, non-credit certificate programs, student internships or reading courses to satisfy the coursework requirements?

No.

4.3 Professional Geophysicist (PGP)

What degrees are acceptable for the Professional Geophysicist (PGP) license requirements in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 7841.1(b)(1)?

Graduation with a major in geophysical science or any other discipline that, in the opinion of the Board, is relevant to geophysics. This requirement must be fulfilled at a college or university which, at the time the applicant was enrolled, was accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting commission (institution level accreditation) [[Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022.1\(a\)\(1\)](#)].

I don't have a geophysics degree. Can I still apply for the Professional Geophysicist (PGP) license?

Yes. The law provides two educational pathways to qualify. You can qualify under the "30 semester hours/24 upper division or graduate" rule described in [Business and Professions Code section 7841.1\(b\)\(2\)](#).

Does the Board have a list of required classes that must be part of the "30 semester hours" for the Professional Geophysicist (PGP) license in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 7841.1(b)(2)?

No. Please note that courses used to satisfy the requirements of [Business and Professions Code section 7841.1\(b\)\(2\)](#) must be taken at a college or university which, at the time the applicant was enrolled, was accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting commission (institution level accreditation) [[Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022.1\(a\)\(1\)](#)].

4.4 Geology Specialty Certifications - Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG) and Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG)

Are there any additional education requirements for the geology specialty certifications, Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG) and Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG)?

No. There are no additional education requirements for the geology specialty certifications. These license types are only available to licensed geologists, and the education requirements applicable to the Professional Geologist (PG) license are evaluated when a person applies for the PG license.

5.0 - DOCUMENTING EXPERIENCE

5.1 General Information

How are Professional Geologist (PG) applicants required to document qualifying experience?

PG applicants use [BPELSG Connect](#) to submit their application to the Board. During the application process, the applicant will complete Part A of the Work Experience Engagements/References within BPELSG Connect, under the Experience Tab.

PG applicants must submit a minimum of three (3) references who in the opinion of the Board have the training and experience to have responsible charge of geological work [[Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022\(b\)\(1\)](#)].

Contact information for each professional reference will be required for each Work Experience Engagement/Reference submitted by the applicant.

After the applicant submits their application in BPELSG Connect, each of the applicant's professional references will be emailed a copy of Part A of the Work Experience Engagement/Reference with a link that will instruct them to complete Part B. Part B must be completed by the professional reference, not the applicant. On Part B, the professional reference will be asked to confirm their relationship with the applicant, professional supervision, and confirm the claimed experience within the engagement/reference.

Applicants will be able to login to their [BPELSG Connect](#) profile to verify if their professional references have completed each reference, but applicants will not be able to see the professional reference responses. Applicants are responsible for contacting each of their references to encourage them to complete the references in a timely manner. **A complete application must be submitted 100 days prior to the scheduled exam date ([Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3021\(b\)](#)).** **A complete application is defined as an application that includes a minimum of three (3) references with a response from each professional reference, all relevant transcripts, a passing score on the Laws and Rules exam, and [verification of ASBOG exams](#) passed outside of California (if applicable).** Applicants are encouraged to submit their application *well in advance of the 100 days* in order to allow sufficient time for each professional reference to complete their response to the reference, for the applicant to submit all of their relevant transcripts, complete and pass the Laws and Rules exam, and request a verification of ASBOG exams passed outside of California (if applicable).

How are Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG), Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG) and Professional Geophysicist (PGP) applicants required to document qualifying experience?

CEG, CHG and PGP applicants must use the [Independent Evaluation of Scope, Character and Duration of Applicant's Qualifying Geological or Geophysical Work Experience](#) form to document their qualifying experience. The completed forms should be submitted with the application.

CEG and CHG applicants must submit three (3) references ([Title 16, California Code of Regulations sections 3041 and 3042](#)). See [Business and Professions Code section 7842](#) for a description of the qualification requirements.

PGP applicants must submit a minimum of three (3) references who in the opinion of the Board have the training and experience to have responsible charge of geophysical work [[Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022.1\(b\)](#)].

For a Professional Geologist (PG) application, what type of information will need to be verified by the reference provider?

- Verify that they have personal knowledge of the applicant's qualifying experience in a responsible position as defined in [Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3003\(c\)](#), and must indicate the nature of their relationship with the applicant;
- Verify the number of months the applicant has completed professional geological work as defined in [Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3003\(d\)](#);
- Verify the applicant's description of their qualifying professional geological experience;
- Certify under penalty of perjury that the statements are true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

For a Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG), Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG), or Professional Geophysicist (PGP) application, what type of information will need to be verified by the reference provider?

As described in [Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022.2\(a\)\(3\)](#) the reference must:

- Verify that they have personal knowledge of the applicant's qualifying experience in a responsible position as defined in Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3003(c), and must indicate the nature of their relationship with the applicant;
- Indicate the number of months they can qualify the applicant as having completed professional geological work as defined in Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3003(d) or professional geophysical work as defined in section 3003(e);
- Document how they computed the number of months of qualifying work experience using the definition of full-time work provided in Title 16, California Code of Regulations sections 3022(b)(2) and 3022.1(b)(1);
- Provide a detailed, complete, and accurate description of the qualifying professional geological experience or professional geophysical work completed by the applicant;

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- Provide a work experience description that must cover the time period being documented as qualifying experience by the reference;
- Use the appropriate scientific terms in describing the work, while avoiding colloquialisms, industry jargon, and slang; and,
- Certify under penalty of perjury that the statements are true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

Please note that these are *technical references*, not employment references and not character references. The purpose of the reference is to describe and document the applicant's qualifying professional geological or professional geophysical tasks, project role, decisions etc. in detail sufficient to encompass the time period for experience being claimed. Extraneous information about the applicant's character or whether the applicant is a good employee should not be included.

How should the amount of time for qualifying experience be established?

Professional geological or geophysical experience is based on actual time worked not to exceed 40 hours per week. Additional credit for "overtime" is not allowed. Qualifying experience should be documented as follows:

- Qualifying experience includes only responsible position level geologic or geophysical work. Qualifying experience is counted from the date when the applicant first began working at a professional level and requires the application of scientific knowledge, principles, and methods to geological or geophysical problems in investigating, measuring, interpreting, and reporting on the physical phenomenon of the earth. Please refer to the definitions of geology, engineering geology, hydrogeology and geophysics in the laws and regulations.
- Part-time graduate study or teaching, and part-time professional work experience will be prorated by the Board and combined on a 12-calendar month basis.
- A *good faith estimate* should be made on the amount of time that an applicant spent on qualifying professional geological or geophysical work. For example, if the applicant spent part of their time doing administrative tasks, and part of the time doing professional geological or professional geophysical work, only the professional geological or professional geophysical work should be counted.
- For multidisciplinary fields, an estimate should be made on the amount of time that qualifies as geology or geophysics. *Tasks that do not meet the definition of geology, engineering geology, hydrogeology or geophysics do not count toward the experience requirement.* For example, environmental work is multidisciplinary and includes many tasks such as project management, biology, toxicology, engineering, chemistry, and geology to name a few. The portion of the environmental work that meets the definition of geology would be counted toward an applicant's work experience for a

Professional Geologist (PG) license. The non-geology tasks do not count toward the applicant's work experience.

- Qualifying experience may be less than the total number of months worked; it is computed by Total Months Worked less Non-Qualifying Experience.
- Qualifying experience does not overlap with credit claimed for education, and it does not include:
 - Project management
 - Administrative tasks
 - Overtime, training, or orientation
 - Technician level or routine tasks that do not involve scientific judgement
 - Work not meeting the definition of geology or geophysics
 - Only the geological or geophysical part of the work should be counted for multidisciplinary projects

Do an applicant's references need to be licensed?

All references must be from professionals authorized to practice in the discipline in which the applicant is seeking licensure, by virtue of licensure or by exemption. If an applicant has qualifying work outside of California or outside of the United States, the references for that experience must be from persons authorized to practice by virtue of licensure or by exemption as appropriate for that jurisdiction.

Any references who are legally authorized to practice without being licensed (i.e. someone who is practicing geology or geophysics within an exemption or in a situation where they are not required to be licensed) must provide information which indicates under what authority they are practicing, and provide a résumé or CV to document their qualifications in geology or geophysics as appropriate [[Title 16, California Code of Regulations sections 3022\(b\) and 3022.1\(b\)](#)].

Can I use a family member as a reference?

No. References cannot be related to the applicant by blood, marriage, registration as domestic partners, or adoption [[Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022.2\(a\)\(1\)](#)]. If you are in a situation which necessitates the use of a relative to verify your qualifying experience (i.e., a family business) you must additionally have a reference who is not a relative to verify your employment *in addition* to the reference supplied by your relative. This person may be a peer, client, or other qualified person familiar with your work and qualified to opine on your geologic work.

What are the different types of references?

“Responsible Charge”: A responsible charge reference is one provided by the appropriately licensed professional (or person practicing under a legally authorized exemption) in responsible charge of your work, as defined in [Business and Professions Code section 7805](#).

“Employer, Administrative Supervisor” (not in responsible charge): Someone who does not direct your technical work under their license but may be an administrative manager or owner of the company. The reference must have sufficient knowledge of the applicant's geological or geophysical work to be able to make knowledgeable comments about the applicant's performance on the job.

“Peer” (not in responsible charge): A peer is defined as someone with the same status or ability as another person. Someone of equal or of the same rank. In work situations, colleagues are sometimes referred to as peers. The reference must have sufficient knowledge of the applicant's geological or geophysical work to be able to make knowledgeable comments about the applicant's performance on the job.

“Regulator”: A person working in a public governmental capacity who exercises authority over work being conducted to satisfy a law or regulation and can determine compliance with the requirements of such law or regulation. The reference must have sufficient knowledge of the applicant's geological or geophysical work to be able to make knowledgeable comments about the applicant's performance on the job.

What does the term "responsible charge" mean?

The term "responsible charge" is defined in [Business and Professions Code section 7805](#), which states:

The term “responsible charge of work” means the independent control and direction by the use of initiative, skill and independent judgment of geological or geophysical work or the supervision of such work.

The term “responsible charge” means the person in charge of your technical work (provided direction, corrections, and ability to approve or overrule technical decisions). It has nothing to do with management hierarchy or employment status. The phrase does not refer to the concept of financial liability. Signing and sealing a geological or geophysical document is an indication of responsible charge.

I worked under multiple licensed people who were in responsible charge of my work. It would be a lot of work to get references from each of them. Can't one person just summarize the work that I did under everyone at that company?

No. A licensee can only document work that you did under their direct responsible charge. They cannot document work you did under someone else's license. If you worked under the responsible charge of multiple licensees, you must provide multiple responsible charge references.

The person that I worked under and want to use as my reference has left the company I work for. Can my manager vouch for the work I did under that person?

No. Only the professional(s) who worked directly with you can attest to your professional work experience. You should contact the person you want to use as your reference and ask them to complete the reference form for the time period that you worked together.

Do I need to complete my work experience before I submit my application to the Board?

[Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3023](#) allows the Board to credit an applicant for work experience obtained up to 100 days before the exam date as long as the applicant is working under the responsible charge of an appropriately licensed individual in the same capacity. If your work situation changes, you must notify the Board. The Board will apply the 100 days during technical review of your application if necessary.

Can I earn work experience before completing the education requirements for the Professional Geologist (PG) or the Professional Geophysicist (PGP) license?

No. An applicant is not eligible to earn credit for professional geological work or for professional geophysical work until the applicant has completed the education requirements [[Title 16, California Code of Regulations sections 3022\(b\)\(4\) and 3022.1\(b\)\(3\)](#)].

5.2 Professional Geologist (PG)

Who can be my reference for a Professional Geologist (PG) application? How many references are required?

You must provide at least three (3) references. At least one (1) of the references (or as many as necessary) must be a *responsible charge* reference to document that you have the required amount of work experience for the PG. For example, if you need to document 36 months of work experience, you must have one or more responsible charge references to document 36 months of work experience. Any additional references required to meet the minimum of three (3) can be supplied by peer, employer and/or regulator references. The references must meet the requirements outlined in [Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022\(b\)\(1\)](#) (provided below):

Professional geological experience for licensure as a geologist is that experience that has been gained while performing professional geologic tasks under the responsible charge of a person who in the opinion of the Board has the training and experience to have responsible charge of geological work.

For the purposes of this section, a person will be deemed to have the training and experience to have responsible charge of geological work if they meet any one of the following:

- (A) holds licensure as a Professional Geologist;

(B) holds licensure as a Professional Geophysicist;

(C) is licensed as a Civil Engineer or a Petroleum Engineer practicing geology within the exemption described in Section 7838 of the Code and who presents to the Board documented evidence that the reference has the training and experience in the area of geology in which the applicant's experience is earned sufficient to qualify the reference to have responsible charge of geologic work; or

(D) is legally authorized to practice geology in a situation or locale where the reference is not required to be licensed and who presents to the Board documented evidence that the reference has the training and experience in the area of geology in which the applicant's experience is earned sufficient to qualify the reference to have responsible charge of geological work.

Do I get any experience credit for my education?

An applicant for licensure as a Professional Geologist (PG) shall be granted credit for professional geological experience, *up to a combined maximum of three (3) years*, for the following education:

- Two (2) years of professional geological experience credit for graduation with a baccalaureate degree in geology or a related geological science, from a program accredited by the Applied Science Accreditation Commission of ABET Inc. as described in [Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022\(a\)\(1\)](#), or the completion of 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of geological science courses as described in [Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022\(a\)\(2\)](#).
- One (1) year of professional geological experience credit for one (1) year of graduate study or research in the geologic sciences. A year of graduate study or research is defined as a 12-calendar month period during which the candidate is enrolled in a full-time program of graduate study or research. Full-time graduate study is defined as two (2) semesters per year of 8 semester hours each (12 quarter hours), or as defined by the college or university, whichever is less.
- Part-time graduate study or research, and part-time professional geological work experience will be prorated and combined on a 12-calendar month basis. No credit will be given for professional geological work experience performed during the same time period when full-time graduate study or research is being done for which educational credit is being allowed.
- Teaching in the geological sciences at college level shall be credited year for year toward meeting the requirement in this category, provided that the total teaching experience includes six (6) semester units per semester, or equivalent if on the quarter system, of upper division or graduate courses.

What type of activity constitutes qualifying experience for a Professional Geologist (PG) license?

“Professional Geologic Work” is performed at a professional level rather than at a subprofessional or apprentice level and requires the application of scientific knowledge,

principles, and methods of geological problems through the exercise of individual initiative and judgment in investigating, measuring, interpreting, and reporting on the physical phenomena of the earth. Implicit in this definition is the recognition of professional responsibility and integrity and the acknowledgement of minimal supervision.

Professional geologic work specifically *does not* include: routine activities such as drafting, sampling, sample preparation, routine laboratory work, etc., where the elements of initiative, scientific judgment and decision making are lacking, activities that do not use scientific methods to process and interpret geologic data, soils engineering, soils sampling, soils testing or other activities in or related to the agricultural application of soils sciences, and mining, mining engineering or other engineering disciplines and/or other physical sciences wherein geological investigation, analysis and interpretation are minimal or lacking.

5.3 Professional Geophysicist (PGP)

Who can be my reference for a Professional Geophysicist (PGP) application? How many references are required?

To obtain a PGP license, the applicant must provide a minimum of three (3) references as described below.

- One option requires that an applicant have three (3) years of work experience (out of the seven (7) total years required) working under the responsible charge of a licensed Professional Geophysicist. You must provide at least one (1) *responsible charge* reference (or as many as necessary) to document your three (3) years of work experience under a PGP. Any additional references required to meet the minimum of three (3) can be supplied by peer, employer and/or regulator references.
- The second option to qualify for the PGP license is for applicants to have “five years in responsible charge of professional geophysical work”. In accordance with this option, an applicant must document that they have been in responsible charge of and practicing geophysics legally in the jurisdiction in which the work was done for five (5) years. For example, in California, this could be a geologist performing geophysical work related to their practice of geology. In this example, the Board would accept non-responsible charge references (peer, employer, or regulator) who have the training and experience sufficient to verify the applicant’s qualifying experience. The reference must provide information that indicates under what authority they are practicing and provide a résumé or CV to document that they have a minimum of five (5) years of responsible charge experience in the specialty.

Do I get any experience credit for my education?

An applicant for licensure as a Professional Geophysicist shall be granted credit for professional geophysical work, up to a combined maximum of four (4) years, for the following education:

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- One-half year of work credit for each year of full-time undergraduate study in the geophysical sciences up to *a maximum* of two (2) years. A year of undergraduate study or research is defined as a 12-calendar month period during which the candidate is enrolled in a full-time undergraduate program as defined by the college or university.
- One year of work credit for one year of graduate study or research in the geophysical sciences. A year of graduate study or research is defined as a 12-calendar month period during which the candidate is enrolled in a full-time program of graduate study or research. Full-time graduate study is defined as two (2) semesters per year of eight (8) semester hours each (12 quarter hours), or as defined by the college or university, whichever is less.
- Part-time graduate study or research, and part-time professional geophysical work experience will be prorated and combined on a 12-calendar month basis. No credit will be given for professional geophysical work experience performed during the same time period when full-time graduate study or research is being done for which educational credit is being allowed.
- Teaching in the geophysical sciences referred to in this section at a college level shall be credited year for year toward meeting the requirement in this category, provided that the total teaching experience includes six (6) semester units per semester, or equivalent if on the quarter system, of the third or fourth year or graduate courses.

What type of activity constitutes qualifying experience for a Professional Geophysicist (PGP) license?

"Professional geophysical work" is work performed at a professional level rather than at a subprofessional or apprentice level and requires the application of scientific knowledge, principles, and methods to geophysical problems through the exercise of individual initiative and judgment in investigating, measuring, interpreting, and reporting on the physical phenomena of the earth. The term includes the practice of geophysics for the evaluation and mitigation of earthquake hazards, and environmental and groundwater resource assessment. Implicit in this definition is the recognition of professional responsibility and integrity and the acknowledgment of minimal supervision.

Professional geophysical work specifically does not include activities wherein the analysis or interpretation of geophysical or geological information is lacking. Such nonprofessional work could encompass party or crew chief and would encompass lesser forms of employment in field parties, the manufacture, assembly or maintenance and repair of geophysical instruments and equipment, computer programming, data processing or retrieval and routine activities normally performed by a technician in acquiring and reporting on geophysical information where the elements of initiative, scientific judgment and decision making are absent. It also does not include those engineering disciplines and other physical sciences wherein geophysical or geological investigation, analysis and interpretation are minimal or lacking.

5.4 Geology Specialty Certifications - Certified Engineer Geologist (CEG) and Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG)

Can I use engineering geology or hydrogeology experience I documented for my Professional Geologist (PG) license towards my Certified Engineer Geologist (CEG) or Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG) specialty?

Yes. Experience in engineering geology or hydrogeology used to qualify for licensure as a Professional Geologist (PG) may also be used to qualify for specialty certification.

Do I have to submit references for my Certified Engineer Geologist (CEG) or Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG) application, or will the Board use my references from my Professional Geologist (PG) application?

The regulations require you to submit three (3) references with your CEG or CHG application [[Title 16, California Code of Regulations sections 3041 and 3042](#)].

Who can be my reference for a Certified Engineer Geologist (CEG) or Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG) application and how many are required?

To obtain a specialty certification, the applicant must provide a minimum of three (3) references as described below.

If you are applying for a CEG or CHG specialty certification in accordance with [Business and Professions Code section 7842\(a\)\(1\)](#):

This option requires that an applicant have three (3) years of work experience in the specialty (in addition to the other requirements specified in Business and Professions Code section 7842). At least one (1) responsible charge reference (or as many as necessary) must be provided to document the three (3) years of experience. The experience must be obtained as described below:

- under the supervision of a geologist certified in the specialty (i.e., CEG or CHG); and
- if applying for the CEG, the experience can also be earned under a licensed Civil PE who presents to the Board documented evidence that the reference has the training and experience in the area of geology in which the applicant's experience is earned sufficient to qualify the reference to have responsible charge of geologic work.

Any additional references required to meet the minimum of three (3) can be supplied by a peer, employer and/or regulator reference. Reference providers who do not hold the specialty license in which the applicant is applying should provide a résumé or CV to document their qualifications to serve as a reference for the specialty certification for which the applicant is applying.

If you are applying for a CEG or CHG specialty certification in accordance with [Business and Professions Code section 7842\(a\)\(2\)](#):

This option requires that an applicant have a minimum of five (5) years' experience in responsible charge of professional geological work in the specialty for which the applicant is seeking certification.

In accordance with this option, you must provide a minimum of three (3) references who can attest to your experience in the specialty for which you are applying. These references can be responsible charge, peer, employer, or regulator references.

Who can be my reference for a CEG or CHG specialty certification application?

For the CEG application, the references can be from licensed CEGs, qualified engineering geologists or licensed Civil PEs. References without a CEG license should provide a résumé or CV to document their ability to serve as a reference for a CEG application.

For the CHG application, the references can be from licensed CHGs or Professional Geologists who have a minimum of five years' experience in responsible charge of hydrogeological work. References without a CHG license should provide a résumé or CV to document their ability to serve as a reference for a CHG application.

What type of experience is the Board looking for as it pertains to engineering geology work?

From [Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3041\(a\)\(2\)](#):

Have a knowledge of:

- (A) Geology of the State of California.
- (B) Geologic factors relating to Civil Engineering problems typically encountered in the State.
- (C) Elementary soil and rock mechanics.
- (D) Principles of grading codes and other pertinent regulations. (Appendix Chapter 33, 1997 Uniform Building Code).

What type of experience is the Board looking for as it pertains to hydrogeology work?

From [Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3042\(b\)\(2\)](#):

Have a knowledge of and experience in:

- (A) Geology of the State of California.
- (B) Geologic factors relating to the water resources of this State.
- (C) Principles of groundwater hydraulics/hydrology and groundwater quality including the vadose zone.
- (D) Applicable federal, state and local rules and regulations.

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(E) Principles of water well, monitoring well, disposal well, and injection well construction.

(F) Elementary soil and rock mechanics in relation to groundwater, including the description of rock and soil samples from wells.

(G) Interpretation of borehole logs as they relate to porosity, hydraulic conductivity or fluid character.

6.0 - EXAMINATION ISSUES

6.1 General Information

What happens if I am approved for an exam, but I am unable to appear for the exam as scheduled? Can I postpone the exam?

If you cannot attend a state-specific exam and are requesting a postponement of state-specific exam fees, you must submit a [Postponement Form](#) along with supporting documentation to the Board in accordance with the instructions on the Postponement Form. You will receive a letter/email with the Board's decision.

The Postponement Form is not for ASBOG exam postponements, as the Board does not handle ASBOG exam postponements. Review the [ASBOG Candidate Handbook](#) for the ASBOG exam reschedule/cancellation policy.

Contact the Exam Unit at BOEXAM@dca.ca.gov for additional information.

What will happen if I do not show up for a state-specific exam and I am not approved for a postponement?

You will forfeit your exam fees. If you want to retake the exam read the [application and examination page](#) and [Re-Examination Information](#) for detailed instructions.

How do I request special testing accommodations due to religious belief or for reasons falling within the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?

View the [Special Accommodations](#) page on the Board's website.

Where and when are the ASBOG exams administered?

The exam dates are available on the [Examination Schedule](#).

The exams are administered in a computer-based format by ASBOG's exam vendor Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT). Exam sites are offered throughout the US and Puerto Rico. See [ASBOG's website](#) and the [ASBOG Candidate Handbook](#) for details.

Where and when are the state-specific exams administered?

The exam dates are available on the [Examination Schedule](#).

The state-specific exams are administered in a computer-based format at [Prometric](#) testing centers. Exam sites are offered throughout North America.

May an applicant inspect or appeal their graded exam?

No. Exam inspection and appeals are not allowed.

What should I use to study for the exams?

ASBOG Exams: View the resources available on [ASBOG's website](#).

State-specific Exams: View the test plans and reference lists found on the [Examination Candidate Information](#) page.

The Board does not endorse or provide recommendations regarding study guides or study courses.

What can I bring to the exam?

ASBOG Exams: View the [Candidate Handbook](#) on ASBOG's website.

State-specific Exams: View the appropriate [Candidate Information Bulletin](#) on Prometric's website.

When are exam results released?

Fall exam results are typically released in mid to late December; Spring exam results are typically released in early to mid-May. These dates are estimates based on typical historical release timeframes. Timeframes are subject to change. Please do not contact the Board regarding the anticipated release date, as there are several factors that can affect the release of the exam results, and an exact date cannot be provided.

6.2 Geologist-in-Training (GIT) and Professional Geologist (PG)

What exam is required for the Geologist-in-Training (GIT) certificate?

ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG): The FG exam is administered in a computer-based format by ASBOG's exam vendor Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT). Exam sites are offered throughout the US and Puerto Rico. See [ASBOG's website](#) for details.

What exams are required for the Professional Geologist (PG) license?

ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG): The FG exam is administered in a computer-based format by ASBOG's exam vendor Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT). Exam sites are offered throughout the US and Puerto Rico. See [ASBOG's website](#) for details.

ASBOG Practice of Geology (PG): The PG exam is administered in a computer-based format by ASBOG's exam vendor Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT). Exam sites are offered throughout the US and Puerto Rico. See [ASBOG's website](#) for details.

Professional Geologist California Specific Exam (CSE): The CSE is administered in a computer-based format at [Prometric](#) testing centers. Exam sites are offered throughout North America. 3 hours, 95 multiple-choice questions.

Laws and Rules Examination: Upon submittal and payment of an application in BPELSG Connect, a link to the Laws and Rules Exam will appear on your dashboard. The exam must be completed and passed before the Board will review your application. *It is recommended that you complete the exam shortly after application submittal because not completing and passing the exam is considered an application deficiency and will significantly delay the processing of your application.* All questions have equal weight. You must achieve a minimum of 70% to pass this examination. The Board must ensure that California licensed Professional Geologists and Geophysicists are familiar with the provisions of the [Geologist and Geophysicist Act \(Business and Professions Code section 7800-7887\)](#) and the [Regulations Relating to the Practices of Geology and Geophysics \(Title 16, California Code of Regulations sections 3000-3067\)](#). The Geologist and Geophysicist Act and the Regulations Relating to the Practices of Geology and Geophysics contain the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to the practice of professional geology and geophysics.

If I pass the ASBOG Fundamental of Geology (FG) exam for my Geologist-in-Training (GIT), do I have to take it again to qualify for my Professional Geologist (PG) license?

No.

Does California accept ASBOG results from other states?

The Board will accept ASBOG passing results from other states for exams passed after the date of November 1, 1996. You must request a [License/Exam Verification](#) of your ASBOG exam results from the state where you passed the exams and have the other state submit the verification directly to the Board.

Do I need to take all the Professional Geologist (PG) license exams at the same time?

No. You can apply for the PG license and take the exams one at a time, all at once, or in any combination you wish. You must take and pass all exams before you will become licensed.

6.3 Professional Geophysicist (PGP)

What exam is required for the Professional Geophysicist (PGP) license?

California Geophysicist Exam (PGP) Exam: The PGP exam is administered in a computer-based format at [Prometric](#) testing centers. Exam sites are offered throughout North America. 4 hours, 125 multiple-choice questions. Approved applicants will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) via email, approximately 4-6 weeks before the exam date, with instructions on how to sign up for the exam.

6.4 Geology Specialty Certifications - Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG) and Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG)

What exams are required for the specialty certifications?

California Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG) Exam: The CHG is administered in a computer-based format at [Prometric](#) testing centers. Exam sites are offered throughout North America. 3 hours, 85 multiple-choice questions. Approved applicants will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) via email, approximately 4-6 weeks before the exam date, with instructions on how to sign up for the exam.

California Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG) Exam: The CEG is administered in a computer-based format at [Prometric](#) testing centers. Exam sites are offered throughout North America. 3 hours, 85 multiple-choice questions. Approved applicants will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) via email, approximately 4-6 weeks before the exam date, with instructions on how to sign up for the exam.

Does the Board accept results of specialty exams from other states?

The Board will accept the results of the Certified Engineering Geologist exams from Washington and Oregon and will accept the Certified Hydrogeologist exam from Washington. Persons wishing to obtain specialty certifications in California must meet all other California requirements including having a California Professional Geologist (PG) license, completing an application, providing references, and paying the appropriate fees.

Please note that the agreement to accept the results of the Oregon and Washington exams is re-evaluated periodically by the Board *and can change at any time*. You should contact the Board before applying for a specialty license to find out if this agreement is still in effect.

7.0 - OUT OF STATE AND INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Does the Board have a reciprocity agreement with any other states or countries?

No. The Board does not have reciprocity agreements for geology and geophysics licenses with any other U.S. states or other countries.

I am already licensed as a Professional Geologist (PG) or Professional Geophysicist (PGP) in another state or country. How do I become licensed in California? How do I qualify if I was licensed as a PG or PGP by “grandfathering” in my home state?

You must meet *all* the same California requirements as other applicants, as described in this document, including taking and passing all required exams and documenting qualifying education and experience.

If you are a Professional Geologist (PG) applicant who has passed the ASBOG exams out of state, you must request a [License/Exam Verification](#) of ASBOG exam results from the state where the exams were passed and have the other state submit the verification directly to the Board.

If I am located out of state, do I have to travel to California to take the ASBOG exams?

No. The exams are administered in a computer-based format. You can take the exams at any location offered by ASBOG’s exam vendor Prometric/Iso-Quality Testing (IQT). Exam sites are offered throughout the US and Puerto Rico. Visit [ASBOG’s website](#) for more information.

If I am located out of state, do I have to travel to California to take the state-specific exams?

No. The exams are administered in a computer-based format at [Prometric](#) testing centers. Exam sites are offered throughout North America.

How do I satisfy the fingerprint requirements if I don’t live in California?

Visit the [Fingerprinting FAQs](#) on the Board’s website for instructions.

Does the Board accept foreign degree evaluations?

No, the Board *does not* accept foreign degree evaluations. All applicants are required to submit official college and/or university transcripts. If you request it, and provide a pre-paid return shipping envelope, Board staff can return the original official foreign transcripts to you after the application review is complete.

What if my transcripts or references are in a language other than English?

If your official transcripts and/or references are in a language other than English, you must submit the *original* official transcripts and/or references for the Board’s review along with a notarized translation.

What is a notarized translation? How do I get one?

A notarized translation is one in which the translator swears in front of the notary that the translation is complete and accurate. Contact a professional translator. The Board does not endorse or provide recommendations for translation services. A local consulate or your university may also provide translation services.