



BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)- Updates to the Geologist and Geophysicist Licensure Requirements

The Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (Board) has adopted Title 16, California Code of Regulations sections 3022, 3022.1 and 3022.2 and amended section 3031 to clarify the requirements for geologist and geophysicist licensure in California. The regulation updates affect the education and experience requirements for the following license/certificate types: Geologist-in-Training (GIT) certificate, Professional Geologist (PG) license and Professional Geophysicist (PGP) license.

Applicants are responsible for reading the applicable regulations and understanding the requirements prior to applying. The regulation text is available [here](#) on the Board's website. Applicants should also read the applicable sections of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Regarding Geology and Geophysics Licensure Requirements before applying.

Please note that the regulation updates involve the *education and experience requirements* for licensure/certification. All other application and license/certification requirements (i.e. fee and fingerprinting requirements, etc.) are still in effect regardless of the timeframe in which the application for licensure/certification is submitted to the Board.

The information below answers anticipated questions regarding the transition:

- 1) I have never submitted an application to the Board for the GIT certificate or the PG license (i.e., I am not a PG applicant that has a California GIT certificate). When I submit my application for the GIT or PG, how will it be evaluated?**

New applications postmarked on November 4, 2019 or before (for the Spring 2020 exam cycle) will be evaluated in accordance with the "pre-update" regulation requirements.

New applications postmarked on November 5, 2019 or after (for the Fall 2020 exam cycle) will be evaluated in accordance with the recently updated regulation requirements. New applications and a new reference form (for PG applicants) will be posted on the Board's website on November 5, 2019 for applicants applying for the Fall 2020 exam cycle.

- 2) I recently submitted my first application to the Board for the GIT certificate or the PG license (i.e., I am not a PG applicant that has a California GIT certificate). How will it be evaluated (if it has not been evaluated yet), or how was it evaluated (if it was already evaluated and approved or denied)?**

New applications postmarked on November 4, 2019 or before (for the Spring 2020 exam cycle) will be evaluated in accordance with the "pre-update" regulation requirements.

New applications postmarked on November 5, 2019 or after (for the Fall 2020 exam cycle) will be evaluated in accordance with the recently updated regulation requirements. New applications and a new reference form (for PG applicants) will be posted on the Board's website on November 5, 2019 for applicants applying for the Fall 2020 exam cycle.

- 3) I already have a California GIT certificate (or have an approved GIT application on file that has not been abandoned), and I plan to apply for the PG license. The GIT application that I submitted was postmarked on or before November 4, 2019. When I submit a PG application, postmarked on or after November 5, 2019, which regulations will my PG application be evaluated in accordance with?

The prior approval of your education (from your GIT application) will transfer to your PG application, but you will be required to adhere to all other updated requirements, including the updated reference requirements. In accordance with Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 3022.2, applicants are required to submit three (3) references with their PG applications in addition to other reference requirements. To ensure that you meet all reference requirements, use the [Independent Evaluation of Scope, Character and Duration of Applicant's Qualifying Geological or Geophysical Work Experience](#) form located on the Board's website. A new form will be posted on the Board's website on November 5, 2019 for applicants applying for the Fall 2020 exam cycle.

- 4) I have *never* submitted an application to the Board for the PGP license. When I submit my application for the PGP, how will it be evaluated?

New applications postmarked on November 4, 2019 or before will be evaluated in accordance with the "pre-update" regulation requirements.

New applications postmarked on November 5, 2019 or after will be evaluated in accordance with the recently updated regulation requirements. New applications and a new reference form will be posted on the Board's website on November 5, 2019 for applicants applying for the Fall 2020 exam cycle.

- 5) I recently submitted my *first* application to the Board for the PGP license. How will it be evaluated (if it has *not* been evaluated yet), or how was it evaluated (if it was already evaluated and approved or denied)?

New applications postmarked on November 4, 2019 or before will be evaluated in accordance with the "pre-update" regulation requirements.

New applications postmarked on November 5, 2019 or after will be evaluated in accordance with the recently updated regulation requirements. New applications and a new reference form will be posted on the Board's website on November 5, 2019 for applicants applying for the Fall 2020 exam cycle.

- 6) I plan to apply for a Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG) or Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG) specialty certification. Will the updated regulations affect my application?

No. There have not been any updates to the application or licensure process for the CEG or CHG specialty certifications.

7) My license/certification application has already been approved. I have already taken the exam(s), but failed one or more exams. I will be submitting a re-exam form to re-take the exam(s). Will I be affected by the regulation updates?

No. Your licensure/certification application has already been approved and you are still eligible to take the exam(s) as long as your application is not abandoned. Submit a [re-exam form](#) with the required exam fee(s) for the desired exam cycle.

8) I am licensed as a Professional Geologist in another state. When I apply for the Professional Geologist license in California, will I be exempt from the updated requirements?

No. Applicants that are licensed out of state have to comply with all of the same education, experience and application requirements as all other applicants that are applying in California.

9) Are there any exemptions to the education and experience requirements?

The Board is required to follow all applicable statutes and regulations. There are no exemptions.

10) I have additional questions that are not answered in this document. Whom can I contact?

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