

**BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS**

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## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)- Scheduling and Taking the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Exams for Professional Engineer (PE) and Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) Applicants**

### **1) What professional applicant types are required to take and pass NCEES exams for licensure in California?**

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Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) applicants as well as the following Professional Engineer (PE) applicants are required to take and pass professional NCEES exams as a requirement for licensure: Agricultural, Chemical, Civil, Control Systems, Electrical, Fire Protection, Industrial, Mechanical, Metallurgical, Nuclear, Petroleum and Structural.

Please note that the NCEES Architectural, Environmental, Mining, Naval Architectural and Software exams *are not* administered in California, and there are no plans to offer the exams in the future.

### **2) Do I need to notify the Board when I take an NCEES exam or wait for the Board's approval before I take an NCESS exam?**

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The *only* applicants that need to wait for Board approval before they take an NCEES exam are Structural applicants and PE and PLS applicants who are requesting a Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) or Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exam waiver. For information on how to file an application, view the applicable webpage for [Structural applicants](#), [PE applicants requesting a FE waiver](#), or [PLS applicants requesting a FS waiver](#). Once the applicant has passed the exam, they must submit a [Notice of Successful National Exam](#) to the Board.

All other applicants do not need to notify the Board before they take an NCEES exam. Create a [MyNCEES](#) account and register with NCEES. Applicants must take and pass the appropriate NCEES exam before they submit an Application for Licensure to the Board and take the state specific exam(s) (if state specific exams are required for the license type that they are applying for).

View the [Process Flowcharts-Scheduling Exams and Applying for Professional Engineer \(PE\) or Professional Land Surveyor \(PLS\) Licensure](#) for a depiction of the process.

**3) Am I required to take and pass the NCEES exam before I apply to take the state specific exam(s)?**

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Yes, applicants must take and pass the NCEES exam first.

**4) After I pass the NCEES exam, is there a timeframe or deadline for when I need to submit my Application for Licensure to the Board?**

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No, there is no timeframe or deadline.

**5) What are the NCEES opening and closing registration dates?**

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For those NCEES PE exams which are still administered in paper and pencil format, it is recommended that you check the NCEES website for the [engineering exam](#) registration dates. Registration is open year-round for the [Fundamentals of Engineering \(FE\) exam](#), [Fundamentals of Surveying \(FS\) exam](#) and the [Principles and Practice of Surveying \(PS\) exam](#). NCEES is in the midst of transitioning all their exams to a computer-based-testing delivery method and some PE exams have already completed the transition.

**6) Which depth module should I choose for my PE exam?**

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You must take the PE exam in the discipline in which you want to be licensed, but you can choose any depth module that you would like to take within that discipline. For example, if you wish to become licensed as a Mechanical Engineer, you may choose any one of the three Mechanical PE exams.

**7) Do I need to submit an NCEES Record (formerly known as an NCEES Council Record) to the Board?**

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Submitting an NCEES Record is an option for those applicants already licensed in another jurisdiction and seeking comity licensure in California. The Board *does not* accept NCEES Records from applicants applying for initial licensure. Additional information is located on the [NCEES website](#).

**8) I have a Special or Religious Accommodations request for my NCEES exam. Whom do I contact?**

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The Board does not handle Special or Religious Accommodation requests for NCEES exams. You must request the accommodations during registration with NCEES. Additional information is located on the [NCEES website](#).

**9) I have questions about the NCEES exam that I am taking. For example, when and how will I receive my admission notice? Can I change my exam location or exam module? What is the exam format? How much are the NCEES exam fees? What is the testing environment like? What are the identification (ID) requirements? What items are allowed in the exam room? Which calculators are approved for use at the exam? Can I bring reference materials? What about exam breaks?**

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Refer to the [NCEES Examinee Guide](#) located on the NCEES website.

**10) If I don't pass the NCEES exam, do I have to pay and register with NCEES again?**

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Yes. You must pay and register each time you take an NCEES exam. Continue registering until you have passed the exam.

**11) I am applying for licensure in California, but I passed an NCEES exam in another state. Do I need to send verification of the passed exam to the Board?**

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Yes. You are required to submit a complete application to the Board, including verification of passed exams. Login to your [MyNCEES](#) account to see if a verification is in your record. If it is not in your record, you need to request the verification through NCEES.

**12) I have to take a state specific exam(s) for the license type that I am applying for. Where can I find information regarding state specific exams, such as what I can bring to the exam, the calculator policy, and the exam format?**

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View the [Examination Candidate Information](#) webpage and the [Examination Flowchart](#).