



BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) REGARDING THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEER (SE) EXAM

1) Am I required to pass the NCEES PE Structural Exam before I apply for Structural Engineer (SE) licensure?

Yes. New applicants cannot submit an application for SE licensure until they have passed the NCEES PE Structural Exam. For details read [Applying for Licensure as a Structural Engineer](#).

Legacy applicants (applicants who submitted a paper application, approved before the launch of SE applications in BPELSG Connect) **do not** need to submit an application in BPELSG Connect and **do not** need to contact the Board once they have passed the NCEES PE Structural Exam. For details read [Applying for Licensure as a Structural Engineer](#).

2) What is the format of the new computer-based NCEES PE Structural Exam?

Please review the [NCEES website](#) for detailed information.

3) What are the exam requirements to become licensed as a SE in California?

An applicant must meet one of the following exam scenarios:

- Passed the Vertical and Lateral components of the computer-based NCEES PE Structural Exam **(exam offered starting in April 2024)**
Or
- Passed the Vertical or Lateral component of the NCEES PE Structural Exam *and* the Vertical or Lateral component of the NCEES 16-hour Structural Exam;
Or
- Passed the Vertical and Lateral components of the NCEES 16-hour Structural Exam **(exam offered April 2011 to October 2023)**;
Or
Passed the NCEES SE II exam and Washington State SE III exam **(exams no longer offered; accepted for comity licensure as a SE in California)**.

4) I have taken and passed the 8-hour NCEES SE I exam and the 8-hour NCEES SE II exam. Are these two exams accepted for licensure?

No. The NCEES SE I exam is considered a principles and practice level exam for initial licensure as a Professional Engineer.