



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. Do not submit your application for Structural Engineer licensure until you have passed the NCEES PE Structural Exam. If you have not passed an accepted exam (see question 3), proceed directly to NCEES to create and/or login to your [MyNCEES](#) account and register.

Once you have passed the NCEES PE Structural Exam and have the required [qualifying experience](#), submit your [application](#) for licensure. There is no final filing date. Applications can be submitted and will be accepted on a continuous basis. View the [Structural Engineer Application webpage](#) for additional information and forms.

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

NCEES is converting the 16-hour Structural Exam to a computer-based testing (CBT) format in 2024. Please monitor the [NCEES website](#) for updates regarding the conversion.

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

You 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 2024)**
Or
- Passed the Vertical or Lateral component of the NCEES PE Structural Exam *and* the Vertical or Lateral component of the 16-hour SE exam;
Or
- Passed the Vertical and Lateral components of the NCEES 16-hour SE exam **(exam offered April 2011 to October 2023)**;
Or
- Passed the NCEES SE II exam and California SE Seismic exam (CSESE) **(exams no longer offered)**;
Or
- Passed the NCEES SE II exam and Washington State SE III exam **(exams no longer offered)**.

4) I passed the NCEES SE II exam in the past, but not the California SE Seismic exam (CSESE). Can I get credit for passing the NCEES SE II exam?

No. The NCEES SE II exam was part of the previous requirements for licensure as a SE in California and was used only in conjunction with the CSESE (exam discontinued after the October 2011 exam administration).

5) I passed the CSESE in the past, but I did not pass the NCEES SE II exam. Can I use my CSESE as credit towards the NCEES PE Structural Exam?

No.

6) I have taken and passed the NCEES SE II and the Washington State SE III. Are these exams accepted for SE licensure in California?

Yes. These two exams are accepted for comity licensure as a SE in California.

7) 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.