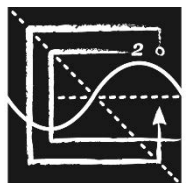


# MANUAL OF POLICY AND POSITION STATEMENTS

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August 2025



**NCEES**

# **MANUAL OF POLICY AND POSITION STATEMENTS**

Revised August 2025



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National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying®

## INTRODUCTION

This manual contains policies in the following categories of Council operations: Administrative Policies (AP), Examination Development Policies (EDP), Examination Administration Policies (EAP), Financial Policies (FP), and Professional Policies (PP). NCEES positions on various issues are also included.

The Council establishes all policy not in conflict with the *Bylaws*. Committees of the Council, in accordance with the *Bylaws* and their assigned committee charges, may advise the board of directors through their annual reports regarding the creation, rescission, or amendment of policy in their respective areas of responsibility.

With the adoption of this *Manual of Policy and Position Statements* by the Council, all previous policies not contained herein, either written or implied, are void.

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Revised	August 12, 1986	Revised	August 14, 2009
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Revised	August 5, 1994	Revised	August 26, 2016
Revised	August 11, 1995	Revised	August 25, 2017
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Revised	August 3, 2001		January 1, 2024)
Revised	August 9, 2002		
Revised	August 14, 2003	Revised	August 16, 2024
Revised	August 12, 2004	Revised	August 21, 2025
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# ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

## AP 1 Creation of Council Policy

It is the right of every member board of NCEES to bring matters of policy before the Council for consideration. Normally, items for consideration will be submitted to the proper committee for deliberation. The committee will send its recommendations to the board of directors for action prior to ratification by the Council.

## AP 2 Liability Insurance

NCEES shall secure and maintain liability insurance coverage in an amount determined by the board of directors to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Council and its officers and employees against all claims or civil torts arising from state and federal laws or the fact that they are officers or employees of NCEES.

## AP 3 Council Identification

All NCEES examinations and other publications shall carry the title “National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.”

## AP 4 Past Examinations

Exam items from past examinations that are no longer in use may be included in sample exams and sold to the general public through NCEES.

## AP 5 Copyright of NCEES Publications

All publications of NCEES are protected by copyright. Written permission to reproduce any publication, wholly or in part, must be obtained from NCEES.

## AP 6 Views, Opinions, Interpretations, and Positions

The official position of the Council regarding any matter must be approved by the Council or authorized by the board of directors.

## AP 7 Committee Communications, Reports, and Recommendations

- A. The purpose of committee reports and communications is to respond to the charges as assigned by the Council president. Accordingly, it is incumbent upon committees and their respective chairs to provide the information to the board of directors, via the president, prior to publication and/or pronouncements that may be interpreted as Council policy or position.
- B. Those committees whose constitutional functions and charges require or authorize them to perform liaison or interface with external organizations shall seek guidance or approval from the board of directors prior to enunciating Council policy/positions or requesting action by the external organization on behalf of NCEES.

## AP 8 Motions

- A. Motions before the Council at the annual business meeting shall not be voted upon at the same business session in which they are introduced and initially discussed or prior to zone meetings. This policy shall not apply to privileged or subsidiary motions and may be suspended for other motions upon approval by a two-thirds majority vote.
- B. Any motion to amend the *Model Law* or *Model Rules* presented at an annual business meeting by an entity other than the Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines (UPLG) shall be referred to the UPLG Committee for review and revision of the language before it is presented for Council vote at the next scheduled annual business meeting.
- C. Any motion to amend exam prices in Financial Policy 6 that is presented at an annual business meeting by an entity other than the Committee on Finances shall be referred to the Committee on

Finances for review and revision of the language before it is presented for Council vote at the next scheduled annual business meeting.

- D. Any motion to amend examination policies presented at an annual business meeting by an entity other than the Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures (EPP), the Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers (EPE), or the Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors (EPS) shall be referred to the EPP Committee for review and revision of the language in consultation with any other appropriate committee before it is presented for Council vote at the next scheduled annual business meeting.

AP 9 Consent Agenda

The board of directors shall prepare a consent agenda for each annual business meeting. Individual motions may be removed from the consent agenda upon request by any member board.

AP 10 NCEES/Professional Society Interface

The relationship with societies representing members of the engineering and surveying professions shall be consistent with the purpose and goals of the various licensure laws enacted to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The members of the board of directors are the primary spokespersons for NCEES policy and shall represent NCEES at such society meetings as it may decide are in the best interests of the Council. The president shall decide who will represent NCEES at such meetings or forums, as well as the manner and extent of NCEES representation.

AP 11 Annual Business Meeting Planning

NCEES will make all arrangements for the annual business meeting.

AP 12 Awards

NCEES will officially recognize members, associate members, emeritus members, and other volunteers who provide or have provided outstanding service to NCEES. The members of the Committee on Awards and the board of directors shall not be nominated for these awards while serving on the Committee on Awards or on the board of directors. In evaluating nominations, the following guidelines are to be observed:

Distinguished Service Award

- Must be a current member, a former member, or an emeritus member
- Must promote engineering or surveying licensure at the state or national level
- Must demonstrate positive contributions to the advancement of the engineering or surveying profession and the mission and vision of NCEES
- May include participation in professional or technical societies as a consideration
- Must demonstrate active participation in member board activities
- Must include distinguished service on at least one NCEES committee
- May be nominated by a member board

Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation

- Must have received the Distinguished Service Award at least six years prior to receiving the Distinguished Service Award with Special Commendation. Any exception based on extraordinary circumstances must be approved by the NCEES board of directors with recommendation by the Committee on Awards.
- Must demonstrate service prior to and after receiving Distinguished Service Award
- Must be a current member, a former member, or an emeritus member
- Must promote engineering or surveying licensure at the national level
- Must demonstrate positive contributions to the advancement of the engineering or surveying profession and the mission and vision of NCEES



- May include participation in professional or technical societies as a consideration
- Must demonstrate active participation in member board activities
- Must include leadership or exemplary service on at least one NCEES committee
- May be nominated by a member board

#### Meritorious Service Award

- Must be a current or former associate member
- Must demonstrate positive contributions to the advancement of the engineering or surveying profession and the mission, vision, and goals of his or her board and NCEES
- Must participate in member board activities
- Must participate in the promotion of licensure or the enforcement of member board laws and rules
- Must include distinguished service on at least one NCEES committee
- May be nominated by a member board

#### Meritorious Service Award with Special Commendation

- Must have received the Meritorious Service Award at least six years prior to receiving the Meritorious Service Award with Special Commendation. Any exception based on extraordinary circumstances must be approved by the NCEES board of directors with recommendation by the Committee on Awards.
- Must demonstrate distinguished service prior to and after receiving the Meritorious Service Award
- Must be a current or former associate member
- Must demonstrate positive contributions to the advancement of the engineering or surveying profession and the mission and vision of NCEES
- Must demonstrate active participation in member board activities
- Must participate in the promotion of licensure and/or the enforcement of member board laws and rules
- Must include leadership or exemplary distinguished service on at least one NCEES committee
- May be nominated by a member board

#### Distinguished Examination Service Award

- Must demonstrate positive contributions and longtime commitment to the NCEES examination program
- Must have served on at least one of the Council's examination committees or exam-related task forces
- Must demonstrate exemplary service and leadership in the advancement and improvement of NCEES examinations and the exam-development process
- May be nominated by a member board, an exam committee, or the board of directors

#### President's Award

- May be given by the president to recognize an individual for outstanding service in support of NCEES

#### AP 13 Consultants and Corresponding Members

NCEES will use the services of consultants and/or corresponding members in the activities of NCEES committees when required. Persons in this category shall be individuals of special expertise or knowledge appointed by the president to serve on any special or standing committee and shall be included in the total complement of the committee. They may or may not be a member of a member board. They may participate in the deliberations of the committee but may not make, second, or vote on motions.

Attendance of consultants and/or corresponding members at committee meetings shall be specifically requested by the committee chair and approved by the president. They will not receive any compensation other than expenses in accordance with the NCEES travel policy.

AP 14 Non-NCEES Publications

NCEES will refrain from endorsing publications relating to engineering and surveying examinations or purporting to be review texts for NCEES examinations, other than those published by NCEES. Further, NCEES shall refrain from reviewing and/or advising would-be authors of proposed publications relating to NCEES uniform examinations.

AP 15 Awards by National Organizations Other than NCEES

NCEES will refrain from submitting nominations for awards given by other national organizations. This policy shall not be construed, however, to prohibit the member boards from making such nominations as they deem appropriate.

AP 16 Delegates to ABET, Inc.

- A. NCEES is a member society of ABET, Inc. Pursuant to the ABET Constitution, the Council is authorized to appoint one delegate to ABET's board of delegates, not to exceed a three-year term of office. A delegate may not serve more than two consecutive terms of office.
- B. The president shall, subject to approval by the board of directors, appoint NCEES' primary and alternate delegates to ABET. The appointments shall be for a period of three years; appointments may be vacated by a majority vote of the NCEES board of directors.
- C. The president shall, subject to the approval by the board of directors, appoint representatives to the ABET Commissions. Their appointments shall be for a maximum of five one-year terms. The appointments may be vacated by a majority vote of the NCEES board of directors.

AP 17 Representatives to the International Engineering Alliance and Related Organizations

- A. NCEES shall be represented at the International Engineering Alliance (IEA) and related organizations by the president, president-elect, and chief executive officer. The president may, subject to approval by the board, appoint substitute representatives and additional attendees to meetings.
- B. All travel expenses shall be funded in accordance with Financial Policy 3 and the *NCEES Travel Policy*.
- C. When seeking election or reelection to an office or an appointment to a committee or working group of IEA or related organizations, an individual other than the above officers must first obtain approval of the NCEES board of directors.

AP 18 Council Support to Nominees for National Office

Support for nominees to national NCEES offices is limited to providing addresses of the NCEES members.

AP 19 Removal or Sanction of a Member of the Board of Directors

- A. Charges
  - 1. Any member of the Council may report an alleged violation of the ethics policy by a member of the NCEES board of directors as set forth in Section 4.08 of the *Bylaws*. The allegation(s) must be in writing, be notarized, and contain adequate detail or information to support the allegation(s). The allegation(s) shall be forwarded by registered letter to the president of NCEES with a copy to the chief executive officer. If the president is the respondent in this matter, the registered letter will be forwarded to the president-elect with a copy to the chief executive officer.
  - 2. Upon receipt of a notarized letter of charges, the chief executive officer will provide a copy of the letter and the supporting information to each member of the board of directors, including the board member against whom the allegation(s) has been preferred, the board's legal counsel, and the chair of the Advisory Committee on Council Activities (ACCA). Any member of the board

who files charges against another board member shall automatically be recused from further participation in the matter.

B. Investigation

1. The charges and any supporting documents will be referred to an Investigations Panel that consists of the chair of ACCA; the most immediate past president that is not currently serving as a member of the board of directors; a member of a member board or member board administrator selected by the board; and board counsel. The Investigations Panel is empowered to investigate the allegation(s) and to provide the results of the investigation and recommendations to the board for appropriate action. In conducting an investigation, the Investigations Panel may request additional information from the complaining party to substantiate the charge(s); a written response to the charge(s) from the accused board member and supporting documents; and information from individuals who have information pertaining to the alleged wrongful act(s).
2. Upon completion of the investigation, the Investigations Panel will consider all information and then provide a written report to the board with the findings of the investigation and a recommendation on disposition of the allegation(s). The results of the investigation are confidential until the board acts on the recommendations of the Investigations Panel.

C. Recommendations of Board

1. Upon receipt of the findings and recommendations of the Investigations Panel, the board of directors shall convene to consider the information and to vote on the recommended action. After considering the results of the investigation and the recommendations of the Investigations Panel, the board will refer the findings and recommendations for sanction or removal of the charged board member to ACCA for a hearing of the charges unless it is determined that the charges are deemed to be unfounded or trivial. If the board deems the charges to be unfounded or trivial, the charges will be dismissed and notification of this action will be submitted in writing to the charged board member with copies to the complaining party and the chair of ACCA. If the board recommends that sanctions be levied or the board member be removed, the findings and the recommendations of the board will be referred to ACCA so that a Grievance Committee may be convened to conduct a hearing.
2. The charged board member will be suspended from official duties until resolution of the charges unless a majority of the board members vote to the contrary.

D. Hearing

1. Upon receipt of the findings of the board of directors and recommended action for sanctions or removal of the charged member, the chair of ACCA will convene a Grievance Committee in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.07 of the *Bylaws* to conduct a hearing of the allegations. The charged member will be notified of the specifics of the charges by the fastest means available, followed by a registered letter that includes the hearing date, time, and place. Notice of the hearing before the Grievance Committee shall be given to the charged member at least 30 days prior to the hearing. The board counsel shall prosecute the matter before the Grievance Committee. The presiding officer shall be selected by a simple majority vote of the members of the Grievance Committee, and all procedural matters will be handled in a like manner. The charged board member shall be entitled to present evidence on his or her behalf and to be represented by legal counsel. Failure to present evidence in defense shall not be construed as an admission to the charge(s).
2. The Grievance Committee shall receive testimony and other evidence presented during the course of the hearing in its consideration of this matter. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Grievance Committee will retire in executive session to deliberate the matter. In its deliberations, the Grievance Committee will consider all information presented during the course of the hearing along with the findings of the board and the board's recommended action.

E. Recommendations of Grievance Committee

1. If the Grievance Committee, by majority vote, affirms the recommended action of the board of directors, this information will be provided to the board in the form of written findings of the Grievance Committee, and the board will then implement the removal or sanction of the board member.
2. If the Grievance Committee, by majority vote, does not concur with the recommended action of the board, that information will be transmitted to the board along with recommendations for alternative discipline against the board member. Upon notification that the Grievance Committee has not affirmed the recommendations, the board may adopt the alternative discipline as recommended by the Grievance Committee or may recommend that charges be dismissed. The board decision to adopt the recommended action of the Grievance Committee or to dismiss the charges shall be final.

## EXAMINATION POLICIES

### Examination Development Policies (EDP)

EDP 1	Examinations
EDP 2	Examination Development Standards
EDP 3	Engineering and Surveying Examinations and Formats
EDP 4	Addition of a New PE Examination or Reinstatement of a PE Examination
EDP 5	Addition of a New FE Examination
EDP 6	Addition of a New Surveying Examination
EDP 7	Discontinuing, Combining, Renaming an Examination and Pertinent Requirements
EDP 8	Changes in Examination Procedures or Format
EDP 9	Requirements for Item Writers, Pass-Point Evaluators, and Reviewers
EDP 10	Security of Examination Material
EDP 11	Examination Language Requirement
EDP 12	EPE and EPS Committee Membership Qualifications
EDP 13	Examination Audits

### Examination Administration Policies (EAP)

EAP 1	Administration of Examinations
EAP 2	Examination Schedules
EAP 3	Materials Permitted and Not Permitted in Examination Room
EAP 4	NCEES Examination Jurisdiction Requirements
EAP 5	Access to and Review of Examinations
EAP 6	Requests for Special Examination Accommodations
EAP 7	Release and Use of Examination Results
EAP 8	Providing Examination Results for Licensing by Comity
EAP 9	NCEES Examinations Offered at Foreign Sites
EAP 10	Security and Administrative Procedures
EAP 11	Exam Administration Audits

# EXAMINATION POLICIES

## Examination Development Policies (EDP)

### EDP 1 Examinations

Examination shall be defined as a computer-based testing (CBT) assessment tool that produces a score/result on which a decision is being based.

It shall be the policy of NCEES in all publications and correspondence to refer to the respective examinations only as follows:

- A. Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination
- B. Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) examination, which includes the PE Structural examination
- C. Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) examination
- D. Principles and Practice of Surveying (PS) examination
- E. Public Land Survey System (PLSS) examination

The purpose of the examinations is to assess licensure candidates' abilities to practice competently as engineers or surveyors and to assist member boards in the regulation of the practice of engineering and surveying as it relates to safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Member boards reserve the right to administer, score, and report state-specific examinations.

### EDP 2 Examination Development Standards

The goal of the NCEES examinations program shall be for the development, use, and scoring of examinations prepared by, or under control of, NCEES to comply with the current edition of *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* or other nationally accepted standards. The *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* is published jointly by the American Educational Research Association, the American Psychological Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education.

### EDP 3 Engineering and Surveying Examinations and Formats

#### A. Fundamentals of Engineering Examination

The Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination shall be offered in the following practice areas and have supplied references:

- 1. Chemical
- 2. Civil
- 3. Electrical and Computer
- 4. Environmental
- 5. Industrial
- 6. Mechanical
- 7. Other Disciplines

#### B. Principles and Practice of Engineering Examinations

The Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) examinations shall be offered in the following practice areas and have supplied references:

- 1. Agricultural and Biological
- 2. Architectural
- 3. Chemical

4. Civil—Construction
5. Civil—Geotechnical
6. Civil—Structural
7. Civil—Transportation
8. Civil—Water Resources and Environmental
9. Control Systems
10. Electrical and Computer—Computer Engineering
11. Electrical and Computer— Electronics, Controls, and Communications
12. Electrical and Computer—Power
13. Environmental
14. Fire Protection
15. Industrial and Systems
16. Mechanical—HVAC and Refrigeration
17. Mechanical—Machine Design and Materials
18. Mechanical—Thermal and Fluid Systems
19. Metallurgical and Materials
20. Mining and Mineral Processing
21. Naval Architecture and Marine
22. Nuclear
23. Petroleum
24. Structural

The PE Structural examination shall consist of four sections and shall be considered and referred to as one examination.

C. Fundamentals of Surveying Examinations

The Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) examination shall be administered and have supplied references.

D. Principles and Practice of Surveying and Public Land Survey System Examinations

The Principles and Practice of Surveying (PS) and Public Land Survey System (PLSS) examinations shall be administered and have supplied references.

E. Examination Item Banks

Examination items for all examinations shall be maintained either at NCEES headquarters or at an offsite testing service that is able to demonstrate insurance, bond, or reserve to cover the pecuniary liability for the items should the items be compromised, lost, or damaged by the testing service.

Exam types below are defined in the *Exam Development Procedures Manual*.

1. At the time an exam development committee releases a linear, fixed-form (LFF) exam to be published, the exam item bank shall contain sufficient operational items to create three times the number of exam forms available to examinees in a testing window.
2. At the time an exam development committee releases a pool of items to be published for linear-on-the-fly testing (LOFT), the pool shall contain, at a minimum, the number of operational items required to create three unique, non-overlapping exam forms. At the time of publishing, the exam item bank shall have sufficient operational items to create two additional pools of similar composition. Pool size shall be determined by the psychometric consultant per the criteria listed in the *NCEES Exam Development Procedures Manual*.

F. Exam Contingency Plans

The chief executive officer shall have contingency plans available in the event of any irregularity that impacts the security of an exam or the ability to administer an exam per NCEES exam policies or prescribed schedules.

G. Exam Preparation Material Development

Exam preparation material shall be developed for each NCEES examination. This material shall include a supplied reference handbook and a practice exam on each major topic area sufficient to provide candidates with a sense of the structure, scope, and difficulty of the examination. The supplied reference handbook and practice exam shall be made available to candidates six months prior to the exam administration when an exam specification is changed and a minimum of three months prior to the exam administration during a standard exam administration year.

EDP 4 Addition of a New PE Examination or Reinstatement of a PE Examination

A. Accreditation Requirement

No examination shall be added or reinstated to the examination program unless there is an EAC/ABET-accredited program in the discipline that offers an undergraduate degree program or a graduate degree program focused on the examination topic area.

B. Professional or Technical Society Requirement

No examination shall be added or reinstated unless a national professional or technical society agrees to support the examination. All professional or technical societies that support examinations shall sign an agreement with NCEES delineating the responsibilities of both parties.

C. Member Board Requirement

Requests for examinations shall be supported in writing by no fewer than 10 member boards who can each demonstrate a need for the examination in their jurisdiction by each providing a letter of support for the new examination in accordance with paragraph C.2 herein. A request older than four years must be resubmitted by the member boards.

1. Proof of Need and Estimate of Usage

Proof of need shall include evidence that knowledge areas and skills are not adequately measured in an existing examination and that additional knowledge areas and skills required are sufficient to support a new examination. No examination shall be added or reinstated to the examination program unless the estimate of usage conforms to NCEES policies and procedures. The estimate of usage shall include the methodology used to derive the estimate.

2. Letters of Support

All requests shall include proof of such need, an estimate of usage, and the impact on safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

D. Application Review

If the Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers (EPE) determines that the proposed application meets the requirements, then it shall recommend to the board of directors that the process continues with a professional activities and knowledge study (PAKS). The board of directors shall either approve or reject the recommendation.

E. Notification to Member Boards

Member boards shall be notified one year in advance of the addition or reinstatement of any examination to the exam program.

F. Requests to Divide an Existing Examination

Requests to divide an existing examination into multiple examinations shall be made to the EPE Committee. Requests shall include proof of such need in accordance with sections A–C herein.



#### EDP 5 Addition of a New FE Examination

##### A. Accreditation Requirement

No new FE examination shall be added to the examination program unless there is an EAC/ABET-accredited program in the examination topic area.

##### B. Member Board Requirement

Requests for examinations shall be supported in writing by no fewer than 10 member boards who can each demonstrate a need for the examination in their jurisdiction by each providing a letter of support for the new examination in accordance with paragraph B.2 herein. A request older than four years must be resubmitted by the member boards.

###### 1. Proof of Need and Estimate of Usage

Proof of need shall include evidence that knowledge areas and skills are not adequately measured in an existing examination and that additional knowledge areas and skills required are sufficient to support a new examination. No examination shall be added or reinstated to the examination program unless the estimate of usage conforms to NCEES policies and procedures. The estimate of usage shall include the methodology used to derive that estimate.

###### 2. Letters of Support

All requests shall include proof of such need, an estimate of usage, and the impact of safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

##### C. Application Review

If the EPE Committee determines that the proposed application meets the requirements, then it shall recommend to the board of directors that the process continues with a professional activities and knowledge study (PAKS). The board of directors shall either approve or reject the recommendation.

##### D. Notification to Member Boards

Member boards shall be notified at least one year in advance of the addition of any new FE examination.

#### EDP 6 Addition of a New Surveying Examination

##### A. Member Board Requirement

Requests for examinations shall be made by no fewer than 10 member boards who can each demonstrate a need for the examination in their jurisdiction by each providing a letter of support for the new examination in accordance with paragraph A.2 herein. A request older than four years must be resubmitted by the member boards.

###### 1. Proof of Need and Estimate of Usage

Proof of need shall include evidence that knowledge areas and skills are not adequately measured in an existing examination and that additional knowledge areas and skills required are sufficient to support a new examination. No examination shall be added or reinstated to the examination program unless the estimate of usage conforms to the NCEES policies and procedures. The estimate of usage shall include the methodology used to derive that estimate.

###### 2. Letters of Support

All requests shall include proof of such need, an estimate of usage, and the impact on safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

##### B. Application Review

If the EPS Committee determines that the proposed application meets the requirements, then it shall recommend to the board of directors that the process continues with a professional activities and knowledge study (PAKS). The board of directors shall either approve or reject the recommendation.

C. Notification to Member Boards

Member boards shall be notified one year in advance of the addition of any surveying examination.

D. Requests to Divide an Existing Examination

Requests to divide an existing examination into multiple examinations shall be made to the EPS Committee. Requests shall include proof of such need in accordance with paragraph A of this policy.

EDP 7 Discontinuing, Combining, Renaming an Examination and Pertinent Requirements

A. Discontinuation of an Examination

If the population of first-time examinees from NCEES jurisdictions for any two consecutive administrations of an NCEES examination is not adequate to provide for accurate psychometric analysis, the EPP Committee shall review the viability of continuing the subject examination and make one of the following recommendations to the board of directors, which may include such actions as the EPP Committee deems appropriate:

1. Continue to prepare the examination.
2. Request the appropriate exam development committee and the supporting professional or technical society to prepare and submit a specific remedial action plan for increasing the number of first-time takers to a level that meets or exceeds the minimum candidate requirements within the time period specified by the EPP Committee.
3. Place the examination on probation. The EPP Committee shall specify the conditions of the probation, including a time frame for corrective action.
4. Discontinue the examination.

B. Request to Discontinue an Examination

If an NCEES committee, professional or technical society, or other suitable entity desires to have an examination discontinued, it shall make a request to the EPE or EPS Committee. The EPE or EPS Committee shall review the request and make a recommendation to the board of directors.

C. Request to Rename an Examination

Any requests to rename an examination shall be made to the appropriate committee (EPE or EPS Committee). The committee shall review the request and make a recommendation to the board of directors.

D. Request to Combine Two or More Examinations

Any requests to combine two or more examinations shall be made to the EPE or EPS Committee. Proof of such need shall include evidence that knowledge areas and skills are not measured adequately in an existing examination and evidence that those knowledge areas and skills required for the competency are sufficient to support a combined examination. The committee shall review the request and make a recommendation to the board of directors.

E. Examination Item Bank Requirement

If an examination fails to have an adequate item bank as specified in paragraph E of EDP 3, including solutions and knowledges being assessed, the EPP Committee shall review the viability of continuing the examination and make one of the following recommendations to the board of directors, which may include such actions as the EPP Committee deems appropriate:

1. Continue to prepare the examination.
2. Place the examination on probation and recommend specific remedial action that the EPP Committee deems appropriate. If the examination entity fails to provide sufficient data to successfully complete the next scheduled examination audit, the EPP Committee shall recommend appropriate action to the board of directors.
3. Discontinue the examination.

**F. Examination Audit Requirement**

If an examination fails to provide the Committee on Examination Audit with sufficient data to conduct an adequate audit for two consecutive audit cycles, the EPP Committee shall review the viability of continuing the examination and make one of the following recommendations to the board of directors, which may include such actions as the EPP Committee deems appropriate:

1. Continue to prepare the examination.
2. Place the examination on probation and recommend specific remedial action that the EPP Committee deems appropriate. If the examination entity fails to provide sufficient data to successfully complete the next scheduled examination audit, the EPP Committee shall recommend appropriate action to the board of directors.
3. Discontinue the examination.

**G. Temporary Suspension of an Examination**

If, upon the chief executive officer's recommendation and an EPE or EPS Committee evaluation, the board of directors determines that an examination does not meet the policies, specifications, and/or guidelines of the Council, the board of directors may temporarily suspend the offering of an examination in that particular practice area.

**EDP 8 Changes in Examination Procedures or Format**

Member boards shall be notified one year in advance of any change in the examination administration procedures or any change in examination format that requires dissemination to applicants.

**EDP 9 Requirements for Item Writers, Pass-Point Evaluators, and Reviewers**

**A. Qualification Requirement**

Each person involved as an item writer, pass-point evaluator, or reviewer for any NCEES examination must have an active professional license issued by an NCEES member board, must be a subject-matter expert, and must be familiar with requirements for and capabilities of candidates who are minimally qualified to practice in that subject matter. Engineers and surveyors with licenses that have inactive or retired status are ineligible to serve in these positions.

**B. Pass-Point Evaluation Team Requirements**

Exam committees shall require that at least one person who participates on the pass-point evaluation team be a person who has worked on the current development of an examination undergoing a pass-point evaluation. The number of current exam development members participating in the pass-point evaluation shall be no more than one-quarter of the pass-point evaluation team.

**C. Restriction on Teaching Exam Refresher Courses**

Any person serving on an NCEES examination development committee or involved in a pass-point evaluation panel shall not teach an exam refresher course related to the preparation for that examination within three years following service on the committee or panel.

**D. Disclosure Requirement**

Any person involved in the development of an NCEES examination who is later required by a member board to sit for that examination must inform that member board of their involvement in the development of that examination.

**EDP 10 Security of Examination Material**

No items or item banks in current use for NCEES examinations shall be used for any purpose outside of the NCEES examination program.

EDP 11 Examination Language Requirement

NCEES shall prepare examinations only in the English language.

EDP 12 EPE and EPS Committee Membership Qualifications

The EPE and EPS Committees should include members of their current or past respective exam development committees.

EDP 13 Examination Audits

The Committee on Examination Audit shall audit all examinations developed by NCEES. The following constraints shall be used:

- A. Examinations from the first item pool following a PAKS shall be audited.
- B. Examinations shall be audited at least once between PAKS.
- C. There shall be no more than four years between audits.

The president-elect shall, in developing charges for the Committee on Examination Audit, develop a list of examinations for audit in consultation with the current chair of the Committee on Examination Audit and the NCEES chief officer of examinations. Circumstances may prevail that would affect which examinations are selected for audit in any given year.

The Committee on Examination Audit shall review each examination audited as to its conformance with specified criteria set forth in the Committee on Examination Audit procedures.

## Examination Administration Policies (EAP)

EAP 1 Administration of Examinations

A. Guidelines and Procedures

NCEES will publish the *Security and Administrative Procedures Manual* to provide guidelines and procedures that member boards shall follow in the use of NCEES engineering and surveying examinations. The guidelines and procedures will cover matters concerning security, use, scoring, and general administration of such examinations for the purposes for which they are designated to ensure fair and equitable treatment of member boards and examination candidates.

B. Examination Regulations

NCEES will provide the *NCEES Examinee Guide* to each candidate approved to take NCEES examinations. The *NCEES Examinee Guide* includes information regarding regulations to be observed during the examinations and actions that may be taken in the event of an exam irregularity.

C. Candidate Admission

Approval of candidates applying to take NCEES examinations is by the individual member boards or their designated representative. To be admitted to an NCEES examination, candidates will be required to create an account with NCEES.

D. Restriction of Retaking an Examination

Examinees who have passed an examination may not retake that same examination unless required by a member board.

E. Irregularity Restriction

If an examinee's examination results are not released due to a suspected exam irregularity, the examinee will not be allowed to register for another exam until the investigation is complete and the irregularity has been resolved per the *Security and Administrative Procedures Manual*.

F. Examination Scheduling Restriction

A candidate for an exam may take the same examination only one time per defined exam window and no more than three times in a 12-month period.

G. Committee on Examination Audit

The Committee on Examination Audit shall include, as part of its auditing responsibilities, a review of the *Security and Administrative Procedures Manual* for content and effectiveness.

H. Banned Registration Requirements

If a member board bans a candidate from registering for an examination, it shall be the responsibility of that member board to notify NCEES of the specific terms and reasons for the ban. NCEES will update the candidate's account to make this information available to all member boards. The decision as to whether another member board agrees to honor the terms of the original member board's decision to ban this candidate's registration will remain with the individual member boards.

EAP 2 Examination Schedules

NCEES will administer examinations in the published timeframes or on the published dates as noted in the *NCEES Examinee Guide*. The schedule shall be updated annually by NCEES staff. The examination dates should avoid conflicts with public and religious holidays.

EAP 3 Materials Permitted and Not Permitted in Examination Room

A. Items specifically allowed by the current *NCEES Examinee Guide* are permitted.

B. Only NCEES-supplied reference materials are permitted for use in the examination room. The current version of the *NCEES Supplied Reference Handbook* will be supplied on-screen as a searchable PDF. If additional required design standards are being supplied during the exam, they will be listed as part of the exam specifications.

EAP 4 NCEES Examination Jurisdiction Requirements

A. Jurisdiction Requirements

Candidates shall apply to a member board in accordance with that jurisdiction's operating policies and procedures.

B. Approved Test Centers

Candidates may sit for an examination at any NCEES-approved test center.

C. Military Accommodations

Candidates from the U.S. military serving outside of the United States and U.S. territories and their dependents residing outside of the United States and U.S. territories may request to take an examination at an NCEES-approved test center. NCEES will review all requests and make recommendations regarding the approval of the request.

EAP 5 Access to and Review of Examinations

There shall be no post-administration access to, or review of, examination materials by examinees or their representatives.

EAP 6 Requests for Special Examination Accommodations

NCEES must determine reasonable, fair, and equitable methods to be employed to administer examinations. All such accommodations shall comply with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. NCEES will review all requests for accommodation and make recommendations regarding the approval of the request.

## EAP 7 Release and Use of Examination Results

### A. Results Reporting

Examination results for examinees shall be released only to the respective member board and the examinee. Examination results for examinees suspected of an exam irregularity shall not be released until the irregularity has been resolved per the *Security and Administrative Procedures Manual*. Examination results for examinees shall be reported only as pass or fail. All failing examinees shall be provided with a diagnostic report to indicate performance on those attempted examinations.

### B. Validity and Integrity

NCEES shall strive to ensure that the validity and integrity of the examinations are preserved and examinees are treated in a fair and equitable manner. NCEES reserves the right to treat exam scores as final and not subject to change after one year has passed from the date of release from NCEES to the member boards. If there is a change in the exam scores within a year of the date NCEES releases the examination results roster to the member boards, then NCEES shall notify the member board only if the change in the exam scores alters an examinee's status from fail to pass.

NCEES reserves the right to notify the member boards at any time if it learns that an examinee engaged in any improper conduct relating to the exam on which the score was obtained or took any action that jeopardized the security of any other NCEES exam or exam administration.

### C. Exam Irregularities

All NCEES exam irregularities shall be evaluated by NCEES with regards to invalidation of exam results. If an examinee fails to comply with the conditions stated in the *NCEES Examinee Guide*, NCEES shall have the authority to invalidate exam results and, furthermore, shall have the authority to suspend an examinee's ability to take an NCEES examination for up to three years. If deemed appropriate, NCEES shall also have the right to pursue additional restrictions on future testing, civil remedies, and/or criminal remedies.

NCEES shall notify the member board selected by the examinee of the specific terms and reasons for the invalidation or ban. NCEES shall update the examinee's account to make this information available to all member boards.

If a member board objects to NCEES' decision to ban an examinee's registration, NCEES shall update the examinee's account to allow the examinee to select that member board and register for an examination in accordance with the terms set forth by that member board.

### D. Structural Engineering Examinations

A section results notice shall be transmitted to the member board for each administration in which an examinee takes a section. Passing only one section shall not be sufficient for any licensure purposes. After an examinee has passed all sections, an examination pass notice will be transmitted to the member board to indicate that the examinee has passed the PE Structural examination.

### E. Release to Universities and Colleges

NCEES may provide institutional reports containing FE or FS examination data directly to a university or college that may help measure learning outcomes of the total engineering or surveying education.

## EAP 8 Providing Examination Results for Licensing by Comity

When examination results are requested for purposes of licensing by comity, member boards should report results provided by NCEES.

#### EAP 9 NCEES Examinations Offered at Foreign Sites

##### A. Contracting with Foreign Entities

The chief executive officer is authorized to enter into discussions with foreign entities concerning the administration of NCEES examinations. Any agreement resulting from such discussions requires the approval of the NCEES board of directors.

##### B. Minimum Criteria

For any approved agreement, NCEES will establish minimum criteria for candidates of the foreign entity that are in general conformance with the existing NCEES *Model Law* and *Model Rules*. Such agreements shall require that any additional costs to NCEES to administer the exams shall be reimbursed by the foreign entity and that examinations shall be administered in accordance with the NCEES examinee testing agreement.

##### C. Use of Examination Results for Licensure

Results of the examinations may be used to assist examinees interested in applying for licensure as a professional engineer or professional surveyor with an NCEES member board. NCEES makes no representations that passing such exams will qualify the examinees for licensure in any NCEES member board jurisdiction. The results may also be used as an outcomes assessment tool to assist in measuring the outcomes of foreign-based ABET-accredited programs.

##### D. Restriction on Use of Examination Results

Examinee performance data from examinations provided to a foreign entity shall not be included in exam evaluation or development, used to establish cut scores, or included in exam result statistics for NCEES jurisdictions. Examinee performance data from exams provided to a foreign entity may be evaluated and reported separately.

##### E. Release of Examinee Performance Data

NCEES may release examinee performance data to an ABET-accredited foreign educational program or to the foreign governing body or professional organization as provided in the contract or as approved by the board of directors.

##### F. Other Foreign Offerings

The chief executive officer is authorized to approve other foreign sites without foreign entity involvement for use by U.S. military personnel and their dependents and by other individuals approved by the chief executive officer.

#### EAP 10 Security and Administrative Procedures

Testing services shall follow procedures as prescribed by the NCEES *Security and Administrative Procedures Manual*.

#### EAP 11 Exam Administration Audits

Examination forensics, including a secret shopper-type program (which shall include a person who is requested to take the exam at a test center to verify quality assurance of the examination process), may be performed in accordance with the vendor-NCEES contract. Secret shopper exposure to NCEES examination content is restricted to an NCEES staff member or a professional engineer or professional surveyor who has already passed the appropriate NCEES exam.

## FINANCIAL POLICIES (FP)

FP 1	Council Funds
FP 2	Auditor's Report
FP 3	Travel Expenses
FP 4	Annual Business Meeting Registration Fees
FP 5	Guests of Annual Business Meeting
FP 6	Examination Prices
FP 7	Membership Fees
FP 8	Unbudgeted Expenditures
FP 9	Financial Impact Statements
FP 10	Accounts Receivable
FP 11	Exam Breach



# FINANCIAL POLICIES

## FP 1 Council Funds

- A. NCEES shall maintain operating accounts and operating reserve accounts with account balances in the aggregate sufficient to manage the day-to-day financial obligations of the Council.
- B. NCEES shall maintain long-term and short-term investments in accordance with the investment guidelines reviewed and approved at least annually by the board of directors.
- C. The reserve funds (current tangible assets plus tangible marketable long-term investments minus current liabilities) should be accumulated to and maintained at a level sufficient for each of the following:
  - 1. A designated reserve equal to a minimum amount of 50 percent of the annual operating budget
  - 2. A designated exam breach reserve equal to the computed cost of a probable or potential exam breach based on the current approved item replacement costs
  - 3. A data breach reserve equal to the anticipated costs of such an incident, including lost revenue during recovery, less insurance provisions
  - 4. A building reserve for long-range capital improvements and building system and/or component replacements

Reserve funds in excess of the reserves stated above may be designated by the board of directors for other NCEES mission advancement initiatives or capital projects. If the reserve funds fall below the reserve levels stated above, the Council shall strive to correct the situation. All reserves shall be reviewed annually by NCEES staff and presented to the board of directors and the Committee on Finances.

- D. The NCEES board of directors shall have the authority to make discretionary contributions for funding requests to outside nonprofit organizations. The total amount of all discretionary contributions that the NCEES board of directors is authorized to make may not exceed \$500,000 per fiscal year. Any funding above \$500,000 is required to be voted on by the full Council.

## FP 2 Auditor's Report

The treasurer shall present the audited financial report at the first board of directors meeting following completion of the annual audit. The board of directors shall advise the Council of the findings of the auditor's report in a timely manner.

## FP 3 Travel Expenses

NCEES shall budget for and pay travel expenses for NCEES-funded meeting attendees as described below. NCEES shall also waive the registration fee for NCEES-funded attendees to the annual meeting and zone interim meetings but shall not pay the cost of optional functions that are not included in the registration fee. All authorized travel and reimbursements shall be in accordance with the NCEES travel policy. Unbudgeted international travel shall require authorization by the board of directors.

### A. Meetings representing NCEES

- 1. Members of the board of directors, committee members, and consultants as authorized by the president. The president and the president-elect have the discretion to purchase business class airfares for trips greater than or equal to 5 hours of total in-air flying time each way to mitigate the stress of frequent travel. If no business class is available, first class may be considered.
- 2. Council staff as approved by the CEO

B. NCEES annual business meetings

1. Members of the current NCEES board of directors, incoming vice presidents, nominees for the incoming NCEES president-elect and treasurer positions, and past presidents. Registration fees shall be waived for a guest of each.
2. A minimum of three funded delegates from each member board as specified by the member board. Member boards must meet the *Bylaws* requirements for voting to receive the benefits of funded delegates.
3. Member board members who are attending their first annual meeting and who have been appointed to their board within 24 months before the annual meeting
4. The designated member board administrator (MBA) of each member board. When an MBA represents more than one board, the funding shall be for the designated MBA only and not for the assistant MBA or for member board staff. Member boards must meet the *Bylaws* requirements for voting to receive the benefits of a funded MBA.
5. Chairs of NCEES standing committees and task forces
6. NCEES service award recipients and a guest. Registration fees shall be waived for a guest of each award recipient.
7. Zone assistant vice presidents and zone secretaries
8. The NCEES representative to the ABET board of delegates, the alternate NCEES ABET representative, and the commissioners on the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET, and the Applied and Natural Science Accreditation Commission of ABET
9. NCEES Foundation board of directors members

C. Zone interim meetings

1. Members of the current NCEES board of directors
2. NCEES past presidents to their respective zone meeting
3. Zone assistant vice presidents and zone secretaries to their respective zone meeting
4. A minimum of three funded delegates from each member board as specified by the respective member board. The delegates must be members of the member board or associate members. Boards must meet the *Bylaws* requirements for voting to receive the benefits of funded delegates.
5. The designated MBA of each member board. When an MBA represents more than one board, the funding shall be for the designated MBA only and not for the assistant MBA or for member board staff. Member boards must meet the *Bylaws* requirements for voting to receive the benefits of a funded MBA.
6. Zone service award recipients to their respective zone meeting

D. Board Presidents' Assembly

1. Members of the current NCEES board of directors
2. Each member board president or a designated board member representative
3. The designated MBA of each member board. When an MBA represents more than one board, the funding shall be for the designated MBA only and not for the assistant MBA or for member board staff.

E. Approved MBA meetings

1. Members of the current NCEES board of directors as authorized by the president

2. The designated MBA of each member board. When an MBA represents more than one board, the funding shall be for the designated MBA only and not for the assistant MBA or for member board staff.

F. Approved Law Enforcement meetings

1. Members of the current NCEES board of directors as authorized by the president
2. A designated enforcement person from each member board

FP 4 Annual Business Meeting Registration Fees

Registration fees at the annual business meeting shall represent only those costs directly attributable to the annual business meeting.

FP 5 Guests of Annual Business Meeting

The president is authorized to issue invitations to professional society presidents or presidents-elect, to professional society executive directors, to International Affiliate Organizations, and to Participating Organizations to attend the annual business meeting as guests of the Council. All or part of the registration and activity fee shall be waived.

FP 6 Examination Prices

The Committee on Finances shall annually review all examination prices and propose any changes to examination prices for Council vote at the annual meeting. The current exam prices are as follows:

Examination	Price	Date Approved	Date Effective
FE	\$225	8/22	1/24
FS	\$225	8/22	1/24
PE	\$400	8/22	1/24
PS	\$375	8/22	1/24
PLSS	\$325	8/23	1/25
PE Structural			
Vertical breadth section	\$350	8/22	1/24
Vertical depth section	\$350	8/22	1/24
Lateral breadth section	\$350	8/22	1/24
Lateral depth section	\$350	8/22	1/24

All examinees are required to pay NCEES directly.

Price includes exam development, scoring, and computer-based exam administration.

FP 7 Membership Fees

All membership fees will be reviewed and approved by the Council. The current approved schedule is included here for reference.

Member boards	Current fee	Date effective	Future Fee	Date effective
1 through 200 registrants	\$750 annually	01/01/18	—	—
201 through 500 registrants	\$2,600 annually	01/01/18	—	—
501 or more registrants	\$6,500 annually	01/01/07	—	—
Less than 500 registrants	—	—	\$2,000 annually	01/01/26
500–4,999 registrants	—	—	\$4,000 annually	01/01/26
5,000–9,999 registrants	—	—	\$6,000 annually	01/01/26

10,000–29,999 registrants	—	—	\$7,500 annually	01/01/26
30,000 or more registrants	—	—	\$8,500 annually	01/01/26

**FP 8 Unbudgeted Expenditures**

Necessary expenditures to carry on the business of the Council that are not in the current operating or capital budget shall have prior approval of either the chief executive officer, the president, or the treasurer for amounts up to \$25,000. Expenditures of more than \$25,000 and up to \$50,000 shall have prior approval of two of the above persons, and expenditures in excess of \$50,000 shall have the prior approval of the board of directors. Any expenditures not in the current budget shall be reviewed by the board of directors at its next meeting.

**FP 9 Financial Impact Statements**

All proposals requiring the board of directors and Council approval must include a financial impact statement if such proposals will change the approved, proposed, or forecasted operating or capital budgets. The NCEES chief financial officer shall be consulted in the development of the estimated costs.

**FP 10 Accounts Receivable**

NCEES will actively pursue the collection of all accounts receivable. Accounts shall be considered delinquent after 30 days, and reasonable interest charges may be assessed in accordance with approved operating procedures. Accounts that persist in nonpayment may have privileges suspended.

**FP 11 Exam Breach**

The board of directors shall review and approve the replacement cost for exam items at least annually, to be applicable in the event of an exam breach covered by this policy. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this policy, the exam delivery contractor shall reimburse NCEES for the then-current replacement costs of all exam items whose security is compromised due to negligence while in the contractor's custody. Whether an exam breach has occurred for purposes of this policy shall be determined by the NCEES board of directors following an investigation of the incident and evaluation of all information submitted by the exam delivery contractor, input from third-party consultants if deemed appropriate, and recommendations from a duly constituted NCEES breach committee.

## PROFESSIONAL POLICIES (PP)

PP 1	Publications
PP 2	Uniform Qualifications for Licensure
PP 3	NCEES Credentials Evaluations Program
PP 4	NCEES Records Program
PP 5	NCEES Model Law Designations
PP 6	Expedited Licensure by Comity
PP 7	Firm Mobility
PP 8	International Relations

# PROFESSIONAL POLICIES

PP 1 Publications

NCEES shall publish models, manuals, and guidelines for use by member boards.

PP 2 Uniform Qualifications for Licensure

NCEES promotes uniform standards for licensure based on education, experience, and examination.

NCEES promotes the assessment of qualifications of each applicant for licensure according to uniform standards as provided by NCEES examinations and by NCEES guidelines for evaluating education and experience.

PP 3 NCEES Credentials Evaluations Program

NCEES will maintain a Credentials Evaluations program to assist member licensing boards and applicants with licensing of applicants.

PP 4 NCEES Records Program

NCEES will maintain a Records program to assist licensees and member boards with licensing by comity.

PP 5 NCEES Model Law Designations

The NCEES Records program requires the delineation of the requirements for Model Law Engineer, Model Law Surveyor, and Model Law Structural Engineer. These designations may be used by state licensing boards to expedite comity applications.

The requirements for Model Law designations may only be amended after review by an appropriate standing committee or task force and ratification by the Council.

The designations are defined as follows:

A. Model Law Engineer

The term “Model Law Engineer” refers to an individual who has obtained licensure as a professional engineer in at least one jurisdiction as the result of satisfying the following conditions:

1. Earns one of the following:
  - a. A degree in engineering from a bachelor’s program accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (EAC/ABET)
  - b. A degree in engineering from an EAC/ABET-accredited master’s program
2. Passes the NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) examination and an NCEES Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) examination
3. Meets one of the following experience requirements:
  - a. Completes 4 years of acceptable engineering experience after confirmation of a bachelor of science degree in an engineering program accredited by EAC/ABET
  - b. Completes 3 years of acceptable engineering experience after confirmation of a bachelor of science degree in engineering from an EAC/ABET-accredited engineering program and holds a master’s degree in engineering
  - c. Completes 3 years of acceptable engineering experience after confirmation of a master’s degree in engineering from an EAC/ABET-accredited engineering program
  - d. Completes 2 years of acceptable engineering experience and has an earned doctoral degree in engineering from an institution that offers EAC/ABET-accredited programs
4. Has a record clear of disciplinary action

For Model Law Engineer status to continue after such has been designated by NCEES, the individual must meet the requirements provided in Definition D, Continuance of Model Law Engineer, Model Law Surveyor, and Model Law Structural Engineer Status.

**B. Model Law Surveyor**

The term “Model Law Surveyor” refers to an individual who has obtained licensure as a professional surveyor in at least one jurisdiction as the result of satisfying the following conditions:

1. Earns one of the following:
  - a. A degree from a surveying engineering bachelor’s program accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (EAC/ABET)
  - b. A degree from a surveying and geomatics bachelor’s program accredited by the Applied and Natural Science Accreditation Commission of ABET (ANSAC/ABET)
  - c. A degree from a surveying and geomatics bachelor’s program accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET (ETAC/ABET)
2. Passes the NCEES Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) examination and the NCEES Principles and Practice of Surveying (PS) examination
3. Completes 4 years of acceptable surveying experience after confirmation of a bachelor of science degree in a surveying/geomatics program accredited by ANSAC/ABET, EAC/ABET, or ETAC/ABET, which may include up to 1 year of experience for a graduate surveying/geomatics degree
4. Has a record clear of disciplinary action

The jurisdiction may also require a Model Law Surveyor to pass its state-specific examination for surveyors. For Model Law Surveyor status to continue after such has been designated by NCEES, the individual must meet the requirements provided in Definition D, Continuance of Model Law Engineer, Model Law Surveyor, and Model Law Structural Engineer Status.

**C. Model Law Structural Engineer**

The term “Model Law Structural Engineer” refers to an individual who has obtained licensure in at least one jurisdiction as the result of satisfying the following conditions:

1. Earns one of the following:
  - a. A degree in engineering from a bachelor’s program accredited by EAC/ABET
  - b. A degree in engineering from a master’s program accredited by EAC/ABET
2. Passes a minimum of 18 semester (27 quarter) hours of structural analysis and design courses. At least 9 of the semester (14 quarter) hours must be structural design courses.
3. Passes the NCEES FE examination
4. Passes one of the following:
  - a. 16 hours of NCEES structural examinations, 8 hours of which were from the SE II taken prior to January 1, 2011
  - b. 16-hour state-written structural examinations taken prior to 2004
  - c. NCEES SE II plus 8-hour state-written structural examinations taken prior to January 1, 2011
  - d. NCEES PE Structural examination taken after January 1, 2011
5. Meets one of the following experience requirements:
  - a. Completes 4 years of acceptable structural engineering experience after confirmation of a bachelor of science degree in an engineering program accredited by EAC/ABET
  - b. Completes 3 years of acceptable structural engineering experience after confirmation of a bachelor of science degree in engineering from an EAC/ABET-accredited engineering

program and holds a master's degree in engineering that includes at least 6 semester (9 quarter) hours of structural engineering (in addition to the 18 hours noted above)

- c. Completes 3 years of acceptable structural engineering experience after confirmation of a master's degree in engineering from an EAC/ABET-accredited engineering program that includes at least 6 semester (9 quarter) hours of structural engineering (in addition to the 18 hours noted above)
- d. Completes 2 years of acceptable structural engineering experience and has an earned doctoral degree in engineering focused on structural engineering from an institution that offers EAC/ABET-accredited programs

6. Has a record clear of disciplinary action

For Model Law Structural Engineer status to continue after such has been designated by NCEES, the individual must meet the requirements provided in Definition D, Continuance of Model Law Engineer, Model Law Surveyor, and Model Law Structural Engineer Status.

D. Continuance of Model Law Engineer, Model Law Surveyor, and Model Law Structural Engineer Status

Any licensed professional who meets the criteria of the Model Law Engineer, Model Law Surveyor, or Model Law Structural Engineer shall continue to be designated Model Law Engineer, Model Law Surveyor, or Model Law Structural Engineer, even if these definitions are revised at a later date, provided that

- 1. The licensee has continually maintained his or her status as Model Law Engineer, Model Law Surveyor, or Model Law Structural Engineer
- 2. The licensee is not on revoked status or has not retired his or her license
- 3. The licensee has a record clear of disciplinary action and maintains a record clear of disciplinary action

PP 6 Expedited Licensure by Comity

NCEES promotes expedited licensure by comity by all member boards for any professional engineer, structural engineer, or professional surveyor with a current Council Record who has been determined by NCEES to be a Model Law Engineer, Model Law Structural Engineer, or Model Law Surveyor, respectively.

PP 7 Firm Mobility

NCEES promotes the adoption by all member boards of straightforward uniform standards for authorization to practice engineering and/or surveying through firms.

PP 8 International Relations

NCEES will be actively involved in matters relating to the foreign qualifications of professional engineers and surveyors. The long-range objectives will be

- A. To expand the understanding of the licensure and regulation of professional engineers and professional surveyors on an international basis through participation in relevant international meetings and establishing NCEES in a leadership role at such meetings (at relevant international meetings)
- B. To promote and establish a program for maintaining relationships with foreign licensure authorities



## POSITION STATEMENTS (PS)

*Note on adoption of position statements: In 1999, NCEES member boards voted to change the designation of 13 existing professional policies to position statements. The date of this change in designation is noted for these position statements. The date of adoption for subsequent position statements is noted, as well as any amendments approved by the Council.*

*Retired position statements are included for reference purposes only as Appendix C of this publication.*

### Licensure

PS 1.1	Licensure
PS 1.2	Certification of Engineers and Surveyors
PS 1.3	Member Board Representatives on ABET Visitations
PS 1.4	Licensure Regulation Based Upon Non-Practice Criteria
PS 1.5	Licensing of Engineering Faculty
PS 1.6	Expedited Licensure by Comity
PS 1.7	Foreign Professional Engineers Applying for Licensure in Jurisdictions of the United States
PS 1.8	Professional Society Assistance in Practice Act Revisions
PS 1.9	Evaluation of Qualifications for Non-Model Law Engineers and Surveyors
PS 1.10	Promotion of Licensure
PS 1.11	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
PS 1.12	Professional Ethics

### Education

PS 2.1	Education
PS 2.2	Engineering Curricula Accreditation
PS 2.3	Applicants with Non-EAC/ABET-Accredited Baccalaureate Degrees
PS 2.4	Examination of Engineering Students
PS 2.5	Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Technology
PS 2.6	Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering
PS 2.7	Bachelor of Science Degrees in Surveying Engineering, Surveying and Mapping, and Geomatics
PS 2.8	Continuing Professional Competency
PS 2.9	FE or FS Examination as an Outcomes Assessment Tool
PS 2.10	Education in Breadth of Practice
PS 2.11	Online Education
PS 2.12	Framework for Future Engineering Licensure

### Examination

PS 3.1	Examination Security
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## Experience

- PS 4.1 NCEES-Recommended Education/Experience Guidelines for P.E. Licensing
- PS 4.2 NCEES-Recommended Experience Reporting Guidelines and Definitions for P.E. Licensing

## International

- PS 5.1 International Activities

## Practice

- PS 6.1 Electronic Technology
- PS 6.2 Firm Mobility
- PS 6.3 Fire Protection
- PS 6.4 Design-Build
- PS 6.5 Certification of Record/As-Built Drawings
- PS 6.6 Tower Cranes
- PS 6.7 Commissioning of Engineered Systems
- PS 6.8 Sustainability
- PS 6.9 Remote Sensing Technologies
- PS 6.10 Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Engineering and Surveying

# POSITION STATEMENTS

## LICENSURE

### PS 1.1 Licensure

In the interest of safeguarding the public, NCEES strongly promotes the concept that all qualified individuals who practice or desire to practice engineering or surveying seek licensure, whether exempted by statute or regulation or not. NCEES supports the premise that an applicant seeking original licensure seek such licensure in the jurisdiction in which they reside or practice. NCEES also supports the premise that a licensee maintain licensure in the jurisdiction of the business address of practice and in jurisdictions in which the licensee exercises responsible charge of engineering and surveying work.

Designated position statement: 1999

Amended: 2004

### PS 1.2 Certification of Engineers and Surveyors

NCEES does not oppose those programs wherein professional organizations and societies recognize or certify their members for any purpose, provided such certification does not imply legal licensure. NCEES opposes certification by any organization or society wherein the purpose of such certification is to substitute for legal licensure as established by the statutes of the various jurisdictions.

Designated position statement: 1999

Amended: 2007, 2015, 2022

### PS 1.3 Member Board Representatives on ABET Visitations

NCEES supports and endorses the role of a member of a board of licensure as an observer on an ABET program evaluation. NCEES will publish the *ABET Guide for Observers on Accreditation Visits* on its website to assist ABET and the board member in this endeavor.

Designated position statement: 1999

### PS 1.4 Licensure Regulation Based Upon Non-Practice Criteria

NCEES opposes statutes and regulations that would require jurisdictions to adopt procedures under which the jurisdictions' licensing boards may not issue or renew licenses of individuals who are delinquent in domestic obligations or individuals who are the subject of outstanding failure-to-appear warrants. Accordingly, NCEES encourages its member boards to oppose statutes and regulations based upon non-practice criteria that would adversely impact professional licensure.

Designated position statement: 1999

### PS 1.5 Licensing of Engineering Faculty

Faculty members who practice engineering as defined by jurisdictional statutes must be licensed. NCEES encourages all faculty members who teach advanced engineering courses, or who are in responsible charge of engineering curricula or engineering research, to be licensed professional engineers.

Designated position statement: 1999

Amended: 2005, 2022

**PS 1.6 Expedited Licensure by Comity**

In order to facilitate the mobility of qualified professionals among jurisdictions, NCEES supports and promotes expedited licensure by comity by all member boards for any professional engineer, structural engineer, or professional surveyor with a current Council Record who has been determined by NCEES to be a Model Law Engineer, Model Law Structural Engineer, or Model Law Surveyor, respectively.

NCEES supports and promotes the adoption of procedures by all jurisdictions to facilitate and achieve licensure by comity for professionals who have been designated by NCEES to be Model Law Engineers, Model Law Structural Engineers, or Model Law Surveyors. NCEES also supports and promotes that this licensure by comity be approved in any jurisdiction within one week of receipt of both the completed application and the Council Record as well as the passing of any required jurisdiction-specific exams, provided that the jurisdiction statutes do not prohibit such expedited licensure by comity.

NCEES is committed to working with individual member boards to maximize the full applicability and acceptance of the Council Records program for engineers and surveyors in all jurisdictions.

Adopted: 2001

Amended: 2015

**PS 1.7 Foreign Professional Engineers Applying for Licensure in Jurisdictions of the United States**

It is the position of NCEES that member boards of the Council should provide consideration of equivalent qualifications for professional engineers licensed by or otherwise approved for professional practice in a foreign jurisdiction.

Adopted: 2005

Amended: 2012

**PS 1.8 Professional Society Assistance in Practice Act Revisions**

NCEES recognizes the difficulties faced by member boards attempting to make the necessary legislative changes to fulfill their charge of safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Member boards may lack adequate resources necessary to obtain passage of legislation.

Many professional societies, comprised of individuals directly affected by practice act legislation, are active in the political process. Member boards, whenever possible, should draw on these societies for assistance with the passage of practice act legislation. Consensus, political awareness and experience, manpower, and legislative sponsorship are major elements of success.

**A. Consensus**

Consensus requires general agreement from affected parties. Professional societies need to be involved in proposed practice act revisions throughout the entire process. Obtaining consensus may require considerable time, but it is essential to the process.

**B. Political Awareness and Experience**

Professional societies are active politically, often employing lobbyists and utilizing political action committees. The political impact of these organizations may be essential to the passage of practice act legislation.

**C. Manpower**

Professional societies are comprised of numerous, geographically dispersed members. Some of these members likely have working relationships with state legislators who may be serving on key committees and voting on the practice act legislation. Appropriately timed testimony from these professional society members can be a major benefit toward passage of practice act revisions.

#### D. Legislative Sponsorship

A professional society may have a member who is a legislator or who has a relationship with a legislator who has an active interest in the practice act legislation. Having the right sponsor to recruit appropriate co-sponsors, work with appropriate committee members, follow the bill through both houses, and withdraw the bill if necessary is vital to passage of appropriate legislation. If possible, the sponsor should be included in the initial consensus process.

Adopted: 2007

#### PS 1.9 Evaluation of Qualifications for Non-Model Law Engineers and Surveyors

NCEES recommends that education and experience for non-Model Law license applicants requesting permission to sit for examinations or requesting licensure by comity should be evaluated in accordance with related NCEES position statements and standards.

Adopted: 2011

Amended: 2013, 2022

#### PS 1.10 Promotion of Licensure

NCEES is committed to promoting the value of licensure in support of its mission to advance licensure for engineers and surveyors in order to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Adopted: 2014

Amended: 2022

#### PS 1.11 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

NCEES is committed to 1) advancing licensure in such a way as to be inclusive of all people for the betterment of engineering and surveying licensure and 2) treating its employees and volunteers of the organization in an equitable and inclusive manner with respect, dignity, and fairness that fosters participation without regard to individual differences. NCEES encourages its member boards to do the same.

Adopted: 2014

Amended: 2022

#### PS 1.12 Professional Ethics

Engineering and surveying are important and learned professions. As members of these professions, licensees have a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people and are expected to exhibit the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Accordingly, professional engineers and professional surveyors must be dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. Professional engineers and professional surveyors must perform under a standard of professional behavior that requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct.

Adopted: 2024

### EDUCATION

#### PS 2.1 Education

The primary role of NCEES is to facilitate professional licensure of engineers and surveyors and uphold standards necessary to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The Council strongly advocates quality education to prepare individuals to become engineers and surveyors, including K–12 and university education, as well as continued professional competency for licensees. The Council supports efforts to develop educational standards required for licensure and to expeditiously disseminate those standards to its member boards.

The educational objectives of NCEES are to

- A. Advocate quality education that adequately prepares candidates for licensed professional practice, which includes the following:
  - 1. K–12 education, as it informs students about the fields of engineering and surveying and prepares them for university study
  - 2. Higher education, which prepares individuals for licensure and professional practice
- B. Recognize institutional indicators of quality education, which may include the following:
  - 1. Program educational objectives and outcomes that include a focus on preparing students for licensed professional practice as described in paragraph A above
  - 2. Program educational objectives and outcomes that are assessed in part by nationally validated content examinations
  - 3. Curriculum requirements that equate to the standards for licensure eligibility
- C. Establish program indicators of quality education for licensure eligibility, which include the following:
  - 1. Nationally validated assessment methods
  - 2. Education standards that prepare students for licensed professional practice
  - 3. Compliance with psychometric analyses that determine pass rates on nationally validated content examinations
- D. Assist member boards in evaluating the indicators and metrics as established for licensure eligibility.

Adopted: 2003

Amended: 2004, 2005, 2019, 2022

#### PS 2.2 Engineering Curricula Accreditation

NCEES recommends that engineering programs be accredited only by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (EAC/ABET).

Designated position statement: 1999

Amended: 2005

#### PS 2.3 Applicants with Non-EAC/ABET-Accredited Baccalaureate Degrees

Individuals with the following qualifications may apply for the licensure process.

- Graduates of non-EAC/ABET-accredited baccalaureate programs in engineering or graduates of nonengineering baccalaureate programs who have earned a master's degree or doctoral degree in engineering. In both of these cases, the official degree program transcripts of applicants must be evaluated through a board-approved process, and any deficiencies found as a result of the evaluation must be corrected. Deficiencies in engineering courses, including engineering design, must be remediated by taking courses offered by an EAC/ABET-accredited engineering degree program.
- Graduates of EAC/ABET-accredited master's programs in engineering. In this case, no remedial work is needed; a criterion for EAC/ABET accreditation of master's-level programs is fulfillment of the EAC/ABET baccalaureate-level general criteria.

A graduate degree that is used, in part or in whole, to satisfy education requirements cannot be applied for experience credit toward licensure.

Designated position statement: 1999

Amended: 2005, 2007, 2013, 2016

PS 2.4 Examination of Engineering Students

NCEES recommends that all schools with EAC/ABET-accredited engineering programs require students in such programs to take and make a good-faith effort to pass the NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering examination prior to their anticipated date of graduation. Deans, department heads, and faculty members are encouraged to provide FE exam review sessions to assist students in preparing for the exam.

Designated position statement: 1999

Amended: 2010, 2011, 2022

PS 2.5 Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Technology

NCEES recommends that the boards of licensure, whose statutes do not otherwise prohibit, require any applicant who has a degree in engineering technology, who applies for engineering licensure in any jurisdiction of the United States, and who has not previously been licensed to practice by one of the boards of licensure be required to first demonstrate that they possess at least a bachelor of science degree in engineering technology, acquired through the successful completion of an ETAC/ABET-accredited program or through a board-approved program.

Designated position statement: 1999

Amended: 2005, 2021, 2022, 2024

PS 2.6 Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering

NCEES recommends that the boards of licensure require any applicant who applies for engineering licensure in any jurisdiction of the United States and who has not previously been licensed to practice by one of the boards of licensure be required first to demonstrate that they possess at least a bachelor of science degree in engineering, acquired through the successful completion of an EAC/ABET-accredited program or through a board-approved program.

Designated position statement: 1999

Amended: 2004, 2005, 2007, 2022, 2024

PS 2.7 Bachelor of Science Degrees in Surveying Engineering, Surveying and Mapping, and Geomatics

NCEES recommends that the boards of licensure require any applicant who applies for surveying licensure in any jurisdiction of the United States and who has not previously been licensed to practice by one of the boards of licensure for professional surveyors be required to first demonstrate that they possess at least a bachelor of science degree in surveying, acquired through the successful completion of an ABET-accredited surveying program or through a board-approved program.\*

NCEES prefers that its examination development follow current *Model Law* and *Model Rules*.

Whenever possible, Model Law Surveyors should be utilized to prepare FS examinations, and Model Law Surveyors should be utilized to establish cut scores for FS examinations.

The content of the FS examination shall test the equivalent knowledge obtained in a baccalaureate surveying degree that will enable the individual to protect the public.

\* Refer to the NCEES position paper “Benefits to Requiring a Bachelor’s Degree for Professional Surveying Licensure” (2023), available as a PDF on [ncees.org](https://ncees.org) under MyNCEES.

Designated position statement: 1999

Amended: 2004, 2010, 2011, 2022, 2024

PS 2.8 Continuing Professional Competency

NCEES endorses the establishment of uniform continuing professional competency (CPC) requirements for licensed professional engineers and surveyors to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public by requiring licensees to remain competent within their profession. Uniform requirements benefit licensees by facilitating licensure renewal and supporting mobility across jurisdictions.

CPC should be focused on the advancement, extension, and improvement of the scientific knowledge and professional skills of the licensee and on the enhancement of professional ethics. CPC should be structured in a way that demonstrates compliance but also recognizes the autonomy and strong ethical standards of licensees.

Licensees are expected to meet the CPC requirements of the jurisdictions in which they have been granted a license by comity, reciprocity, or endorsement. Applicants for a license by comity, reciprocity, or endorsement who are licensed in a jurisdiction without equivalent CPC requirements should not be denied an initial license for that reason.

Because many engineers and surveyors are licensed in multiple jurisdictions, uniformity of CPC requirements among licensing jurisdictions that mandate CPC is imperative to simplify the licensure-renewal process, to enhance the mobility of licensees, to facilitate the recognition of CPC by multiple jurisdictions, and to ensure the viability of continuing professional competency. NCEES encourages licensing boards to follow the NCEES *Model Rules* as outlined in the NCEES *Continuing Professional Competency Guidelines* when adopting CPC requirements. NCEES encourages boards to allow their licensees to satisfy either the CPC requirements of the board or the NCEES CPC Standard. Doing so will promote licensure mobility, especially with boards whose CPC requirements differ from the *Model Rules*. Licensees are encouraged to use the NCEES CPC Registry to document their CPC activities; this may facilitate board reviews or audits.

NCEES encourages the efforts of professional and technical societies, educational programs, and industry in the development of continuing education opportunities to maintain and enhance the competency of engineers and surveyors.

Designated position statement: 1999

Amended: 2004, 2006, 2016

PS 2.9 FE or FS Examination as an Outcomes Assessment Tool

- A. Engineering and surveying programs should strongly consider using the FE or FS exam topic-level performance data as part of their program assessment, with proper regard for the caveats described.\*
- B. Programs that will gain the most from using the FE or FS exam as an assessment tool are those programs in which all students are required to take the FE or FS exam, all students are required to take the discipline-specific exam (applicable to the FE exam only), the faculty establish specific goals for their program, and comparisons are made with peer institutions that have similar requirements.
- C. Member boards are encouraged to sponsor or otherwise facilitate use of the FE and FS examination results for internal use of institutional outcomes assessment, but such use should not subordinate or endanger the function, concept, or security of the FE or FS examination's primary purpose as the first examination for professional licensure, in keeping with the underlying mission of safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- D. Institutions must remember that the primary purpose of the FE or FS is to assess minimal technical competencies. Other assessment tools need to be used to assess higher-level theories or critical thought that might be the focus of some portion of their program.



- E. The results of each FE or FS exam should be sent directly to institutions for their use. NCEES may provide directly to a university or college additional FE or FS examination data that will help measure learning outcomes of the total engineering or surveying education.

*\*Refer to Using the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Examination as an Outcomes Assessment Tool, National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, January 2024.*

Adopted: 2000

Amended: 2019, 2021

#### PS 2.10 Education in Breadth of Practice

Graduates of EAC/ABET-accredited engineering programs should be knowledgeable in and able to demonstrate an awareness of the breadth and diversity of engineering practice, which includes licensed practice before the public and in industrial, governmental, and educational settings. Engineering in each of these settings involves direct or indirect responsibility for safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public and is subject to a common set of ethical expectations and codes of conduct. An engineer's career is likely to include practice in some or all of these areas, and this diversity of potential practice should therefore be reflected in an engineer's education.

Adopted: 2005

#### PS 2.11 Online Education

NCEES recognizes that online instruction, either in whole or as a supplement to in-person presentation, can be an effective delivery method for engineering and surveying education and encourages development of methods and techniques that will result in accredited programs that meet requirements for licensure.

Adopted: 2006

Amended: 2022

#### PS 2.12 Framework for Future Engineering Licensure

One of the goals of NCEES is to advance licensure standards for all professional engineers. Those standards describe the technical and professional competency needed to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The Council recognizes that future demands for increasing technical and professional knowledge and skills will require the licensure process, including education and experience requirements, to be updated to meet these changing needs and ensure a competent level of professional engineering practice. NCEES supports a licensing framework that covers the life cycle of a professional engineer, with multiple focused pathways to licensure. These pathways include supplemental education focused on depth of technical knowledge and professional practice, a robust and adaptable system for assessment and evaluation, a system of focused and progressive experience, and lifelong learning.

NCEES recognizes that different areas of engineering practice may have differing requirements or paths to demonstrate a competent level of professional knowledge and skills. These future pathways will be developed to address the needs of the various areas of engineering practice as appropriate to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public and support the strength and growth of the engineering profession.

Pathways by which a candidate for licensure as a professional engineer might obtain the body of knowledge needed to meet future education and experience requirements include the following:

- A. A bachelor's degree in engineering or engineering technology
- B. Focused and guided supplemental education requirements prior to licensure to address technical depth and professional practice, which may include

- a. Additional formal education, such as a master's or doctoral degree
- b. Certifications by recognized technical professional organizations
- c. Professional-level continuing education courses
- C. Focused and guided experience prior to licensure
- D. Increased professional mentorship during the licensure process

Adopted: 2015

Amended: 2017, 2018, 2022

## EXAMINATION

### PS 3.1 Examination Security

The primary goal of NCEES is to advance and facilitate professional licensure of engineers and surveyors. The Council's role is to advocate safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public and to advance examination security for that purpose. To this end, it is the responsibility of the Council to promulgate and maintain standards and appropriate policies for examination security and administration to ensure fair and uniform administration and to expeditiously disseminate those standards and policies to its member boards.

The NCEES examination security objectives are to

- A. Develop and publish examination administration policies, procedures, and services that support the licensure process by
  - 1. Mandating fair and uniform testing conditions and ensuring fairness for all candidates, including but not limited to ADA candidates
  - 2. Following industry standards regarding examination administration
  - 3. Preventing or limiting inappropriate exposure of examination items through
    - a. Loss or theft
    - b. Misuse or inappropriate distribution
    - c. Violation of copyright of test items
- B. Define procedures that accomplish the following:
  - 1. Evaluate potential breaches and risk factors
  - 2. Establish appropriate responses to breaches
  - 3. Provide clear guidelines to investigate and/or litigate violations
  - 4. Mitigate the risk and/or confine loss
  - 5. Provide means for member board and/or appropriate committee oversight
  - 6. Restrict access to examination items and enhance prevention of loss or theft
  - 7. Protect examination confidentiality in the exam development process
- C. Offer examination administration services that
  - 1. Define and operate under appropriate standard of care guidelines
  - 2. Audit services to meet standard of care guidelines
  - 3. Develop and maintain a training and quality-assurance program
  - 4. Evaluate all external service providers for security measures, including but not limited to shipping, printing, and facilities leasing
  - 5. Evaluate new technology, methods, and processes for improvement and enhancement of security
  - 6. Provide additional services to member boards for secure test administration, including but not limited to, registration, database management, records management, and score reporting

- D. Provide information to member boards about security violations, potential risks of security issues, financial impact, and regularly updated policies and procedures.

Adopted: 2003

## EXPERIENCE

### PS 4.1 NCEES-Recommended Education/Experience Guidelines for P.E. Licensing

4-Year or More Degree	Years of Experience Required	Comments
EAC/ABET accredited	4	NCEES PS 2.6
Canada (CEAB) accredited	4	
Non-EAC/ABET or non-CEAB accredited	4 or more	Education should be evaluated using the NCEES Engineering Education Standard.
Recommendations below are only for member boards that must evaluate applicants who do not meet the minimum education of an EAC/ABET or equivalent degree as specified in PS 2.6.		
ETAC/ABET accredited	6	NCEES PS 2.5
Related science*	8	Education should be evaluated using the NCEES Engineering Education Standard.
No degree	20	Needed by some boards

\*A related science curriculum from a school or college approved by the board is defined as a bachelor of science degree in chemistry, physics, mathematics, or similar science curriculum.

Designated position statement: 1999

Amended: 2005, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2016, 2021, 2024

### PS 4.2 NCEES-Recommended Experience Reporting Guidelines and Definitions for P.E. Licensing

NCEES supports focused and guided experience prior to licensure with a clear and common method for reporting and evaluation. The guidelines and associated definitions in the NCEES publication *Experience Record for Initial Licensure as a Professional Engineer* provide a common format for reporting that allows an applicant to demonstrate progressive engineering experience and a depth of knowledge across multiple categories. The format supports various educational and experiential backgrounds as well as areas of engineering practice. The format provides applicants, reviewers, and employers with a better understanding of the requirements for licensure and standards to determine competency.

Adopted: 2025

## INTERNATIONAL

### PS 5.1 International Activities

- The Council should continue to offer its examinations at foreign sites within the guidelines of EAP 9.
- NCEES shall inform foreign jurisdictions that the qualifications for licensure in the United States are determined by state and territorial jurisdictions based on education, experience, and examination.
- NCEES shall emphasize to all national and foreign jurisdictions the importance of licensure in safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- NCEES shall stress to all national and foreign jurisdictions the need for the development of a database of their licensing requirements.

- E. NCEES shall encourage the development of globally uniform licensure requirements that meet the international benchmark for independent professional practice established by the International Engineering Alliance *Graduate Attributes and Professional Competencies*. Constraints such as citizenship, residency, establishment of local office, or similar restrictions shall be discouraged.
- F. NCEES shall function as a resource for other nations that desire to establish or improve their education, experience, examination, and ethics requirements for licensure to practice engineering and surveying.
- G. NCEES shall work with foreign jurisdictions toward mutual development of international compliance procedures for the professional practice of engineering and surveying.
- H. NCEES shall work with foreign jurisdictions to emphasize the importance of current international intellectual property protection.

Adopted: 2004

Amended: 2005, 2014, 2022

## PRACTICE

### PS 6.1 Electronic Technology

The use of digital signatures has dramatically changed the practice of producing, submitting, and reproducing reports, drawings, and specifications by practitioners, but the need to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public has not changed.

The use of digital signatures can adequately safeguard the public if the appropriate guidelines are followed. Electronic technology must be encouraged in an open and unrestrictive environment. It is the responsibility of the member boards and other jurisdictions to encourage the use of digital signature technology to further safeguard the public from the current common practice of delivering documents electronically with no security or protection. Refer to *Model Rules 240.20, Seal on Documents*, for further information.

Adopted: 2000

Amended: 2004, 2022

### PS 6.2 Firm Mobility

In order to facilitate the ability of firms to practice their profession in all jurisdictions, NCEES supports and promotes the adoption of straightforward uniform standards for authorization to practice engineering and/or surveying through firms. Uniform standards should address but not be limited to the following:

- A. NCEES opposes any requirement that a firm must have a physical office in each jurisdiction of practice.
- B. NCEES supports the requirement that a firm must have professionals appropriately licensed by the jurisdiction in responsible charge of the services being offered.
- C. NCEES opposes any requirement that officers, owners, or their equivalent must be licensed in the jurisdiction in order for the firm to practice, or offer to practice, provided that appropriately licensed professionals are in responsible charge of the services being offered.

Adopted: 2002

### PS 6.3 Fire Protection

NCEES recognizes that fire protection plays an important role in safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public. NCEES also recognizes that the application of science and engineering principles to safeguard life, property, income, and the environment from the effects of fires, explosions, and related hazards to be the practice of fire protection engineering.

NCEES recommends that member boards actively pursue enforcement of state statutes, rules, and regulatory codes, with local permitting authorities having jurisdiction regarding the analysis and application of fire protection engineering.

NCEES recognizes that many states and territories do not license professional engineers by engineering discipline and that various aspects of fire protection engineering may be performed by licensed professionals (architects or engineers) with experience in the analysis, design, and application of fire protection systems. NCEES also recognizes that there are differences in state statutes, rules, and regulatory codes among various states and territories and that these individual states and territories may establish thresholds of system type, complexity, size, or value that exempt specific fire protection systems below a minimum threshold from professional engineering, provided that these fire protection systems are designed and installed by a contractor or technician who is performing this work under a license or certification specifically for these fire protection systems.

For fire protection systems above or below the minimum threshold of system type, complexity, size, and value for professional engineering, the following are recommended whenever a professional engineer engages in the practice of fire protection engineering:

- A. All final engineering documents should be design documents prepared and sealed by a licensed professional engineer. The contents of the engineering documents should be determined by the licensed professional engineer based on their education and experience; should comply with state statutes, rules, and regulatory codes; and should be acceptable to all authorities having jurisdiction.
- B. All fire protection installation shop drawings should be reviewed by the licensed professional engineer in order to verify compliance with the engineer's design and specifications prior to submission of the shop drawings to any interested authority.
- C. The licensed professional engineer should provide oversight of the installation to verify compliance with contract requirements.

Adopted: 2004

Amended: 2021

#### PS 6.4 Design-Build

NCEES recognizes design-build as a growing and viable project-delivery method.

A variety of organizational arrangements can be used to deliver design-build services. It is the position of NCEES that the organizational arrangements for each project be disclosed to the owner/client at the time of the offering of the services. If engineering or surveying services are included in a design-build project, it is the position of NCEES that such services fall under the practice of engineering or surveying and require licensed professionals to be in responsible charge of that portion of the work.

NCEES does not support design-build project delivery in a manner that compromises the role of the engineer or surveyor in maintaining responsible charge of the engineering or surveying work.

Adopted: 2004

#### PS 6.5 Certification of Record/As-Built Drawings

NCEES does not consider the representation of what was believed to be constructed to be engineering or surveying work and that to seal such work may be in violation of local and state statutes and rules. However, an engineer or surveyor may be required to seal work not performed under the engineer's or surveyor's direct supervision and control. In such cases, a caveat should be included on sealed record drawings, incorporating, as applicable, the following factors:

- A. The record drawing is a compiled representation of the constructed project.
- B. The sources and the basis of information used in the preparation of the record drawing should be listed.

- C. The record drawing is believed to be correct to the best of the professional's knowledge.
- D. The accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed.

Adopted: 2007

#### PS 6.6 Tower Cranes

NCEES recognizes that the use of tower cranes—including assembly/erection, climbing, dismantling, and hoisting—exposes the public to a level of risk to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

NCEES recommends that member boards actively pursue enforcement of statutes and rules with local permitting authorities having jurisdiction regarding the engineering supervision over the design and erection procedures related to the foundations of tower cranes.

To implement the above, the following is recommended:

- A. Foundation design documents shall be prepared by a qualified licensed professional engineer or a licensed structural engineer, as required, and the documents are to be sealed by the engineer.
- B. Supervision by a qualified licensed professional engineer or a licensed structural engineer is required in the review of erection of the crane for compliance with the engineer's design and specifications for the tower crane foundations.

Adopted: 2010

#### PS 6.7 Commissioning of Engineered Systems

NCEES recognizes commissioning is a field of services provided to validate design concepts and systems operations. A variety of levels of professional expertise, using both licensed and unlicensed professionals, is used to deliver commissioning services.

It is the position of NCEES that commissioning of those systems that are engineered systems falls under the practice of engineering and must be performed under the responsible charge of a professional engineer.

Adopted: 2011

#### PS 6.8 Sustainability

NCEES encourages professional engineers and professional surveyors to incorporate in their work and lives the principles and practices of sustainability to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Sustainability, as defined for this purpose, is the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, through the balanced application of integrated planning and the combination of environmental, social, and economic decision-making processes.

Adopted: 2016

Amended: 2022

#### PS 6.9 Remote Sensing Technologies

In the interest of safeguarding the public health, safety, and welfare, the use of remote sensing technology (including but not limited to aerial, ground based, and hydrographic) to perform professional services defined in NCEES *Model Law* 110.20 A.3, Practice of Engineering, and 110.20 B.3, Practice of Surveying, shall be under the responsible charge of an appropriately licensed professional.

Adopted: 2016

Amended: 2022

#### PS 6.10 Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Engineering and Surveying

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a transformative tool for engineering and surveying practice, and NCEES affirms that its use must prioritize public safety, professional responsibility, and ethical standards. While AI-powered tools can automate complex tasks, human interaction and oversight remains essential to ensure proper use, accuracy, reliability, and adherence to industry standards. Engineers and surveyors must maintain competence in their practice, understanding both AI's capabilities and its limitations to make informed judgments. Additionally, ethical considerations, including data privacy, bias mitigation, and accountability, should be prioritized to uphold public trust and professional integrity.

##### A. Responsible Charge

1. Licensed professionals retain ultimate responsibility for decisions and thus must ensure AI-generated outputs align with public protection, professional standards, and regulatory requirements.
2. Licensed professionals must not use AI to practice outside of their professional competency.
3. AI is a tool to assist, not replace, professional judgment, with licensed professionals overseeing and validating all critical processes.

##### B. Competence

1. Licensed professionals should stay informed about AI advancements, understanding its use, capabilities, limitations, and appropriate applications in their field.
2. Continuing education and training are essential to ensure licensed professionals can effectively integrate AI while upholding industry best practices.

##### C. Validation/Transparency

1. Licensed professionals must critically assess AI outputs, performing independent checks to confirm accuracy and reliability before implementation.
2. AI-generated results should be verifiable, with clear documentation of methodologies, data sources, and assumptions used in decision-making.

##### D. Ethical Considerations

1. Licensed professionals must adhere to all legal and ethical standards in the use of AI applications and recognize that safeguarding data privacy and security is critical.
2. AI models should be monitored for biases, ensuring fair and impartial outcomes that do not compromise public trust or professional integrity.

##### E. Guidance and Collaboration

1. Member boards should develop specific guidelines or rules addressing the responsible use of AI in engineering and surveying to ensure compliance with professional standards and public safety.
2. NCEES, member boards, and professional societies, along with outside experts should collaborate to establish best practices for AI integration to ensure AI is used effectively and responsibly across the engineering and surveying professions.

Adopted: 2025

## APPENDIX A

### Acronyms and Abbreviations in this Publication

ABET	Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc.
ACCA	Advisory Committee on Council Activities
ADA	American with Disabilities Act
AI	Artificial intelligence
AP	NCEES administrative policy
ANSAC/ABET	Applied and Natural Science Accreditation Commission of ABET
CBT	Computer-based testing
CEAB	Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board
CPC	Continuing professional competency
EAC/ABET	Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET
EAP	NCEES examination administration policy
EDP	NCEES examination development policy
ETAC/ABET	Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET
EPE	Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers
EPP	Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures
EPS	Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors
FE exam	Fundamentals of Engineering examination
FP	NCEES financial policy
FS exam	Fundamentals of Surveying examination
LFF	Linear, fixed form
LOFT	Linear-on-the-fly testing
IEA	International Engineering Alliance
MBA	Member board administrator
NCEES	National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying
PAKS	Professional activities and knowledge study
P.E.	Professional engineer
PE exam	Principles and Practice of Engineering examination
PLSS exam	Public Land Survey System examination
PP	NCEES professional policy
PS	NCEES position statement
PS exam	Principles and Practice of Surveying examination
UPLG	Committee on Uniform Procedures and Legislative Guidelines



## APPENDIX B

### NCEES Publications

Publications available on [ncees.org](http://ncees.org) in the About section

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- The NCEES **annual report** highlights the Council’s leadership, mission, initiatives, and financial activities. An interactive version of the annual report is available at [ncees.org/annualreport](http://ncees.org/annualreport).
- The NCEES **Bylaws** outlines the structure of the Council.
- The **Continuing Professional Competency Guidelines** provides best practices for state licensing boards that have CPC requirements for licensees.
- The **History of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, 1920–2020** provides an in-depth history of U.S. licensure and NCEES.
- **Licensure Exchange** is the NCEES bimonthly newsletter for the exchange of information, opinions, and ideas regarding the licensure of engineers and surveyors.
- The **Manual of Policy and Position Statements** describes Council administrative, examination, financial, and professional policies as well as the official NCEES position on licensure issues.
- The **Model Law** reflects best practices as determined by the NCEES member boards. It is a model for state practice legislation.
- The **Model Rules** provides licensure boards with guidelines for engineering and surveying licensing laws and ethics.
- When it conducts a credentials evaluation, NCEES compares the candidate’s college-level education against the **NCEES Engineering Education Standard** or the **NCEES Surveying Education Standard**. These standards reflect generally agreed-upon educational qualifications for entering the profession.
- **NCEES Squared** is the official NCEES source for engineering and surveying licensure statistics.
- The NCEES white paper “**Using the FE Exam as an Outcomes Assessment Tool**” describes in detail how engineering departments can use the FE exam to assess program outcomes.

Additional publications available on MyNCEES (Board Resources portion of the NCEES website)

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- Annual meeting *Action Items and Conference Reports*
- NCEES board of directors minutes
- *Investigation and Enforcement Guidelines*
- *Investigative Training Manual*
- Zone meeting minutes
- *Zone Meeting and Continuity Guidelines*

## APPENDIX C

### RETIRED NCEES POSITION STATEMENTS

The following are retired position statements, included for reference only.

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#### Advanced-Level Accreditation

NCEES takes no position on the merits of advanced-level accreditation by EAC/ABET. However, if EAC/ABET in its wisdom deems advanced-level accreditation to be in the public and educational interest, then NCEES is desirous that safeguards be continued in the basic advanced-level accreditation requirements so that EAC/ABET-approved advanced-level curricula meet at least the minimum basic engineering course requirements of EAC/ABET-accredited baccalaureate engineering degree curricula.

Designated position statement: 1999

Retired: 2005

#### Council Funds

The reserve funds (current tangible assets plus tangible marketable long-term investments minus current liabilities) should be accumulated to the amount of approximately 75 percent of the annual operating budget plus a designated reserve equal to the computed cost of a total exam breach based on the current approved item replacement costs. If the reserve funds fall below this level, the Council shall strive to correct the situation.

Designated position statement: 1999

Amended: 2004, 2008

Retired: 2012

#### International Engineering Accreditation

NCEES recommends that persons graduated from engineering education programs substantially equivalent to standards delineated by EAC/ABET criteria be considered to have met acceptable education requirements for engineering licensure in the United States.

Foreign degree applicants who are graduates of engineering education programs which are identified as substantially equivalent by ABET shall be accorded the same privilege and consideration regarding education requirements for engineering licensure in the United States as those persons who have completed an EAC/ABET-accredited engineering education program.

Designated position statement: 1999

Amended: 2004

Retired: 2010

#### Inclusion of All Engineers by ABET

NCEES encourages ABET to investigate using more inclusive language such as *practitioner* that all—government and private practice as well as those in industry—may identify with and embrace. ABET's current use of the term *industry* alone does not recognize or apply to the entire spectrum of engineering practice.

Adopted: 2005

Retired: 2022

#### Computer-Based Testing

The NCEES vision of computer-based testing (CBT) is as follows:

- A. Conversion of the NCEES examinations to CBT should eventually include all exams.
- B. The content areas, delivery methods, types, and processes associated with the CBT examination are expected to evolve and develop in order to remain current with the progress of professional practices as well as future technological advances to CBT.

Adopted: 1999

Amended: 2012

Retired: 2022



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