

The Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (TBPELS) protects the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Texas by licensing competent and qualified professional engineers and surveyors and by enforcing technical and ethical standards for all licensed Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

With over 69,000 licensed Professional Engineers, more than 11,000 Registered Engineering Firms, over 2,800 Registered Professional Land Surveyors, 60 Licensed State Land Surveyors and over 1,400 Registered Surveying Firms, TBPELS helps ensure that engineering and surveying projects in Texas are designed and built safely by competent and qualified professionals.

TBPELS outreach programs educate the public, engineering students, cities, counties, and governmental agencies about engineering requirements, engineering ethics, and proper engineering practice.

As an award winning state agency, TBPELS leads the way in good government practices, employing highly skilled staff and developing high quality, innovative technologies and processes to meet its mission efficiently and effectively.

The Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors is committed to protecting the public of the great state of Texas now and into the future.



PE_{TX}LS

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How to Become a Licensed Professional Engineer



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The Texas Professional Engineer License

Licensed Professional Engineers (PEs) are responsible for protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public. Since the beginning, a Texas Professional Engineer's license has represented technical competence and ethical practice. Texas licenses engineers in all areas of practice – from civil, electrical, environmental, mechanical, and structural engineering to computer, nuclear, petroleum engineering, and many more.

The Licensing Process

The typical path to licensure involves:

1. Obtaining a 4 year engineering degree.

Texas uses the EAC-ABET accreditation as a benchmark, but can license engineers with non-ABET degrees or degrees in related sciences. You can check your degree program at

www.abet.org

2. Take and pass the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam.

This is a national exam administered by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). It is given in a computer based testing format and is available year round. For more information about the FE exam, visit

www.ncees.org

3. Apply for an Engineer In Training (EIT) Certificate.

Completion of steps 1 and 2 allows you to apply for an EIT. An approved Texas EIT certificate allows you 3 PE exam attempts prior to completion of the required engineering experience. Visit <http://pels.texas.gov/eit>

4. Take and pass the Principles and Practice (PE) exam.

This is a national exam administered by NCEES which is offered in April and October each year. For more information about the PE exam, visit www.ncees.org Some NCEES PE exams are now offered in the computer based testing format.

5. Obtain engineering work experience.

Depending upon your degree, Texas law requires 4 or 8 years of qualifying, progressive engineering practice.

6. Apply for Licensure.

You must apply to the TBPELS for licensure. If the PE exam was not passed as an EIT, you must be granted permission to take the PE exam in the licensing application process. Once permission has been granted, then you can sign up for the PE exam.

7. Complete licensing process.

Once you have met all the requirements above, you will be issued a Professional Engineer license in Texas!

Every application includes the following:

- **Application Form** – Contains personal identifying information and a summary of qualifications.
- **Texas Ethics Exam** - This is a free, self-administered exam testing familiarity with the Texas Engineering Practice Act and Rules. It can be taken online or downloaded, completed, and mailed with the application.
- **Official Transcripts and degree evaluations** - To verify education credentials, applicants must have an official transcript sent directly to the TBPELS from the institution. Most foreign degrees require a third-party evaluation sent directly to the TBPELS from one of the approved companies.
- **Supplementary Experience Record (SER)** - Applicants will describe engineering experience in a narrative form to demonstrate acquired engineering competence. The description should focus on the practice of engineering since having obtained their qualifying education.
- **PE References** - Applicants will ask other professional engineers for references to support the application. Each reference provider makes a confidential assessment of the applicant's character, technical competence and readiness for licensure.
- **Exam Verification** - NCEES exams (FE and/or PE) taken in other states are accepted by Texas. If the exams are taken outside of Texas, verification from the appropriate state board or NCEES is required.
- **Criminal History Record Check** - All applicants are required to submit fingerprints to obtain a records check. This process requires an applicant number, which is assigned when the application is received.
- **Application Fee** – The application processing fee is \$80 and is submitted with the initial application. This fee is not refundable.
- **NCEES Records** - Can be used to supplement some information in the TBPELS application such as PE references, SER, and Transcripts. This record will help to expedite PE applications including the standard applications, state reciprocity, temporary comity, and engineering educators.

Our easy to use online application and all application forms, instructions, example materials, and additional information are available on our webpage: <http://pels.texas.gov> or email us at: licensing@pels.texas.gov.

APPLY TODAY!
<http://engineers.texas.gov/app>