



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



This document was designed to assist potential candidates for enrollment as an Engineer Intern (EI) or licensure as a Professional Engineer (PE) in the State of Illinois by addressing the most common questions the Department receives. If your question is not listed here, please contact the Department's Technical Assistance line at 1.800.560.6420.

STANDARD DEFINITIONS:

- **Professional Engineer or Structural Engineer:** Illinois licenses Professional Engineers (PE) and Structural Engineers (SE) separately. *A PE in Illinois cannot perform or offer Structural services and an SE cannot perform or offer Professional Engineering services.* For SE information and applications, visit the Structural Engineering Page of the Department's website.
- **Separate Applications:** Examination registration applications submitted to Continental Testing Services (CTS) are not the same as applying for enrollment as an EI or PE Licensure. You must submit an application to the Department to be enrolled as an EI or for licensure as a PE.
- **Educational Requirement:** The educational requirements are based upon the Baccalaureate (BS) degree, not a post-graduate degree. The only approved programs are domestic EAC/ABET Baccalaureate programs. *All other programs:* Domestic non-approved graduates, Related Science curriculum and Foreign-Educated graduates must apply to the Department for Board approval, prior to taking any examination under the Illinois PE Act.
- **Engineering Technology Degree:** Pursuant to Section 1380.220 e) of the Administrative Rules, a BS Degree in Engineering Technology does not meet the educational requirements for licensure in Illinois.
- **Non-US citizen:** If you do not have a US Social Security Number, contact the Department for the appropriate affidavit form.
- **Foreign Applicants:** Must submit a credential evaluation of your BS degree from an approved provider pursuant to Section 1380.240 of the Administrative Rules and submit proof of passing the TOEFL-iBT (if applicable), pursuant to Section 1380.240 of the Administrative Rules.
- **Experience requirement:**
To be enrolled as an Engineer Intern, all non-approved program graduates must submit four (4) years of acceptable professional (non-structural) engineering experience.
For licensure as a PE, all domestic EAC/ABET graduates must submit four (4) years of acceptable professional (non-structural) engineering experience. All other applicants must submit a total of eight (8) years of acceptable professional (non-structural) engineering experience. If you are currently enrolled as an Engineer Intern in Illinois, you must submit an additional four (4) years of acceptable experience.

Question: Am I eligible to take the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Examination in Illinois?

Answer: If you are a graduate (or in your senior year) of an approved program (EAC/ABET) then you may register directly with both National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) (www.ncees.org) and CTS (www.continentaltestinginc.net) to take the FE exam. All other candidates must apply to the Department for Board approval to take the exam.

Question: I am approved to take an examination in Illinois and registered with NCEES for the exam, but MyNCEES says pending Board approval? Now what?

Answer: To be fully registered, you must register with both NCEES and CTS to take the FE exam.

Question: I recently passed the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Examination in Illinois. Now what?

Answer: To be enrolled as an Engineer Intern, submit the Mini-Application at that bottom of the score report received from CTS, the fee of \$20 payable to IDFPR and submit official transcript(s) showing the conferral date to the Department, (unless the transcript(s) were submitted to CTS for approval to sit for the exam).

If you lost your CTS score report, you must submit the current application to be enrolled as an Engineer Intern (available on the Department's website), the fee of \$20 payable to IDFPR and official transcript(s) showing the conferral date to the Department (unless the transcript(s) were submitted to CTS for approval to sit for the exam). *See the note above for experience requirements.*

Question: I passed the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Examination in a different US Jurisdiction and would like to be an Engineer Intern in Illinois. Now what?

Answer: To be enrolled as an Engineer Intern, you must submit the current application to be enrolled as an Engineer Intern (available on the Department's website), the fee of \$20 payable to IDFPR and official transcript(s) showing the conferral date and certification from the US jurisdiction that you passed the FE exam in. The certification must be completed on the Department CT-ENG form or submitted electronically through the NCEES Verification portal. The certification must contain the exam score information and the exam date. The Department does not accept MyNCEES score reports from a candidate as meeting the requirements for certification. [See experience and foreign applicant requirements on page 1.](#)

Question: Am I eligible to take the Principles and Practice Examination (PE) Examination in Illinois?

Answer: If you are a graduate of an approved program (domestic EAC/ABET) then you may register directly with both NCEES and CTS to take the PE exam.

All other applicants must apply to the Department for Board approval to take the PE exam. These applicants must submit the current application to sit for the PE exam (available on the Department's website), the fee of \$100 payable to IDFPR, official transcript(s) showing the conferral date and certification from the US jurisdiction that you passed the FE exam in. The certification must be completed on the Department CT-ENG form or submitted electronically through the NCEES Verification portal. The certification must contain the exam score information and the exam date. The Department does not accept MyNCEES score reports from a candidate as meeting the requirements for certification. [See foreign applicant requirements on page 1.](#)

Question: I recently passed both the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Examination and the Principles and Practice Examination (PE) in Illinois. Now what?

Answer: You must submit the current application for licensure as a Professional Engineer by Acceptance of Examination (available on the Department's website), the fee of \$100 payable to IDFPR, official transcript(s) showing the conferral date to the Department (unless the transcripts were submitted to CTS for approval to sit for the exam) and the required experience on the VE-PNG form.

[See experience and foreign applicant requirements on page 1.](#)

Question: I recently passed the Principles and Practice Examination (PE) in Illinois, but I passed the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Examination in a different US jurisdiction. Now what?

Answer: To be licensed as a Professional Engineer in Illinois, you must submit the current application for licensure as a Professional Engineer by Acceptance of Examination (available on the Department's website), the fee of \$100 payable to IDFPR, official transcript(s) showing the conferral date to the Department (unless the transcripts were submitted to CTS for approval to sit for the exam), the required experience and certification from the US jurisdiction that you passed the FE exam in. The certification must be completed on the Department CT-ENG form or submitted electronically through the NCEES Verification portal. The certification must contain the exam score information and the exam date. The Department does not accept MyNCEES score reports from a candidate as meeting the requirements for certification.

[See experience and foreign applicant requirements on page 1.](#)

Question: I passed both the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and Principles and Practice (PE) Examinations in a different US jurisdiction, but I am not licensed. Now what?

Answer: To be licensed as a Professional Engineer in Illinois, you must submit the current application for licensure as a Professional Engineer by Acceptance of Examination (available on the Department's website), the fee of \$100 payable to IDFPR, official transcript(s) showing the conferral date to the Department, the required experience and certification from the US jurisdiction(s) that you passed the FE and PE exam(s) in. The certification(s) must be completed on the Department CT-ENG form or submitted electronically through the NCEES Verification portal. The certification(s) must contain the exam score information and the exam date. The Department does not accept MyNCEES score reports as meeting the requirements for certification. [See experience and foreign applicant requirements on page 1.](#)

Question: I am licensed as a Professional Engineer in another US jurisdiction and want to be licensed in Illinois.

Answer: Illinois does not offer comity or reciprocity licensure for Professional Engineering. Illinois offers individuals to be licensed by **endorsement**, provided they meet Illinois specific requirements. (Referenced in the Illinois PE Rules Section 1380.280).

Requirements for PE licensure by Endorsement:

- Actively licensed as a PE in another U.S. state or territory
- Satisfy the educational requirements of Section 1380.210 for domestic EAC/ABET BS degree programs, or 1380.220 for all other BS programs.
- Pass the FE & PE Examinations
- Have the required years of experience based on your education
- See experience and foreign applicant requirements on page 1.

In order to be licensed in Illinois as a PE by endorsement, you will need to submit the following:

- An application and corresponding fee of \$100 to the Department.
- VE-PNG for your engineering experience (unless you are submitting an NCEES Record)
- Official transcripts showing conferral date for your BS degree and any other coursework or post-graduate degree you wish the Board to review.
- Exam certification/verification for the FE and PE examinations—Either via your MyNCEES account or on the CT-ENG form.
- License certification/verification for your original and current U.S. state of licensure.

*If you submit an NCEES Record, you **do not** need to submit the following:*

- Official transcript(s) showing the conferral date to the Department
- Certification from the US jurisdiction where you passed the FE and PE exams
- Certification from the US jurisdiction where you were originally licensed and the current jurisdiction of licensure.
- VE-PNG form for your professional (non-structural) engineering experience.

Question: My Illinois PE license is expired/not-renewed and I want to restore it to active status. Now what?

Answer: Applicants for restoration of their Illinois Professional Engineering license must meet the requirements of Section 1380.270 of the Administrative Rules at the time of application.

If your license has been expired for less than five (5) years, submit a written request to the Department and include the following:

- Name
- License Number
- Current Address
- Valid Email Address for department notifications, license download link and renewal notices.
- A US check totaling the amount of lapsed fees (current renewal fee for each missed renewal period and a \$50 late fee), payable to IDFP.
- Proof (*in the form of certificates or other documents – a log will not suffice*) of completion of 30 PDHs within the last 24 months prior to your request to restore pursuant to Section 1380.325 of the Administrative Rules.
- Child Support Statement – which can be one of the following (with your signature next to the statement):
 1. Child Support does not apply to me.
 2. I am current with Child Support
 3. I am not current with Child Support.

Send your request to:

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
Division of Professional Regulation
3rd Floor/Licensure Maintenance Unit
320 West Washington St.
Springfield, IL 62786

If your PE license has been expired/not-renewed for over five (5) years, contact the Department for instructions and forms to restore your license.

Question: My Illinois PE license is currently in inactive status and I want to restore it to active status. Now what?

Answer: Applicants for restoration of their Illinois Professional Engineering license must meet the requirements of Section 1380.270 of the Administrative Rules at the time of application.

If your license has been inactive for less than five (5) years, submit a written request to the Department and include the following:

- Name
- License Number
- Current Address
- Valid Email Address for department notifications, license download link and renewal notices.
- A US check in the amount of the current renewal fee, payable to IDFP.
- Proof (*in the form of certificates or other documents – a log will not suffice*) of completion of 30 PDHs within the last 24 months prior to your request to restore pursuant to Section 1380.325 of the Administrative Rules.
- Child Support Statement – which can be one of the following (with your signature next to the statement):
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Question: My Professional Design Firm is planning to do business in Illinois. Now what?

Answer: Offering/performing work in Illinois without proper license and authorization is a violation of each Design Profession Act. All firms offering professional services (Architecture, Professional Engineering, Structural Engineering and/or Land Surveying) in Illinois must be licensed by this Department as a Professional Design Firm and must also be authorized by the Illinois Secretary of State to transact business in Illinois.

You must have an individual who is licensed in Illinois who will be dedicated as a managing agent-in-charge for each profession that you wish to offer (Professional Engineering and Structural Engineering are licensed separately in Illinois and neither can offer the other's services). If offering Land Surveying, each office in Illinois must have a resident Land Surveyor, licensed in Illinois. If offering Architecture, each office in Illinois must have a resident Architect, licensed in Illinois. For an Architect, that individual must be a Director/Member/Partner and the firm must meet the 2/3rds requirements of the Act.

Steps:

1. Submit the individual's applications for licensure for each profession.
2. At the same time as #1 above, submit an application to the Illinois Secretary of State for the Authority to Transact Business in Illinois. The following is a link to the SOS website: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/>. All foreign (non-domestic to Illinois) firms must have a resident financial agent to handle the paperwork (SOS can recommend some services that offer resident financial agents – not to be confused with the managing agent-in-charge of professional services). The purpose clause(s) MUST meet the following criteria: One for each profession that your firm will be offering and all requirements of that particular Act and Administrative Rules. *Samples below.*
3. Once the individual(s) are licensed, submit the Professional Design Firm application ([Design Firm Registration](#)) with the filed papers from the Illinois SOS, the resolution of the Board/Members/Partners designating the managing agent(s), copies of the Illinois license and seal and signature, and the fee.
4. Board Resolutions (one for each profession) from the Directors/Members/Partners, stating that the individual (with license number) is designated as the managing agent. For the Architect, it must also state that the individual is a Director/Member/Partner of the Firm which must meet the 2/3rds requirement of the Architecture Act. For Architects, a listing of the Directors/Members/Partners and their active license number (either in Illinois or in another jurisdiction) of each individual. *Sample below.*

