

General Information for Civil Engineering Technology CET Students Regarding FE & PE Licensing Examinations

CET Students are able to sit down for both Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and Professional Engineering (PE) licensing examinations administered by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). The FE is the first step in becoming a licensed PE engineer. The FE test can be taken as soon as the student is classified as a senior. It is recommended to take the FE examination not later than one semester after graduation. The PE test can be taken after six years of practicing civil engineering under the supervision of a licensed PE. Students that complete a master's degree during that period of time may be able to take the test in five years instead. Students are encouraged to visit the State Engineering Board of the state you are residing at in order to become familiar with any specific details beyond what is noted on the NCEES website. In order for CET graduates to be able to sit down for licensing examinations, they have to be graduated from an ABET accredited institution for Engineering Technology programs. That is the case of our CET program. The CET program has been accredited since 1976. ABET accreditation implies that the program has the resources, faculty, administration, and facilities required to prepare individuals for employment in civil engineering type jobs. Additional information can be found at the ABET.org website.

Procedure:

- (1) Go to the NCEES website: <https://ncees.org/engineering/>
- (2) Select the state where you are planning on taking the test
- (3) Indicate which exam are you taking
- (4) Register for the test by creating an account
- (5) Follow the instructions noted on the site
- (6) Review the state engineering board requirements

National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES)

The NCEES is the organization that prepares and administers the FE and PE examinations in United States. A wealth of information is available on their website.

Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Examination

The FE examination tests your ability in fundamentals of engineering courses like math, physics, chemistry, statics, strength of materials, mechanics of fluids, principles of electrical engineering, thermodynamics, and dynamics, etc. to name a few. The best review manual is the FE Review Manual from Michael Lindberg. There is a general and a discipline specific FE test.

Professional Engineering (PE) Examination

The PE examination tests your ability in the discipline. This is your major discipline of study. The best review manual is the FE Review Manual from Michael Lindberg. There is a civil and a structural test.

What is the importance of the FE & PE examinations?

In order to approve permits for construction, civil engineers, must be licensed in the United States. Licensure gives you the ability to offer professional services as a civil engineer to the public in general. Licensure also gives you the ability to obtain leadership positions that otherwise you would not be able to get without the license. While a great career is possible without the license, more opportunities will arise as a result of having the license.

General Information for Civil Engineering Technology CET Students Regarding FE & PE Licensing Examinations

Licensing adds value and marketing power to your resume. Things like promotions, salary increases, and/or the ability to work on more complex projects at the workplace are directly related to being licensed. Licensing assures competency in the field. In the US, there are several professional professions that require licensing. Some will be mention below.

1. Law – Bar exam
2. Engineering – FE & PE exams
3. Accounting – CPA exam
4. Nursing – RN exam
5. Medicine – MD exam
6. School Teachers – Certification Exam
7. Surveyors – FS & PS exams

What is reciprocity or licensing by comity?

Engineers that are already licensed in one state may be interested in obtaining licenses in one or more states. This is possible by reciprocity or comity. Typically, engineers develop a record with the NCEES which allows them to simplify the process of applying to additional states. The process is simply filling an application and paying additional fees. Every state is different, so it is highly recommended to visit the engineering state board website of the state you are interested in obtaining another license from.

Additional Notes

It is worth mentioning that there is only one FE and PE tests for Engineering and Engineering Technology students. The avenue to becoming an engineer does not differentiate on which exam you have to take. Upon passing FE and PE licenses, either graduate will be called a license professional engineer without any particular distinctions.

Questions:

What is a PE?

What makes a PE different from an engineer?

Answers: <https://www.nspe.org/resources/licensure/what-pe>

References:

1. <https://www.nspe.org>
2. <https://ncees.org/>
3. <https://www.abet.org/>