



June 05, 2025

In This Issue

- Educational Standards for Surveyor Applicants
- 2025 Legislative Session Update
- Surveying Advisory Committee
- Focus on Compliance
- Board and Committee Meetings
- Exam News
- Outreach and Webinars



Educational Standards for Surveyor Applicants **Revised 32-Hour Coursework Checklist**

Education is a key component of the registration process for becoming a Surveyor-In-Training (SIT) and a Registered Professional Land Surveyor (RPLS). The educational prerequisites are outlined in Texas Occupations Code sections 1071.253 and 1071.254 respectively. Among these requirements is surveying specific education: either having an associate or bachelor's degree in surveying or having an associate or bachelor's degree in another area and the completion of 32 hours of education in specific topic areas related to land surveying.

To assist applicants and reviewers in verifying that coursework is appropriate to meet the educational standards, the Board has reviewed and revised the current coursework checklist. At the August 2024 Board Meeting, TBPELS approved amending rule 134.31 to adjust and modernize the 32-hour educational requirements. This new checklist requirement will be in effect starting JANUARY 1, 2026, and will impact all new SIT and RPLS applicants who submit applications after that date.

The only coursework categories allowed to meet the 32 hours are the ones listed in the statute:

Land Surveying
Land Law
Civil Engineering
Mathematics
Photogrammetry
Forestry
Physical Sciences

The new minimum hours of coursework in certain categories will be:

Land Surveying – 9 Hours
Land Law – 3 Hours
Mathematics – 6 Hours

Land surveying courses acceptable to meet this requirement may include, but are not limited to, the topics of basic surveying, advanced surveying, route surveying, engineering surveying, geospatial engineering, and geodesy.

Land Law courses acceptable to meet this requirement may include, but are not limited to, the topics of legal principles of surveying, boundary surveying evidence and boundary analysis, and Texas specific laws impacting land surveying. Courses focusing primarily on real estate laws are not acceptable.

Mathematics courses acceptable to meet this requirement may include, but are not limited to, land surveying math, college algebra, trigonometry, analytical geometry, differential and integral calculus, linear algebra, numerical analysis, probability, statistics, and advanced calculus.

2025 Legislative Session Update

The 2025 Legislative Session concluded its business on June 2, 2025. Several bills related to engineering and surveying passed and are now awaiting review by the Governor prior to becoming law. The next step for the Board is to begin working on rules to implement the anticipated changes in the law. TBPELS will communicate these proposed rule changes in the upcoming newsletters.

SB681 - Relating to the renewal of an engineering or land surveying license or registration

SB1259 - Relating to the regulation of land surveyors by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors



Surveying Advisory Committee

Membership Applications Are Open

The Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (TBPELS) is seeking qualified applicants to be considered to serve on the Surveying Advisory Committee (SAC).

If you are interested in applying for a position on the SAC and meet the requirements, please fill out the application form at: <https://pels.texas.gov/ls/sac/>

Focus on Compliance

Exploitation of Engineering Seals Through Freelancing Websites

Recently, there has been a noticeable increase in fraudulently sealed engineering work being issued through freelancing websites such as Upwork, Fiverr, and Craigslist. These platforms, traditionally used for offering gig work like Photoshop and copy editing, have started to see more engineering-related tasks being offered. To date, the Board has not seen any examples of fraudulent surveying work through these websites, though the possibility exists.

This trend exploits consumers who may not realize that these ads may not be offered by legitimate professional engineers. Procuring engineering services through freelancing websites is not a common practice, and many consumers are unaware of the potential risks involved. The fraudulent actors are challenging for the Board to track down, as we often only have an email address to go on, and many of these scams originate from overseas.

To address this issue, the Board is in communication with the Texas Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to determine options to address the problem. One thing you can do if you think a sealed document may be fraudulent is to check the engineer's license with the roster on the TBPELS website (<https://pels.texas.gov>) or contact the engineer whose seal appears on the plans to confirm its authenticity.

Additionally, there is an ongoing exploration of more secure methods to demonstrate the engineer is in professional charge beyond just the seal. This could involve new technologies or verification processes to ensure the integrity of engineering work and protect consumers from fraudulent practices.

By raising awareness and implementing stricter verification measures, the aim is to safeguard the public from fraudulent work and ensure that consumers receive legitimate and reliable services.

Board and Committee Meetings

May 14-15, 2025, Board Meeting

Agendas and recordings are available at <https://pels.texas.gov/boardmeetings.htm>



Disciplinary Actions

All enforcement actions approved by the Board are posted on the TBPELS website. Enforcement actions are reported based on the date of the Board meeting at which the actions were taken.

<http://pels.texas.gov/disciplinary.htm>

Future Meetings

The next meetings will be held on **August 13-14, 2025**. Refer to our website for agendas and links to attend the meetings.

<https://pels.texas.gov/boardmeetings.htm>

Board Meeting Recordings

Viewing the live stream or recording of the Board meetings qualifies for continuing education credit under the category of self-directed study. Engineers may accrue a maximum of five self-directed study credit hours per renewal cycle. The maximum self-directed study credit for surveyors is four hours per renewal cycle.

<https://pels.texas.gov/boardmeetings.htm>

Exams



National Engineering and Surveying Exams

All NCEES exams (PE, PS, FE, FS) are now computer-based. Refer to NCEES for specific exam dates and deadlines-

[Exam Schedule](#)

2025 TBPELS Surveyor Exam schedule

The Texas Specific Surveying Exams (TSSE and LSLS) will be offered **June 13, 2025** and **October 31, 2025**.

Please see the TBPELS website for more exam application deadlines and information - [Surveying Exam Schedule](#)

Outreach and Webinars

Schedule an Outreach

TBPELS provides online outreach presentations at no charge to license holders, associations, societies, and companies. The following guidelines are used in reviewing outreach requests:

- The default method of presentation is via webinar.
- A minimum of 50 attendees is recommended for a face-to-face presentation request.
- All requests are subject to review and approval.
- Request processing can take up to 14 working days.
- Please submit your request at least three (3) weeks prior to the proposed date of the event.
- Rescheduling will require a new request.
- Presentations are typically 1 hour in length.

Request an event by clicking on the link below:

<https://pels.texas.gov/outreach.html>



Engineer and Surveyor Ethics Webinars

The Board offers monthly one-hour, free ethics webinars to assist license and registration holders with meeting their continuing education requirements. Each webinar provides an up-to-date overview of agency activities, case studies, and a review of professional ethics topics.

The next ethics webinar will be on **July 16th** and **August 7th**. Registration for future webinars will open a month prior. Please note that each registration is capped at 1,000 attendees per webinar and will close when this cap is reached.

To sign up for an ethics webinar click link below:

<https://pels.texas.gov/webinars.html>



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Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
1917 S. Interstate 35, Austin, TX 78741
<https://pels.texas.gov>
info@pels.texas.gov
Phone: 512-440-7723

TBPELS | 1917 S Interstate 35 | Austin, TX 78741 US

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