



Educational Standards for Surveyor Applicants

Revised 32-Hour Coursework Checklist

December 2024

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 degree in surveying or having an associate or bachelor 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 that submit applications after that date.

The revised checklist consists of the following requirements:

- 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
- Minimum hours of coursework in certain categories:
 - 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.

The Board will provide the new checklist form, along with a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), on its website in early 2025. The FAQ will further explain the transition process for the checklist and for SIT and RPLS applicants.