

Licensure and Exams



Licensing Presentation Team



Lance Kinney, PE, PhD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Lance.kinney@pels.texas.gov

Rick Strong, PE
DIRECTOR – LICENSING & REGISTRATION
rick.strong@pels.texas.gov

Ed Brannan, PE
LICENSING TECH REVIEW ENGINEER
ed.brannan@pels.texas.gov

Agenda

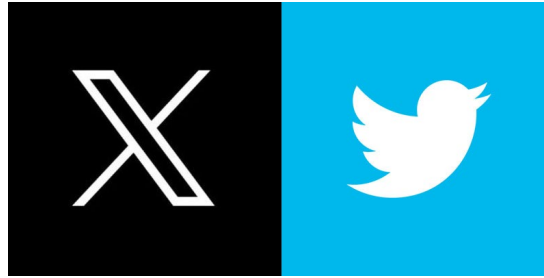


- **Overview of Agency**
- **Benefits of Licensure**
- **Licensing Application Process**
- **New Experience Process**

Website and Social Media



<http://pels.texas.gov>



History of TBPE



- Created by Texas Legislature (45R) in 1937
- New London School Explosion
 - 300 students and teachers killed
 - Result of improperly designed mechanical and electrical devices
- Established a Board to regulate the practice of engineering through licensing and rules of practice

Texas Engineering Practice Act



- Regulates practice of engineering in Texas
- Law made by legislature
- Board members appointed by Governor
- State Agency created by Act
 - Licensing
 - Enforcement
- Professional Engineers (P.E.) License
- Similar Boards in other states

TBPELS BOARD



Nine Members - Appointed by Governor

- 5 Licensed Professional Engineers
- 1 Registered Professional Land Surveyor
- 3 Public Members
- 1 Ex-Officio Representative from GLO
- Standard term is 6 years

TBPELS STAFF



■ 37 Staff members, Austin

- Lance Kinney, PhD, PE - Executive Director
- Michael Sims, PE - Compliance & Enforcement
- Rick Strong, PE - Licensing & Registration
- Mason Schoolfield- Operations

TBPELS MISSION



Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

Our mission is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Texas through the licensure and registration of qualified individuals as professional engineers and land surveyors, compliance with applicable laws and rules, and education about engineering and land surveying.

Protection of Public Health, Safety, Welfare

**Professional Practice and Responsibility
Ethics, Professionalism, Competence**

Professional Licensure

Ethics

Education

Experience

Exams

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY: ETHICS



- Protection of Public Health, Safety, Welfare
- Ethical responsibilities and expectations
 - Avoid Conflicts of Interest
 - Be a Faithful Agent
 - Be prepared to have a dissenting opinion, if necessary
 - Obligation to be aware of violations of the Acts or Board rules.

How does this protect the public?

- You are expected to know the right thing to do and to do the right thing when engaged in professional practice.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY: PROFESSIONALISM



■ Protection of Public Health, Safety, Welfare

■ Communication

- Honesty
- Clarity (not misleading)
- Respectful of all parties
- Maintain Public Trust
- Timely communication with the TBPELS

How does this protect the public?

- You are expected to be complete and correct in your practice.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY: COMPETENCE



- Competence is gained by Education and Experience; Measured by examinations
- Texas uses nationally accepted standards but considers each application independently.
- Texas does not license by discipline, but Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors must not practice outside of their competence.
 - See Board Rules §137.59(a) and §138.59(a).

Benefits of Licensure



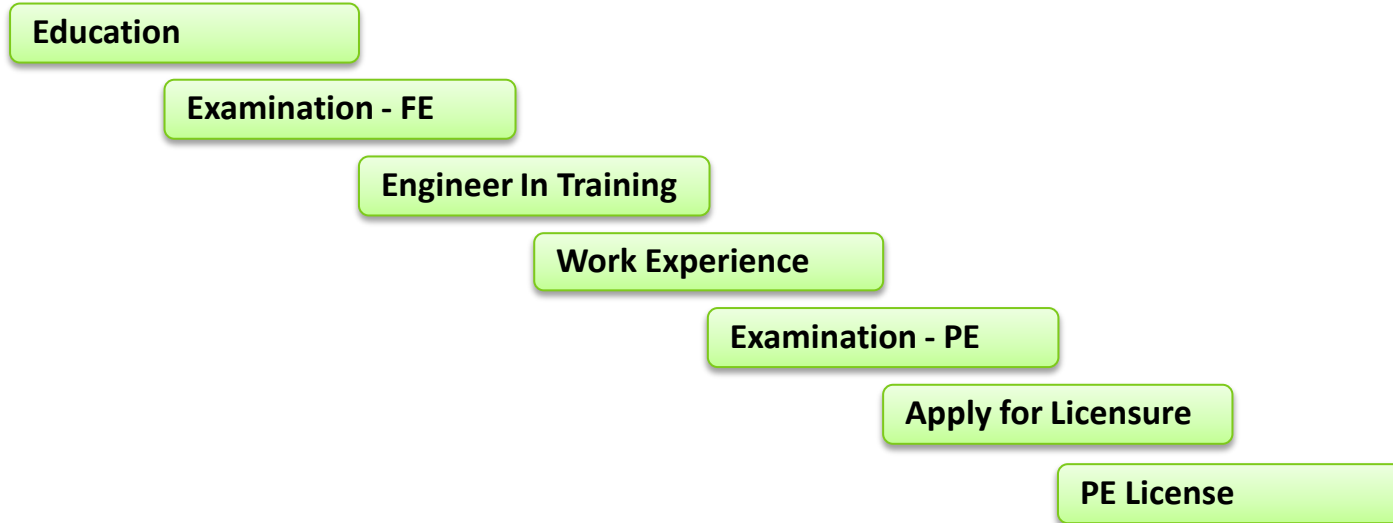
- Serves as a protection of public health, safety, and welfare.
- It shows you have accomplished a recognized standard that Sets you apart from others in your profession. (Marketability)
- “Portable” credential you can keep throughout your career.
- Law - Only Licensed Engineers Can Offer Services to the General Public
- Required for Some Positions

Benefits of Licensure



- Much More than Just Passing an Exam!
- Increased Responsibility and Authority.
- You Will be in Responsible Charge of Your Engineering Projects.
- You Will be Held Accountable for Your Actions as an Engineer.

Typical Licensure Process Flow



Required Education

Education

- EAC-ABET Accredited Engineering Programs.
- Non-Accredited Programs Including Non-ABET Engineering Degrees and Related Science degrees (Math, Sciences, Engineering Technology).
- Information concerning ABET accreditation available at www.abet.org.

Fundamentals of Engineering Exam



Examination - FE

■ Why take the FE exam? Why now?

- Prepared for the material
- Familiar with taking exams
- Targeted toward ABET graduates
- Exam Doesn't Expire – Once you pass, you pass.
- You never know when you'll want (or need) to get licensed
- Register for exam at NCEES.org
- FE Exam – may take as many times as necessary.

Computer Based Testing



Examination - FE

- Continuous Registration (24/7)
- Register online through NCEES.org
- Pay all exam-related fees directly to NCEES via credit card
- On exam day, attest to abide by rules and policies found in the NCEES Examinee Guide

Engineer in Training Certification



Engineer In Training

- Some Employers Want EIT Certification. Demonstrate Applicant is on the Path to Licensure
- Optional – Not Required for Professional Engineer License
- Must be a Texas EIT to take the PE exam early.
- Procedure:
 - Application form and \$15 fee. www.pels.texas.gov
 - Official Transcripts (degree evaluation, if foreign).
 - Exam Verification if taken outside of Texas.

PE Examination



Examination - PE

- Principles & Practices of Engineering (PE) Exam
- PE Exam – must apply to board first. Either Texas EIT or apply for Licensure.
- PE Exam – Once approved to sit for the exam you have unlimited exam attempts.

Decoupling

- Allows Texas EIT to take PE Exam prior to completing qualifying engineering experience.
 - Must Pass FE exam
 - Have a Qualifying Degree
- Does not reduce other requirements for licensure
- Complete application for licensure will be submitted when experience is acquired.

Decoupling

- You do not have to take the PE Exam early.
- Unlimited PE exam attempts
- All exam registration and payments are handled through NCEES.

PE Exam – General



Examination - PE

- Many PE Exams are offered CBT all year around
- Register through NCEES – link on TBPELS page
- Be aware of registration and application deadlines!

Application for Licensure



Apply for Licensure

- Either apply for licensure subject to passing the PE exam, or if you are a Texas EIT and have passed the PE exam, then you apply for Texas License
- Online or Download forms:
 - Online – credit card fee payment.
 - Download and mail with check.
- www.pels.texas.gov

Parts of the Application



Apply for Licensure

- PE Application (Online or Paper Form)
- Application Fee \$75 (Not refundable)
- Education - Transcripts
- Experience Record and Verifications
- PE References
- Ethics Exam on Laws and Rules
- Criminal History Records Check
- Verification of Examinations (if taken in another state)

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Required Experience

Work Experience

- 4 Years of creditable engineering work with ABET-EAC Accredited engineering Degree.
- 8 Years with Non-Accredited Degree, or qualifying Related Science degree, ABET-ETAC Engineering Technology degree.
- Experience credit for Advanced Engineering Degrees from ABET-EAC accredited programs.

Experience



Work Experience

- Job - Work for Firm or Agency that does Engineering Work.
- Engineering Experience – Design, Calculation, Analysis, Specifications, Planning for Engineering Works...
- If Possible, Work Under the Supervision of a Licensed Professional Engineer.

New Experience Record



Work Experience

- You Will Need to Document Your Experience.
- Maintain Records – Weekly, Monthly, Yearly:
 - Engineering Projects You Work on.
 - Engineering Tasks You Personally Perform.
 - Who You Work for and With.

New Experience Record



Work Experience

- Why are the experience forms and process changing?
 - The new experience reporting process has changed to provide structure and improve clarity and usability for the applicant, the mentor, the reference provider, and Board application reviewer. The new process also aligns well with the nationally accepted standards for applications.

New Experience Record



Work Experience

- When will this new process be required to apply for a Professional Engineering (PE) license in Texas?
 - New forms will be available in early October 2026
 - New forms will be required in Jan 2027
 - Applications submitted between now and Jan 2027 may use either old or new format

New Licensure Experience Model



- EXPERIENCE REPORT (Overall Experience Package – 2 parts)
 - Part 1 - Experience Summary
 - 1-2 pages per engagement
 - Describe job tasks in a general – not hyper detailed
 - **1 VERIFICATION** per engagement
 - Part 2 – Professional Competency Profile (PCP)
 - Single document to cover whole experience arc
 - Responses per category; not an open-ended narrative
 - Minimum technical items; Can skip other items you didn't do
 - **3 REFERENCES** about your overall experience (not per engagement)

New Experience Record



Work Experience

- Both Experience Summary and PCP cover my work experience. What is the difference?
- The Experience Summary demonstrates that you have the minimum number of years of qualifying experience to meet requirements for licensure.
- The Experience Summary allows a board reviewer to verify the **quality and quantity** of the experience claimed.

New Experience Record



Work Experience

- Both Experience Summary and PCP cover my work experience. What is the difference?
 - The PCP is a description of experience across all of your engagements to demonstrate **competency in a number of categories related to professional practice**.
 - The PCP allows a board reviewer and reference provider to determine the suitability of an **applicant for professional licensure at the time of application**.

Part 1 – Experience Summary - Example

Submitted by Applicant

Submitted by Verifiers

Engagement 1 – 1 year

Experience Verification: by a Supervisor, PE, or HR

Engagement 2 – 1 year

Experience Verification: by a Supervisor, PE, or HR

Engagement 3 – 2 years

Experience Verification: by a Supervisor, PE, or HR

Total Experience = 4 years

Part 2 – Professional Competency Profile

Submitted by Applicant

Submitted by References

**Professional
Competency Profile
(PCP)**

- by Categories
- over whole
experience timeline

PE Reference #1

PE Reference #2

PE Reference #3

Total Experience = 4 years

Professional Competency Profile Format – Pt 2



Competency 1: General Engineering Knowledge

Competency 2: Engineering Application and Technical Ability

- Analysis
- Design

Competency 3: Professional Practice and Management

- Planning
- Scheduling
- Budgets and Contracts
- Project Control
- Teamwork
- Risk Management

Professional Competency Profile Format – Pt 2



■ Competency 4: Communication

- Verbal
- Written

■ Competency 5: Professional and Personal Attribute

- Ethics
- Regulatory
- Continuing Education

■ Competency 6: Other Pertinent Information (optional)

■ Competency 7: Discipline-Specific Competencies (if required)

New Experience Record

Work Experience

- What is the difference between an experience Verifier and a Reference Provider?
 - A Verifier is a person that can verify your employment and engineering experience at a place of work.
 - A Reference Provider is a PE that can verify your current competencies and suitability for licensure.
 - A Verifier can be the same individual as a Reference Provider as long as they meet the respective requirements.

New Experience Record



Work Experience

■ Can I use the NCEES record to meet the requirements for the Experience Summary and the PCP?

- Yes, if you complete the NCEES Record process and transmit your Record to TBPELS, we can use that information in lieu of the TBPELS forms. Note that TBPELS reviewers may request additional clarifying information if necessary.

Thank You

Questions and Answers

- ▶ pels.texas.gov
- ▶ licensing@pels.texas.gov
- ▶ 1917 S Interstate 35, Austin, TX 78741
- ▶ Phone: 512-440-7723

