Four Alternative Paths to Professional Engineering Licensure

Six years of progressive engineering experience is required before taking the PE exam in addition to the educations requirements described below. Passing the Fundamentals of Engineering is required in addition to the education and experience.

Current NCEES Model Law: Master's Or Equivalent

Passed by NCEES in 2006; implementation planned to begin in 2020.

Provides 3 pathways to qualifying for applying for professional licensure:

1. A baccalaureate degree from an EAC/ABET-accredited program plus a master's degree in engineering from an institution which offers EAC/ABET programs;
2. A baccalaureate degree from an EAC/ABET-accredited program plus 30 additional credits of acceptable coursework from approved course providers; or
3. A baccalaureate degree plus a master's degree from an EAC/ABET-accredited program.

In the above pathways, EAC/ABET refers to the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, which accredits engineering programs. The qualifications for the additional coursework is not settled to date. However, for this online poll assume the following proposed alternatives: (1) university courses; (2) courses that meet accreditation standards of nationally recognized authorities (e.g., NCEES).

NCEES Engineering Education Task Force Alternative #1: 150 hr B.S. degree

Candidates earning a B.S. degree from an ABET-accredited bachelor's program that requires a minimum of 150 credit hours to become licensed. To be eligible, the program must have at least 115 credit hours of math, science, and engineering, with at least 75 of the 115 hours in engineering.

NCEES Engineering Education Task Force Alternative #2: Structured Mentoring

A candidate would earn a B.S. degree from an ABET-accredited program and then complete a prescribed number of technical development units and six years of experience with structured mentoring. In this mentoring program, the candidate would be required to meet with and document structured mentoring hours with one or more senior P.E.s in his/her firm or P.E.s practicing in the applicants desired area of practice. Alternatively, the candidate can participate in a mentoring program offered by his/her technical or professional society.

Current California Requirements

The six years experience required is a balance between education and work; the more education, the less work and visa versa. The education options include:

- Four years credit for graduation with an engineering degree from a college or university the curriculum of which has been approved by the board;
- Two years credit for graduation with an engineering degree from a nonapproved engineering curriculum or graduation with an engineering technology degree in an approved engineering technology curriculum;
- Postsecondary study in an engineering curriculum up to a maximum of four years credit;
- Teaching engineering up to one year credit.