



**California Board for Professional Engineers,
Land Surveyors, and Geologists**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)
REGARDING GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS
LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS**

October 2019

DISCLAIMER

This document has been prepared in an attempt to address common questions asked by applicants. It is not intended to be an all-inclusive summary of the laws and regulations. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this publication, it does not have legal effect. Should any difference or error occur, the laws and regulations will take precedence. The full text of the law and regulations, are available [here](#) on the Board's website.

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1.0 - DEFINITIONS

ABET: “ABET” means ABET, Inc., formerly known as the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology [CCR §404(a)]. For more information, visit the [ABET website](#).

Accreditation, Institution Level: Accreditation is a review process to determine if an academic entity meets defined standards of quality. Most colleges and universities in the United States participate in institutional level accreditation (i.e. accreditation of the entire school). For more information, visit the [U.S. Department of Education accreditation website](#).

Accreditation, Program Level: Individual departments and programs within a college or university may elect to voluntarily participate in program level accreditation specific to their discipline.

Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (BPELSG or the “Board”): Regulatory entity that protects public safety by promoting standards for competence and integrity through licensing and regulating the Board’s professions. The Board is a semi-autonomous body whose members are appointed by the Governor and Legislature.

Civil Engineering Work (as it relates to the definition of engineering geology): Refer to the definition of civil engineering in section 6731 of the Business and Professions Code (The Professional Engineers Act).

Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA): The state agency that protects consumers by regulating businesses and professions. DCA includes 41 regulatory entities (boards, bureaus, committees, programs, commissions) including BPELSG.

Earth Science: An all-embracing term for sciences related to the Earth (analogous, in educational parlance, to “life science”). It is occasionally used as a synonym for geology or geological sciences, but its usage is misleading because in its wider scope, earth science may be considered to include such subjects as meteorology, physical oceanography, soil chemistry, and agronomy. CF: Geological Sciences (“Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition”, American Geological Institute, 2005, page 199).

Engineering Geology: The application of geologic data, principles and interpretation so that geologic factors affecting planning, design, construction, maintenance and vulnerability of civil engineering works are properly recognized and utilized [CCR §3003(b)].

Geological Sciences: Any of the subsidiary specialties that are part of the science of geology; e.g., geophysics, geochemistry, paleontology, petrology, etc. CF: Earth Science (“Glossary of Geology, 5th Edition”, American Geological Institute, 2005, page 266).

Geologist and Geophysicist Act: The California laws regulating the practices of geology and geophysics in California. The Geologist and Geophysicist Act is statutory law enacted by the legislature and is codified in Business and Professions Code (BPC) §§7800-7887.

Geology: The science which treats of the earth in general; investigation of the earth's crust and the rocks and other materials that compose it; and the applied science of utilizing knowledge of the earth and its constituent rocks, minerals, liquids, gases and other materials for the benefit of mankind [BPC §7802].

Geophysics: The science which involves study of the physical earth by means of measuring its natural and induced fields of force, including, but not limited to, electric, gravity, and magnetic, and its responses to natural and induced energy and the interpreting of these measurements and the relating of them to the physics of the earth [BPC §7802.1].

Hydrogeology: The application of the science of geology to the study of the occurrence, distribution, quantity and movement of water below the surface of the earth, as it relates to the interrelationships of geologic materials and processes with water, with particular emphasis given to groundwater quality [CCR §3003(h)].

National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG): A not for profit organization that provides a forum for individual state geology licensing boards to share information. One of ASBOG's principal services is to develop written national exams for determining qualification of applicants seeking licensure as professional geologists. For more information, visit the [ASBOG website](#).

Regulations Relating to the Practices of Geology and Geophysics: Regulations are rules issued by government departments or agencies to carry out laws. Administrative agencies such as the Board, adopt, amend and repeal regulations in order to clarify and make specific statutory provisions under the authority granted to them by either constitutional provisions or statutes. The regulations relating to the practices of geology and geophysics are in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 16, Division 29 §§ 3000-3067.

Responsible Charge: Independent control and direction by the use of initiative, skill and independent judgment of geological or geophysical work or the supervision of such work [BPC §7805].

2.0 - TYPES OF LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

2.1 Geologist-in-Training (GIT) Certificate

What is a Geologist-in-Training (GIT) certificate?

The GIT certificate signifies that the holder has passed the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) Fundamentals of Geology (FG) exam and has met the other qualifying requirements (see next question). The certificate is issued in recognition of this achievement. It is **not** a license to practice geology. The use of the title is restricted to those who have passed the ASBOG FG exam and been issued a GIT certificate in California.

How do I qualify for the GIT certificate?

An applicant for certification as a Geologist-in-Training shall comply with the requirements specified in the Geologist and Geophysicist Act §7841.2 as described below:

- (a) Not have committed acts or crimes constituting grounds for denial of certification under Section 480.
- (b) Successfully pass the Fundamentals of Geology examination.
- (c) Meet **either** of the following education requirements fulfilled at a school or university whose curricula meet criteria established by the rules of the Board:
 - (1) Graduation from a college or university with a major in geological sciences or any other discipline that, in the opinion of the Board, is relevant to geology.
 - (2) Completion of a combination of at least 30 semester hours, or the equivalent, in courses that, in the opinion of the Board, are relevant to geology. At least 24 semester hours, or the equivalent, shall be in upper division or graduate courses.

Can I take the ASBOG FG exam to get my GIT certificate before I graduate?

Yes, as long as you have completed a combination of at least 30 semester hours, or the equivalent, in courses that, in the opinion of the Board are relevant to geology. At least 24 semester hours, or the equivalent, shall be in upper division or graduate courses. The ASBOG FG exam is the only exam you can take prior to completing your work experience.

2.2 Professional Geologist (PG) License

What is a Professional Geologist (PG) license?

A Professional Geologist license is the formal permission from the State of California for an individual to practice geology for others in this state. It is required by law.

Does the Board have a temporary license category that will allow a geologist licensed in another jurisdiction to practice in California?

No.

What is the practice of geology “for others”?

The Practice of Geology or Geophysics is defined in [Section 3003\(f\) of the regulations](#).

The practice of geology or geophysics "for others" includes but is not limited to the performance of geological or geophysical services by any individual, firm, partnership, corporation or other association or by the employees or staff members thereof, whether or not the principal business of such organization is the practice of geology or geophysics, when the geological or geophysical reports, documents or exhibits constituting the practice of geology or geophysics are disseminated or made available to the public or any individual or combination of individuals other than the employees or staff of such organization in such a manner that the public or said individual or combination of individuals may reasonably be expected to rely thereon or be affected thereby.

This applies to governmental entities including any commission, board, department, district or division of the state or any political subdivision thereof or of any county, city or other public body or by the employees or staff members of such commission, board, department, district or division of the state or any political subdivision thereof or of any county, city or other public body. Officers and employees of the United States of America practicing solely as such officers or employees are exempt from California licensure requirements.

How do I qualify for a Professional Geologist (PG) license in California?

An applicant for licensure as a Professional Geologist shall comply with the requirements specified in Business and Professions Code section 7841 as described below:

(a) Not have committed any acts or crimes constituting grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480.

(b) Meet **either** of the following educational requirements fulfilled at a school or university whose curricula meet criteria established by rules of the board:

(1) Graduation from a college or university with a major in geological sciences or any other discipline that, in the opinion of the board, is relevant to geology.

(2) Completion of a combination of at least 30 semester hours, or the equivalent, in courses that, in the opinion of the board, are relevant to geology. At least 24 semester hours, or the equivalent, shall be in upper division or graduate courses.

(c) Have a documented record of a minimum of five years of professional geological experience of a character satisfactory to the board, demonstrating that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of this work upon licensure as a geologist. This experience shall be gained under the supervision of a geologist or geophysicist licensed in this or any other state, or under the supervision of others who, in the opinion of the Board, have the training and experience to have responsible charge of geological work. Professional geological work does not include routine sampling, laboratory work, or geological drafting.

Each year of undergraduate study in the geological sciences shall count as one-half year of training up to a maximum of two years, and each year of graduate study or research counts as a year of training.

Teaching in the geological sciences at college level shall be credited year for year toward meeting the requirement in this category, provided that the total teaching experience includes six semester units per semester, or equivalent if on the quarter system, of upper division or graduate courses.

Credit for undergraduate study, graduate study, and teaching, individually, or in any combination thereof, shall in no case exceed a total of three years towards meeting the requirement for at least five years of professional geological work as set forth above.

The ability of the applicant shall have been demonstrated by the applicant having performed the work in a responsible position, as the term "responsible position" is defined in regulations adopted by the board. The adequacy of the required supervision and experience shall be determined by the board in accordance with standards set forth in regulations adopted by it.

(d) Successfully pass a written examination that incorporates a national examination for geologists created by a nationally recognized entity approved by the board, and a supplemental California specific examination. The California specific examination shall test the applicant's knowledge of state laws, rules and regulations, and of seismicity and geology unique to practice within this state.

Do I have to get a GIT certificate before I can apply for the Professional Geologist (PG) license?

No. The GIT certification is an optional step. Obtaining a GIT certificate shows that the holder has passed the FG exam and met certain educational requirements, which are the first steps to becoming licensed as a PG. You may apply for the PG license without having a GIT certificate or having already passed the FG exam.

Can I get a GIT certificate if I pass the FG exam but don't pass the PG and CSE exams?

Yes. However, the certificate will not be sent automatically to PG license applicants. PG applicants who wish to receive the GIT certificate for passing the FG exam should contact the Board to request the certificate.

2.3 Professional Geophysicist (PGP) License

What is a Professional Geophysicist (PGP) license?

A Professional Geophysicist (PGP) license is the formal permission from the State of California for an individual to practice geophysics for others in this state. It is required by law.

Does the Board have a temporary license category that will allow a geophysicist licensed in another jurisdiction to practice in California?

No.

Is there a Geophysicist-in-Training certificate?

No.

What is the practice of geophysics "for others"?

The Practice of Geology or Geophysics is defined in [Section 3003\(f\) of the regulations](#).

The practice of geology or geophysics "for others" includes but is not limited to the performance of geological or geophysical services by any individual, firm, partnership, corporation or other association or by the employees or staff members thereof, whether or not the principal business of such organization is the practice of geology or geophysics, when the geological or geophysical reports, documents or exhibits constituting the practice of geology or geophysics are disseminated or made available to the public or any individual or combination of individuals other than the employees or staff of such organization in such a manner that the public or said individual or combination of individuals may reasonably be expected to rely thereon or be affected thereby.

This applies to governmental entities including any commission, board, department, district or division of the state or any political subdivision thereof or of any county, city or other public body or by the employees or staff members of such commission, board, department, district or division of the state or any political subdivision thereof or of any county, city or other public body.

How do I qualify for a Professional Geophysicist (PGP) license in California?

An applicant for licensure as a Professional Geophysicist shall comply with the requirements specified in Business and Professions Code section 7841.1 as described below:

- (a) Not have committed any acts or crimes constituting grounds for denial of licensure under Section 480.
- (b) Meet **one of the following** educational requirements fulfilled at a school or university whose curricula meet criteria established by rules of the board.
 - (1) Graduation with a major in a geophysical science or any other discipline that, in the opinion of the board, is relevant to geophysics.
 - (2) Completion of a combination of at least 30 semester hours, or the equivalent, in courses that, in the opinion of the board, are relevant to geophysics. At least 24 semester hours, or the equivalent, shall be in the third or fourth year, or graduate courses.
- (c) Have at least seven years of professional geophysical work that shall include either a minimum of three years of professional geophysical work under the supervision of a professional geophysicist, except that prior to July 1, 1973, professional geophysical work shall qualify under this subdivision if it is under the supervision of a qualified geophysicist, or a minimum of five years' experience in responsible charge of professional geophysical work. Professional geophysical work does not include the routine maintenance or operation of geophysical instruments, or, even if carried out under the responsible supervision of a professional geophysicist, the routine reduction or plotting of geophysical observations.

Each year of undergraduate study in the geophysical sciences referred to in this section shall count as one-half year of training up to a maximum of two years, and each year of graduate study or research counts as a year of training.

Teaching in the geophysical sciences referred to in this section at a college level shall be credited year for year toward meeting the requirement in this category, provided that the total teaching experience includes six semester units per semester, or equivalent if on the quarter system, of the third or fourth year or graduate courses.

Credit for undergraduate study, graduate study, and teaching, individually, or in any combination thereof, shall in no case exceed a total of four years towards meeting the requirements for at least seven years of professional geophysical work as set forth above.

The ability of the applicant shall have been demonstrated by his or her having performed the work in a responsible position, as the term "responsible position" is defined in regulations adopted by the board. The adequacy of the required supervision

and experience shall be determined by the board in accordance with standards set forth in regulations adopted by it.

(d) Successfully pass a written examination that shall test the applicant's knowledge of state laws, rules, and regulations, and of the principles and practices of geophysics within this state. The Board shall administer the test on the state laws and the board's rules and regulations as a separate part of the examination for licensure as a geophysicist.

2.4 Geology Specialty Certifications (CEG/CHG)

What is certification in a specialty of geology?

A licensed Professional Geologist can apply to the Board for a specialty certification in accordance with Section 7842 of the Geologist and Geophysicist Act. A specialty certification is a title authority license. That means that only the use of the title is restricted by law, not the practice of the profession, and only those individuals issued the specialty certification may use the title associated with it.

What geology specialty certifications does the Board offer?

The Board offers two specialty certifications: Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG) and Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG).

Can a Professional Geologist practice engineering geology or hydrogeology without a specialty certification?

Yes. Any California licensed geologist can practice engineering geology or hydrogeology under their Professional Geologist practice authority license provided they are competent to do so. However, they cannot use the protected titles Certified Engineering Geologist or Certified Hydrogeologist or the abbreviations CEG or CHG.

How do I qualify for a geology specialty certification in California?

An applicant for a geology specialty shall comply with the requirements specified in Business and Professions Code section 7842:

(a) An applicant for certification in a specialty in geology shall meet all of the requirements of Section 7841, shall be a geologist licensed under this chapter, and, in addition, his or her seven years of professional geological work shall include one of the following:

(1) A minimum of three years performed under the supervision of a geologist certified in the specialty for which the applicant is seeking certification or under the supervision of a licensed civil engineer if the applicant is seeking certification as an engineering geologist, except that prior to July 1, 1970, professional

geological work shall qualify under this subdivision if it is performed under the supervision of a geologist qualified in the specialty for which the applicant is seeking certification or under the supervision of a licensed civil engineer if the applicant is seeking certification as an engineering geologist.

(2) A minimum of five years' experience in responsible charge of professional geological work in the specialty for which the applicant is seeking certification.

- (b) In addition to meeting the requirements of subdivision (a), an applicant for certification in a specialty of geology shall successfully pass a written examination in that specialty.

Can I apply for the PG license and a specialty certification at the same time?

Yes, as long as you meet all the qualification requirements (education and experience) for each license. You must submit separate applications, and pay separate application and exam fees for each application. However, if you do not pass all of the PG exams and you pass the CEG/CHG exam, you will not be issued the CEG/CHG certification until you pass the three (3) PG exams and have been issued a PG license.

3.0 - GENERAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Does the Board require applicants to be fingerprinted?

Yes. View the [Fingerprinting FAQs](#) on the Board's website for fingerprinting questions.

I have already applied for the GIT, and now I am applying for the PG. Do I need to resubmit my transcripts or fingerprints? What if I have previously applied for the PG and now I am applying for a specialty certification?

No. You only need to submit transcripts if you have completed additional education since the last time you submitted your transcripts. If you have previously satisfied the fingerprint requirement, you do not have to resubmit new fingerprints. Please mark the "I submitted my Live Scan Form/Fingerprint Cards with a prior application" box on the first page of the application. View the [Fingerprinting FAQs](#) on the Board's website for fingerprinting information.

Should I submit my résumé, thesis, reports or published papers with my application?

Do not submit any documents that are not requested on the application form. If the Board determines that supplemental information or documentation is necessary to process your application, Board staff will contact you.

What if my name has changed?

If the name on your documents (transcripts, etc.) doesn't match the name on your application, please use the comments section of the application to provide an explanation. You do not need to submit copies of your marriage license, legal name change, etc. If you are already licensed, submit a [Name Change Affidavit](#).

Do I have to be a U.S. Citizen or a resident of California to apply for a GIT, PG, or PGP?

Neither U.S. Citizenship nor California residency is required.

Do I have to include my social security number or individual taxpayer identification number on my application?

Yes. You must provide your social security number or individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN) or your application will NOT be processed. For more information, please visit the [Information Collection, Access and Disclosure](#) page on the Board's website.

Must the application form be typewritten?

You are strongly encouraged to submit a typewritten application. Handwritten applications are often difficult to read which can cause errors and may delay the processing of your application.

Can I get a copy of the old application that I submitted previously?

Once received by the Board, the application and supporting documents are considered the property of the Board. You are encouraged to make photocopies of the application before submitting to the Board.

Do I need to submit everything with my application?

Yes. Submit all required documentation and fees with your application. If you submit transcripts or references separately from your application, it can cause delays in application processing, which can cause you to miss your preferred exam date. The Board processes thousands of applications each cycle, and documents that are submitted separately are difficult to match up with the appropriate application.

What are the application fees and exam fees?

Check the [Applicants Fee Schedule](#) or the license application form.

Do I need to pay an application fee when I submit a re-exam form?

No, the application fee is only required for new applications. Submit the fees for the exam(s) you wish to re-take with the re-exam form.

What forms of payment are accepted for application and exam fees?

Submit a personal check, bank draft or money order made payable to the Department of Consumer Affairs along with the application. If an applicant's check is returned because of insufficient funds, processing of the application will cease until a valid replacement (e.g. cashier's check or money order) is received. This may cause an applicant to miss their preferred exam cycle.

When must I file my application or re-exam form?

The new application and re-exam form final filing dates are located on the [Examination Schedule](#) available on the Board's website.

How does the Board determine if my application was filed by the specified final filing date?

Fees and applications transmitted through the United States mail shall be deemed to have been filed on the date of the postmark. Application materials transmitted through other delivery services will be verified by the sent date on the delivery service label. If you hand deliver your application, please ask for a receipt to document the date your application was received by the Board.

Will the Board notify me when my application or supporting documentation is received?

No. Use a mailing or delivery service that provides a tracking number so you can verify delivery yourself.

Is my application approved yet? Can I get the status of my application?

The Board receives a high volume of applications. Please do not contact the Board for status updates. You will receive periodic status updates to the email address listed on your application. If Board staff have questions or need additional information, you will be contacted via email. You should regularly check your email inbox and your email spam folder.

How long before the exam will an applicant know if he or she is authorized to take it?

Approved applicants will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) notice (for state specific exams) and/or Exam Tickets and Exam Instructions (for ASBOG exams) via email 4-6 weeks prior to the exam date(s). If you do not receive your notice(s) via email, you should contact the Board for instructions.

What happens if the Board finds that an applicant is not qualified for licensing or certification?

The Board will notify the applicant by letter that the application was not approved. Application fees are not refundable and are expended by the processing and evaluation of each application submitted. The Board will refund the exam fees.

If the Board determines that I don't have enough work experience to obtain my PG license and take the required exams, can I convert my application to a GIT certificate application if I meet the GIT requirements?

Yes. The Board staff will contact you during the technical review to advise you of your options for converting your application from a PG license application to a GIT certificate application if you meet the qualifications for a GIT.

May an applicant appeal if he or she is found not qualified to become licensed?

If the Board denies your application, you will be notified in writing of the reasons for the denial and your options for appealing the denial.

What happens if an applicant is approved for an exam, but they are unable to appear for the exam as scheduled? Can they postpone the exam?

Postponements are only granted for unforeseen emergency/urgent reasons. Postponement requests should be submitted using the [Postponement Form](#) along with supporting documentation. Read the [Postponement Form](#) for additional information and instructions.

What happens if I do not show up for an exam and I did not receive a postponement?

If you do not show up for a scheduled exam and a postponement was not approved, you will forfeit your application fee, and a portion of your exam fee(s) in accordance with California Code of Regulations section 3024(d).

What constitutes an abandoned application?

Applications are considered abandoned under the following circumstances:

- An applicant fails to respond within 6 months to a Board request for additional information concerning the applicant's educational background or professional work experience.
- An approved applicant fails to take the license exam during the initially selected exam date or within two exam cycles after that initially selected exam date without obtaining a postponement.

Abandoned applications may be destroyed after notifying the applicant.

Do I need to fill out another form to receive my GIT certificate, PG license, PGP license or specialty certification (CHG/CEG) once I have passed the required exam(s)?

No. Your license or certificate will automatically be mailed to your address of record if you pass the required exam(s) and have met all other licensure requirements.

When will I get my license or certificate after I pass the required exams?

The Board issues licenses twice per month. Approximately 2-4 weeks after the exam results are released, your name and license number should appear on the [license lookup](#) feature of the Board's website (for PG, PGP, CEG and CHG licenses/certifications). This is the first place you will see that you have been licensed. You are not licensed until you are issued your license number.

Approximately 6-8 weeks after your name and license number appears on license lookup you will receive your wallet card and wall certificate in separate mailings (sent to the address of record provided on your application). If you do not receive them after 8 weeks, please contact the Board.

Since the GIT certificate is not a license, the GIT number will not appear on the website and no wallet card will be issued. Wall certificates will be mailed approximately 6-8 weeks after exam results are released.

What can the Board do to expedite the license process for active duty military or their spouses?

The Board can expedite the license process for active duty military or their spouses pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 115.4, 115.5 and 115.6. Additional information is located on the Board's website [here](#).

What if I have additional questions not answered in this document?

Visit the [Contact Us page](#) on the Board's website to find the appropriate staff to answer your question.

4.0 – EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 General Information

How do I document the required education?

The Board requires submittal of original transcripts from all applicants.

Can I submit electronic transcripts?

Yes. Please contact the Board for specific instructions for doing so. The transcripts must be emailed directly to your Licensing Evaluator or to the Board's Registrar, not to you as the applicant. The Board will print out the documents for your file.

My school doesn't document courses in semester hours. How do I figure out if I have the required amount of coursework?

If your college or university uses a different credit system, you will have to convert the units to semester hours in order to determine if you have the required semester hours. Some schools will list the most common conversions on the transcript legend. If your transcript doesn't include a conversion, contact your school registrar for assistance.

How do I know which classes are upper division?

In general, upper division courses are junior or senior level classes that require a prerequisite. Most colleges and universities have a course numbering system that clearly identifies which courses are lower division or upper division. The course numbering system is usually included in the transcript legend. If it isn't, check your school catalog or contact your school registrar for information.

Will the Board pre-review my transcripts for me before I apply?

No. If you are uncertain about whether your education meets the requirements, you should contact your college or university advisor for assistance.

How do I know if my school has institution level accreditation, or if my school's geoscience department has program level accreditation?

Accreditation status may be listed on the legend that comes with your transcripts. If it isn't included on the transcripts, most schools have information on both institution level and program level accreditation listed on their website. You can also contact your school's registrar for assistance, or visit the [ABET website](#) to look up your school.

4.2 Geologist-in-Training (GIT) and Professional Geologist (PG)

What degrees are acceptable for the PG in accordance with §7841(b)(1) and for the GIT in accordance with §7841.2 (c)(1)?

As defined in the regulations [§3022(a)(1)], graduation from a college or university with a major in geological sciences or any other discipline relevant to geology, refers to graduation with a baccalaureate degree or higher in geology or a related geological science, from a program accredited by the Applied and Natural Science Accreditation Commission of ABET Inc. [§3022(a)(1)].

I don't have an ABET program level accredited degree. Can I still apply for a PG or GIT?

Yes. The law provides two educational pathways to qualify. If your degree is not ABET accredited, you can qualify under the “30 semester hours/24 upper division or graduate” rule described in §7841(b)(2) and §7841.2 (c)(2).

Does the Board have a list of required classes that must be part of the “30 semester hours” for the PG and GIT requirements in accordance with §7841(b)(2) and §7841.2(c)(2)?

The Board does not provide a list of “required classes.” However, there is a list of minimum coursework described in the regulations §3022(a)(2). The regulations are located on the Board’s website [here](#).

Review the definitions in the regulation to evaluate whether your courses meet the requirements. It is your responsibility to understand the coursework definitions and requirements before applying.

Please note that additional geologic coursework necessary to meet the total 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours requirement may be selected at the applicant’s discretion but must be relevant to geology as defined in the Geologist and Geophysicist Act.

What if I submitted a PG or GIT application prior to the date that §3022 of the regulations went into effect?

Please review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)-Updates to the Geologist and Geophysicist Licensure Requirements document.

Can I use combined courses, independent study courses, research projects, theses or dissertations to satisfy the coursework requirements?

Yes. However, you will be required to provide sufficient documentation to substantiate that these types of courses satisfy one or more of the coursework requirements described in the regulations. Please [contact](#) the Board’s Senior Registrar for Geology and Geophysics for instructions specific to your situation.

Can I use workshops, professional development seminars, conferences, non-credit certificate programs, student internships or reading courses to satisfy the coursework requirements?

No. If you are not sure whether your coursework fits into these definitions, please [contact](#) the Board's Senior Registrar for Geology and Geophysics for assistance.

4.3 Professional Geophysicist (PGP)

What degrees are acceptable for the PGP requirements in accordance with §7841.1(b)(1)?

Graduation with a major in geophysical science or any other discipline that, in the opinion of the Board, is relevant to geophysics. This requirement must be fulfilled at a college or university which, at the time the applicant was enrolled, was accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting commission (institution level accreditation) [§3022.1(a)(1)].

I don't have a geophysics degree. Can I still apply for the PGP?

Yes. The law provides two educational pathways to qualify. You can qualify under the "30 semester hours/24 upper division or graduate" rule described in §7841.1(b)(2).

Does the Board have a list of required classes that must be part of the "30 semester hours" for the PGP in accordance with §7841.1(b)(2)?

No. Please note that courses used to satisfy the requirements in §7841.1(b)(2) must be taken at a college or university which, at the time the applicant was enrolled, was accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting commission (institution level accreditation) [§3022.1(a)(1)].

4.4 Geology Specialty Certifications (CHG/CEG)

Are there any additional education requirements for the geology specialty certifications?

No. There are no additional education requirements for the geology specialty certifications (CHG/CEG). These license types are only available to licensed geologists, and the education requirements applicable to the PG license are evaluated when a person applies for the PG license.

5.0 - DOCUMENTING EXPERIENCE

5.1 General Information

What constitutes satisfactory evidence of qualifying experience?

To assist the Board in evaluating an applicant's qualifications, each applicant for licensure as a professional geologist or as a professional geophysicist shall submit documentation from a minimum of three (3) references who in the opinion of the Board have the training and experience to have responsible charge of geological work as described in Section 3022(b)(1) or geophysical work as defined in Section 3022.1(b), respectively. Use the [Independent Evaluation of Scope, Character and Duration of Applicant's Qualifying Geological or Geophysical Work Experience](#) (reference) document available on the Board's website.

Applicants for a geology specialty certificate must also submit three (3) references [§3041 and §3042].

Please note that these are technical references, not employment references and not character references. The purpose of the reference is to describe and document the applicant's qualifying professional geological or professional geophysical tasks, project role, decisions etc. in detail sufficient to encompass the time period for experience being claimed. Extraneous information about the applicant's character or whether the applicant is a good employee should not be included.

The references should be prepared by the person providing the reference, not by the applicant.

What type of information should be included by the reference provider?

To ensure that all requirements are met, use the [Independent Evaluation of Scope, Character and Duration of Applicant's Qualifying Geological or Geophysical Work Experience](#) (reference) document available on the Board's website. As described in Section 3022.2(a)(3) of the regulations, the documentation must include the following information:

- The reference must state that they have personal knowledge of the applicant's qualifying experience in a responsible position as defined in Section 3003(c), and must clearly indicate the nature of their relationship with the applicant;
- The reference must clearly indicate the number of months they can qualify the applicant as having completed professional geological work as defined in Section 3003(d) or professional geophysical work as defined in Section 3003(e);
- The reference must document how they computed the number of months of qualifying work experience using the definition of full-time work provided in Sections 3022(b)(2) and 3022.1(b)(1);

- The reference must provide a detailed, complete and accurate description of the qualifying professional geological experience or professional geophysical work completed by the applicant;
- The work experience description must cover the time period being documented as qualifying experience by the reference;
- The reference must use the appropriate scientific terms in describing the work, while avoiding colloquialisms, industry jargon, and slang; and,
- The reference must include the following statement:

“I certify under penalty of perjury that these statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.”

How should the amount of time for qualifying experience be established?

Professional geological experience or geophysical experience is based on actual time worked not to exceed 40 hours per week. Additional credit for “overtime” is not allowed. Qualifying experience should be documented as follows:

- Qualifying experience is counted from the date on which the applicant first began working at a professional level and was performing geological or geophysical tasks. Please refer to the definitions of geology, engineering geology, hydrogeology and geophysics in the laws and regulations.
- Part-time graduate study or teaching, and part-time professional work experience will be prorated by the Board and combined on a 12-calendar month basis.
- The reference should provide a good faith estimate of the amount of time that an applicant has spent on qualifying professional geological or professional geophysical work experience. For example, if the applicant spends part of their time doing administrative tasks, and part of the time doing professional geological or professional geophysical work, only the professional geological or professional geophysical work should be counted.
- For multidisciplinary fields, the reference must estimate the amount of time that qualifies as geology or geophysics. Tasks that do not meet the definition of geology, engineering geology, hydrogeology or geophysics do not count toward the experience requirement. For example, environmental work is multidisciplinary and includes many tasks such as project management, biology, toxicology, engineering, chemistry and geology to name a few. The portion of the environmental work that meets the definition of geology would be counted toward an applicant’s work experience for a PG license. The non-geology tasks do not count toward the applicant’s work experience.

How should the references be submitted to the Board?

References should provide applicants with a completed form in a sealed envelope with a signature across the flap/seal. Applicants should submit the references in the sealed envelope along with the application. Reference providers should not submit the references directly to the Board.

Do an applicant's references need to be licensed?

All references must be from professionals authorized to practice in the discipline in which the applicant is seeking licensure, by virtue of licensure or by exemption. If an applicant has qualifying work outside of California or outside of the United States, the references for that experience must be from persons authorized to practice by virtue of licensure or by exemption as appropriate for that jurisdiction.

Any references who are authorized to practice without being licensed (i.e. someone who is practicing geology or geophysics within an exemption or in a situation where they are not required to be licensed) must provide information which indicates under what authority they are practicing, and provide a résumé or CV to document their qualifications in geology or geophysics as appropriate.

Does the reference provider have to sign and seal every page?

Yes. Section 3022.2 of the regulations states that documentation submitted to the Board by a reference provider must be the original copy with an original signature and seal (if licensed) on every page of the documentation. Photocopies, scanned copies, and electronic signatures are not acceptable.

Can I use a family member as a reference?

No. References cannot be related to the applicant by blood, marriage, registration as domestic partners, or adoption [§3022.2(a)(2)].

What are the different types of references?

“Responsible Charge” –A responsible charge reference is one provided by the appropriately licensed professional (or person practicing under a legally authorized exemption) in responsible charge of your work.

“Employer, Administrative Supervisor” (not in responsible charge)—Someone who does not direct your technical work under their license, but may be an administrative manager or owner of the company. The reference must have sufficient knowledge of the applicant's geological or geophysical work to be able to make knowledgeable comments about the applicant's performance on the job.

“Peer” (not in responsible charge) —A peer is defined as someone with the same status or ability as another person. Someone of equal or of the same rank. In work situations, colleagues are sometimes referred to as peers. The reference must have sufficient knowledge of the applicant's geological or geophysical work to be able to make knowledgeable comments about the applicant's performance on the job.

“Regulator”—A person working in a public governmental capacity who exercises authority over work being conducted to satisfy a law or regulation, and can determine compliance with the requirements of such law or regulation. The reference must have sufficient knowledge of the applicant's geological or geophysical work to be able to make knowledgeable comments about the applicant's performance on the job.

What does the term "responsible charge" mean?

The term "responsible charge" is defined in the Geologist and Geophysicist Act, Business and Professions Code section 7805, which states:

The term “responsible charge of work” means the independent control and direction, by the use of initiative, skill, and independent judgment of geological or geophysical work or the supervision of such work.

The term “responsible charge” means the person in charge of your technical work (provided direction, corrections, and ability to approve or overrule technical decisions). It has nothing to do with management hierarchy or employment status. The phrase does not refer to the concept of financial liability. Signing and sealing a geological or geophysical document is an indication of responsible charge.

I worked under multiple licensed people who were in responsible charge of my work. It would be a lot of work to get references from each of them. Can't one person just summarize the work that I did under everyone at that company?

No. A licensee can only document work that you did under their direct responsible charge. They cannot document work you did under someone else's license. If you worked under the responsible charge of multiple licensees, you must provide multiple responsible charge references.

The person that I worked under and want to use as my reference has left the company I work for. Can my manager vouch for the work I did under that person?

No. Only the professional(s) who worked directly with you can attest to your professional work experience. You should contact the person you want to use as your reference and ask them to complete the reference form for the time period that you worked together.

Do I need to complete my experience before the final filing date for the exam cycle that I am applying for?

Section 3023 of the California Code of Regulations allows the Board to credit an applicant for work experience obtained up to 100 days after the final filing date as long as the applicant is working under the responsible charge of an appropriately licensed individual in the same capacity. If your work situation changes, you must notify the Board. The Board will apply the 100 days during technical review of your application if necessary.

Can I earn work experience before completing the education requirements for the PG or the PGP?

No. An applicant is not eligible to earn credit for professional geological experience or for professional geophysical work until the applicant has completed the educational requirements [§3022(b)(4) and §3022.1(b)(3)].

5.2 Professional Geologist (PG)

Who can be my reference for a PG application? How many references are required?

You must provide at least three (3) references. At least one (1) of the references (or as many as necessary) must be a responsible charge reference to document that you have the required amount of work experience for the PG. For example, if you need to document 36 months of work experience, you must have one or more responsible charge references to document that 36 months of work experience. Any additional references required to meet the minimum of three (3) can be supplied by peer, employer and/or regulator references. The references must meet the requirements outlined in §3022(b)(1) of the regulations (provided below):

Professional geological experience for licensure as a geologist is that experience satisfactory to the Board that has been gained while performing professional geologic tasks under the responsible charge of a person who in the opinion of the Board has the training and experience to have responsible charge of geological work.

For the purposes of this section, a person will be deemed to have the training and experience to have responsible charge of geological work if they meet any one of the following:

- (A) holds licensure as a Professional Geologist;
- (B) holds licensure as a Professional Geophysicist;
- (C) is licensed as a Civil Engineer or a Petroleum Engineer practicing geology within the exemption described in Section 7838 of the Code and who presents to the Board documented evidence that the reference has the training and experience in the area of geology in which the applicant's experience is earned sufficient to qualify the reference to have responsible charge of geologic work; or

(D) is legally authorized to practice geology in a situation or locale where the reference is not required to be licensed and who presents to the Board documented evidence that the reference has the training and experience in the area of geology in which the applicant's experience is earned sufficient to qualify the reference to have responsible charge of geological work.

Do I get any experience credit for my education?

An applicant for licensure as a professional geologist shall be granted credit for professional geological experience, up to a combined maximum of three (3) years, for the following education:

- Two (2) years of professional geological experience credit for graduation with a baccalaureate degree in geology or a related geological science, from a program accredited by the Applied Science Accreditation Commission of ABET Inc. as described in California Code of Regulations section 3022(a)(1), or the completion of the 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of geological sciences courses as described in California Code of Regulations section 3022(a)(2).
- One (1) year of professional geological experience credit for one (1) year of graduate study or research in the geologic sciences. A year of graduate study or research is defined as a 12 calendar month period during which the candidate is enrolled in a full-time program of graduate study or research. Full-time graduate study is defined as two (2) semesters per year of 8 semester hours each (12 quarter hours), or as defined by the college or university, whichever is less.
- Part-time graduate study or research, and part-time professional geological work experience will be prorated and combined on a 12 calendar month basis. No credit will be given for professional geological work experience performed during the same time period when full-time graduate study or research is being done for which educational credit is being allowed.
- Teaching in the geological sciences at college level shall be credited year for year toward meeting the requirement in this category, provided that the total teaching experience includes six (6) semester units per semester, or equivalent if on the quarter system, of upper division or graduate courses.

What type of activity constitutes qualifying experience for a Professional Geologist license?

“Professional Geologic Work” is performed at a professional level rather than at a subprofessional or apprentice level and requires the application of scientific knowledge, principles and methods of geological problems through the exercise of individual initiative and judgment in investigating, measuring, interpreting and reporting on the physical phenomena of the earth. Implicit in this definition is the recognition of professional responsibility and integrity and the acknowledgement of minimal supervision.

Professional geologic work specifically **does not** include: routine activities such as drafting, sampling, sample preparation, routine laboratory work, etc., where the elements of initiative, scientific judgment and decision making are lacking, activities that do not use scientific methods

to process and interpret geologic data, soils engineering, soils sampling, soils testing or other activities in or related to the agricultural application of soils sciences, and mining, mining engineering or other engineering disciplines and/or other physical sciences wherein geological investigation, analysis and interpretation are minimal or lacking.

5.3 Professional Geophysicist (PGP)

Who can be my reference for a PGP application? How many references are required?

To obtain a PGP license, the applicant must provide a minimum of three (3) references as described below.

- One option requires that an applicant have three (3) years of work experience (out of the seven (7) total years required) working under the responsible charge of a licensed Professional Geophysicist. You must provide at least one (1) (or as many as necessary) responsible charge reference to document your three (3) years of work experience under a PGP. Any additional references required to meet the minimum of three (3) can be supplied by peer, employer and/or regulator references.
- The second option to qualify for the PGP license is for applicants to have “five years in responsible charge of professional geophysical work”. In accordance with this option, an applicant must document that they have been in responsible charge of and practicing geophysics legally in the jurisdiction in which the work was done for five (5) years. For example, in California, this could be a geologist performing geophysical work related to their practice of geology. In this example, the Board would accept non-responsible charge references (peer, employer, or regulator) who have the training and experience sufficient to verify the applicant’s qualifying experience. The reference must provide information that indicates under what authority they are practicing and provide a résumé or CV to document that they have a minimum of five (5) years of responsible charge experience in the specialty.

Do I get any experience credit for my education?

An applicant for licensure as a professional geophysicist shall be granted credit for professional geophysical work, up to a combined maximum of four (4) years, for the following education:

- One-half year of work credit for each year of full-time undergraduate study in the geophysical sciences up to a maximum of two (2) years. A year of undergraduate study or research is defined as a 12 calendar month period during which the candidate is enrolled in a full-time undergraduate program as defined by the college or university.
- One year of work credit for one year of graduate study or research in the geophysical sciences. A year of graduate study or research is defined as a 12 calendar month period during which the candidate is enrolled in a full-time program of graduate study or research. Full-time graduate study is defined as two (2) semesters per year of eight (8)

semester hours each (12 quarter hours), or as defined by the college or university, whichever is less.

- Part-time graduate study or research, and part-time professional geophysical work experience will be prorated and combined on a 12 calendar month basis. No credit will be given for professional geophysical work experience performed during the same time period when full-time graduate study or research is being done for which educational credit is being allowed.
- Teaching in the geophysical sciences referred to in this section at a college level shall be credited year for year toward meeting the requirement in this category, provided that the total teaching experience includes six (6) semester units per semester, or equivalent if on the quarter system, of the third or fourth year or graduate courses.

What type of activity constitutes qualifying experience for a Professional Geophysicist license?

"Professional geophysical work" is work performed at a professional level rather than at a subprofessional or apprentice level and requires the application of scientific knowledge, principles and methods to geophysical problems through the exercise of individual initiative and judgment in investigating, measuring, interpreting and reporting on the physical phenomena of the earth. The term includes the practice of geophysics for the evaluation and mitigation of earthquake hazards, and environmental and groundwater resource assessment. Implicit in this definition is the recognition of professional responsibility and integrity and the acknowledgment of minimal supervision.

Professional geophysical work specifically does not include activities wherein the analysis or interpretation of geophysical or geological information is lacking. Such nonprofessional work could encompass party or crew chief and would encompass lesser forms of employment in field parties, the manufacture, assembly or maintenance and repair of geophysical instruments and equipment, computer programming, data processing or retrieval and routine activities normally performed by a technician in acquiring and reporting on geophysical information where the elements of initiative, scientific judgment and decision making are absent. It also does not include those engineering disciplines and other physical sciences wherein geophysical or geological investigation, analysis and interpretation are minimal or lacking.

5.4 Geology Specialty Certifications (CHG/CEG)

Can I use engineering geology or hydrogeology experience I documented for my PG license towards my CEG or CHG specialty?

Yes. Experience in engineering geology or hydrogeology used to qualify for licensure as a geologist may also be used to qualify for specialty certification.

Do I have to submit references for my CEG or CHG application, or will the Board use my references from my PG application?

The regulations require you to submit three (3) references with your CEG or CHG application [§3041 and §3042].

Who can be my reference for a specialty certification (CEG/CHG) application and how many are required?

To obtain a specialty certification, the applicant must provide a minimum of three (3) references as described below.

If you are applying for a CEG or CHG specialty certification in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 7842(a)(1):

This option requires that an applicant have three (3) years of work experience in the specialty (in addition to the other requirements specified in §7842). At least one (1) (or as many as necessary) responsible charge reference must be provided to document the three (3) years of experience. The experience must be obtained as described below:

- under the supervision of a geologist certified in the specialty (i.e. CEG or CHG); and
- if applying for the CEG, the experience can also be earned under a licensed Civil PE who presents to the Board documented evidence that the reference has the training and experience in the area of geology in which the applicant's experience is earned sufficient to qualify the reference to have responsible charge of geologic work.

Any additional references required to meet the minimum of three (3) can be supplied by a peer, employer and/or regulator references. Reference providers who do not hold the specialty license in which the applicant is applying should provide a résumé or CV to document their qualifications to serve as a reference for the specialty certification for which the applicant is applying.

If you are applying for a CEG or CHG specialty certification in accordance with Business and Professions Code section 7842(a)(2):

This option requires that an applicant have a minimum of five (5) years' experience in responsible charge of professional geological work in the specialty for which the applicant is seeking certification.

In accordance with this option, you must provide a minimum of three (3) references who can attest to your experience in the specialty for which you are applying. These references can be responsible charge, peer, employer or regulator references.

Who can be my reference for a CEG or CHG specialty certification application?

For the CEG application, the references can be from licensed CEGs, qualified engineering geologists or licensed Civil PEs. References without a CEG license should provide a résumé or CV to document their ability to serve as a reference for a CEG application.

For the CHG application, the references can be from licensed CHGs or Professional Geologists who have a minimum of five years' experience in responsible charge of hydrogeological work. References without a CHG license should provide a résumé or CV to document their ability to serve as a reference for a CHG application.

What type of experience is the Board looking for as it pertains to engineering geology work?

From Section 3041(a)(2) of the California Code of Regulations:

Have a knowledge of:

- (A) Geology of the State of California.
- (B) Geologic factors relating to Civil Engineering problems typically encountered in the State.
- (C) Elementary soil and rock mechanics.
- (D) Principles of grading codes and other pertinent regulations. (Appendix Chapter 33, 1997 Uniform Building Code).

What type of experience is the Board looking for as it pertains to hydrogeology work?

From Section 3042(b)(2) of the California Code of Regulations:

Have a knowledge of and experience in:

- (A) Geology of the State of California.
- (B) Geologic factors relating to the water resources of this State.
- (C) Principles of groundwater hydraulics/hydrology and groundwater quality including the vadose zone.
- (D) Applicable federal, state and local rules and regulations.
- (E) Principles of water well, monitoring well, disposal well, and injection well construction.
- (F) Elementary soil and rock mechanics in relation to groundwater, including the description of rock and soil samples from wells.
- (G) Interpretation of borehole logs as they relate to porosity, hydraulic conductivity or fluid character.

6.0 - EXAMINATION ISSUES

6.1 General Information

How do I request reasonable accommodation for special testing accommodations due to religious belief or for reasons falling within the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)?

Information regarding reasonable accommodation requests is available [here](#) on the Board's website.

Where and when are the exams given?

The exam dates are available on the [Examination Schedule](#) on the Board's website.

The ASBOG exam locations alternate between Northern and Southern California as stated on the [Examination Schedule](#).

The California specific exams (CSE, PGP, CEG, and CHG) are administered at computer based testing centers. Approved candidates will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) notice with instructions on how to sign up for the exam. At that time, candidates will be able to choose the testing center location, based on availability.

What happens if I don't pass one or more of the exams?

If you don't pass an exam, you can take it again. Submit a re-exam form along with the exam fee(s) for the desired exam cycle by the re-exam form final filing date.

May an applicant inspect or appeal his or her graded exam?

No. Exam inspection and appeals are not allowed.

What should I use to study for the exams?

For the ASBOG FG and ASBOG PG exams please refer to the [Candidate Handbook](#) on ASBOG's website. The Candidate Handbook contains example questions and test blueprints.

For the California specific exams (CSE, PGP, CEG and CHG exams), please refer to the exam plans. The exam plans as well as other helpful exam information can be found on the [Examination Candidate Information](#) page on the Board's website.

The Board does not endorse or provide recommendations regarding study guides or study courses.

What can I bring to the exam?

Information regarding what you can or cannot bring to the exam is included in the [Candidate Information Bulletin](#) provided for the state specific exams and the [ASBOG Examination Instructions](#) provided for the ASBOG exams.

6.2 Geologist-in-Training (GIT) and Professional Geologist (PG)

What exams are required for the GIT certificate?

ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG)—administered by the Board at locations alternating between Northern and Southern California. Paper and pencil. 4 hours, 140 multiple-choice questions.

What exams are required for the PG license?

ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG)—administered by the Board at locations alternating between Northern and Southern California. Paper and pencil. 4 hours, 140 multiple-choice questions.

ASBOG Practice of Geology (PG)—administered by the Board at locations alternating between Northern and Southern California. Paper and pencil. 4 hours, 110 multiple-choice questions.

California Specific Exam (CSE)—computer based exam administered at [Prometric](#) testing centers. 3 hours, 95 multiple-choice questions. You will be emailed instructions on how to sign up for an appointment approximately 6 weeks before the exam date.

If I pass the ASBOG FG exam for my GIT, do I have to take it again to qualify for my Professional Geologist license?

No. If you took your ASBOG FG exam and applied for the GIT in California, your FG exam score will be in your applicant file. Your passing FG exam result will automatically be credited to your PG license application.

Does California accept ASBOG results from other states?

The Board will accept ASBOG passing results from other states for exams passed after the date of November 1, 1996. You must request a verification of your ASBOG exam results from the other state and submit the verification with your application, or have the other state submit the verification directly to the Board. A [Verification of Licensure or Passage of Examinations](#) form is available on the Board's website.

Do I need to take all the PG license exams at the same time?

No. You can apply for the PG license and take the exams one at a time, all at once, or in any combination you wish. You must take and pass all exams before you will become licensed.

6.3 Professional Geophysicist (PGP)

What exams are required for the PGP license?

California Geophysicist Exam—computer based exam administered at [Prometric](#) testing centers. 4 hours, 125 multiple-choice questions. You will be emailed instructions on how to sign up for an appointment approximately 6 weeks before the exam date.

6.4 Geology Specialty Certifications (CHG/CEG)

What exams are required for the specialty certifications (CHG/CEG)?

California Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG)—computer based exam administered at [Prometric](#) testing centers. 3 hours, 85 multiple-choice questions. You will be emailed instructions on how to sign up for an appointment approximately 6 weeks before the exam date.

California Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG)—computer based exam administered at [Prometric](#) testing centers. 3 hours, 85 multiple-choice questions. You will be emailed instructions on how to sign up for an appointment approximately 6 weeks before the exam date.

Does the Board accept results of specialty exams from other states?

The Board will accept the results of the Certified Engineering Geologist exams from Washington and Oregon, and will accept the Certified Hydrogeologist exam from Washington. Persons wishing to obtain specialty certifications in California must meet all other California requirements including having a California PG license, providing references, transcripts, completing an application, and paying the appropriate fees.

Please note that the agreement to accept the results of the Oregon and Washington exams is re-evaluated periodically by the Board and can change at any time. You should contact the Board before applying for a specialty license to find out if this agreement is still in effect.

7.0 - OUT OF STATE AND INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Does the Board have a reciprocity agreement with any other states or countries?

No. The Board does not have reciprocity agreements for geology and geophysics licenses with any other U.S. states or other countries.

I am already licensed as a PG or PGP in another state or country. How do I become licensed in California?

You must meet all of the same California requirements as other applicants, as described in this document, including taking and passing all required exams and documenting qualifying education and experience.

How do I qualify if I was licensed as a PG or PGP by “grandfathering” in my home state?

You must meet all of the same California requirements as other applicants, as described in this document, including taking and passing all required exams and documenting qualifying education and experience.

If I am located out of state, do I have to travel to California to take the ASBOG exams?

Yes. If you apply for licensure in California and you have not previously taken and passed the national ASBOG exams, you must take the ASBOG exams in California.

How do I satisfy the fingerprint requirements if I don't live in California?

Visit the [Fingerprinting FAQs](#) on the Board's website for instructions.

Does the Board accept foreign degree evaluations?

No, the Board **does not** accept foreign degree evaluations. All applicants are required to submit official college and/or university transcripts. If you request it, and provide a pre-paid return shipping envelope, Board staff can return the original official transcripts to you after the application review is complete.

What if my transcripts or references are in a language other than English?

If your official transcripts and/or references are in a language other than English, you must submit the original official transcripts and/or references for the Board's review along with a notarized translation.

What is a notarized translation? How do I get one?

A notarized translation is one in which the translator swears in front of the notary that the translation is complete and accurate. Contact a professional translator. The Board does not endorse or provide recommendations for translation services. A local consulate or your university may also provide translation services.