



## BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS

2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento, California, 95833-2944

Telephone: (916) 263-2222 – Toll Free: 1-866-780-5370

Facsimile: (916) 263-2246

www.bpelsg.ca.gov



## Application Checklist and Instructions Professional Geologist (PG) Examinations

**Note:** In order for an individual to become licensed as a PG in the State of California, they must qualify for, take, and pass the ASBOG® Fundamentals of Geology (FG), ASBOG® Practice of Geology (PG), and the California Specific Examination (CSE). The Board does not have reciprocity agreements with any other states; however, if an applicant has passed the ASBOG® FG and/or PG examinations in another state (after the date of November 1, 1996) the Board will accept those scores (a "[Verification of Licensure or Passage of Examinations](#)" form completed by the appropriate state agency is required).

The following checklist is intended to help PG applicants complete all application requirements:

- Qualifying Education (Business and Professions Code § 7841):** Graduation with a major in *geological sciences* from a college or university is required. Applicants must request and submit sealed, certified transcripts for all relevant degrees and course work with their application (including community college transcripts). **Unsealed transcripts will not be accepted.** Each year of undergraduate study in geological sciences shall count as one-half year of experience, up to a maximum of two years; additionally, each year of graduate study or research counts as one year of experience. Teaching in the geological sciences at a college level shall be credited year-for-year toward meeting the requirement in this category, provided that total teaching experience includes a minimum of 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 of at least five years of professional geological education and work experience.
- Qualifying Experience (Business and Professions Code § 7841):** An applicant for licensure as a Professional Geologist must have a combination of at least five years of geological education and professional geological work 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. Credit will not be given for professional geological work until the applicant has completed the education requirements (work experience completed before the degree conferral date of the qualifying degree cannot be counted). This experience shall be gained under the supervision of a licensed Professional Geologist, Professional Geophysicist, or Professional Civil Engineer 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. Credit will not 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 experience credit is allowed. Part-time graduate study or research and part-time professional geological work experience will be prorated and combined on a 12 calendar month basis.

- Request “[Independent Evaluation of Scope, Character and Duration of Applicant’s Qualifying Geological Work Experience](#)” form(s) from qualified reference providers (**Business and Professions Code § 7841**). The Board encourages applicants to review this form with their reference providers prior to submission with their application to ensure they have enough experience to qualify to take the required examinations. Only those references necessary to adequately document an applicant’s qualifying experience are required (at least one reference must be submitted, or more if necessary to fully document the required experience). Please include a copy of the Geology “[Definitions of Critical Concepts](#)” with each evaluation you request. *If the reference provider is not a licensed Professional Geologist, Professional Geophysicist, or Professional Civil Engineer, they must provide their resume with the reference for verification of their qualifications to provide a reference.* The completed form(s) must accompany your application.
  
- Submit:**
  - 1) the “[Application for the Professional Geologist and Geophysicist Examinations](#),”
  - 2) Payment of applicable examination fee(s) and the \$250 non-refundable application filing fee (see fee schedule on the application); 3) all transcript(s); and 4) “Independent Evaluation of Scope, Character and Duration of Applicant’s Qualifying Geological Work Experience” form(s) postmarked by the final filing date for the desired examination cycle. If additional information is requested, applicants will have until 70 days prior to the examination date to submit the requested information or documents.
  
- All applicants will be required to submit fingerprints prior to certification/licensure. For more information and to download the Live Scan form (in California) or to request hard copy fingerprint cards, please visit the Board's [Fingerprinting FAQ's](#).

Applicants will be contacted, via the e-mail address provided by them on their application, once examination eligibility has been determined.

**Please make checks, money orders or bank drafts payable to the “Department of Consumer Affairs” (DCA). The applicant’s cancelled check will serve as receipt for fees paid.**

**Previous California PG Examination Applicants:** Applicants that have taken but did not pass any of the PG examinations *within the past two years* need not provide new transcripts or “Independent Evaluations of Scope”; however, it is necessary to complete a [Refile Application](#) and include payment of all applicable fees, postmarked by the final refile application date for the desired examination cycle.

**Address all communications regarding your application to:**

Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95833