

# BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

## POLICIES AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

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### I. HISTORY

Alaska began registering architects, engineers and land surveyors in 1949. Engineers who verified land surveyor work experience were also granted a land surveyor registration. In 1972, a new practice act was established for land surveyors. Until 1973 the practice act allowed engineers to apply for a land surveyor registration based on their practice. Alaska began registering landscape architects in 2000.

Alaska began administering national exams as follows:

NCARB Architect Registration Examination (ARE).....	1963
NCEES Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) (8 hr.) .....	April 1966
NCEES Principles and Practices of Engineering (PE) (8 hr) .....	April 1967
NCEES Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FS) (8 hr) .....	April 1974
NCEES Professional Land Surveying (4 hours).....	April 1974
NCEES Professional Land Surveying Public Domain (3 hours) .....	April 1987
NCEES Professional Land Surveying (PS) (6 hours) - combined.....	October 1992
CLARB Landscape Architect Registration (LARE).....	2000

Prior to the above dates for national exams by NCARB and NCEES, state exams were used in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California. Alaska used the same 'state specific' PE and PS exams. The first engineering exam administered in Alaska was given by the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1953. Prior to 1953, engineers were registered based on education and work experience.

### II. GENERAL BOARD POLICIES

- A. Election of Officers - The board will elect members to serve as chair, vice-chair, and secretary at the last regularly scheduled meeting of each fiscal year, or as needed due to vacancies.
- B. Voting – All permanent board members, including the chair, are entitled to vote on all matters that come before the board unless a conflict of interest causes a member to abstain. Temporary, non-voting members may not vote but otherwise fully participate at meetings.
- C. Communications – Board members may use a ListServe E-mail or email to communicate between meetings.
- D. Emeritus Status – The board will nominate former board members for Emeritus Status to NCEES on a yearly basis when the former board member notifies the board they will be serving on a NCEES committee.
- E. Investigations – The board adopted a “Board Committee Review” plan at its February 2006 meeting whereby two board members will meet monthly with the board’s investigator to determine merit and disposition of complaints.
- F. Date on Stamped Plans – The board adopted a policy to define “close proximity” in 12 AAC 36.185(d) as within two inches of the seal.
- G. Titles for Interns – The board adopted a policy that persons that have passed the Fundamentals of Engineering Examination may refer to themselves as Engineering Interns or Engineers in Training (EITs). Persons that have passed the Fundamentals of Surveying Examination may refer to themselves as Surveying Interns or Land Surveyors in Training (LSITs). Persons with an accredited bachelor’s degree in architecture may refer to themselves as Architects in Training or Intern Architects. Persons with an accredited bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture may refer to themselves as Landscape Architects in Training or Intern Landscape Architects.
- H. Public notice policy – the board adopted a policy at its May 2008 meeting to provide an explanation, if warranted, for proposed changes to regulations to accompany the public notice.
- I. Definition of Health, Safety & Welfare - the board adopted the following definition of “health, safety & welfare” at its February 2009 meeting: “Health, Safety and Welfare means the safeguarding of the public’s life, traditional values and expectations by registrants through their constant application of sound judgment, ethical management and proper execution employing “Best Practices” during the performance of their professional duties.”

### III. BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

The board adopts regulations to carry out its mission to protect the public health, safety, and welfare through the regulation of the practice of architecture, engineering, land surveying, and landscape architecture by:

- ensuring that those entering these practices meet minimum standards of competency, and maintain such standards during their practice;
- requiring licensure to practice in the State of Alaska; and
- enforcing both the licensure and competency requirements in a fair and uniform manner.

### IV. APPLICATION REVIEW POLICIES

#### A. Work Experience

1. If an applicant initially became registered in a jurisdiction that required less work experience than Alaska, passed an acceptable equivalent exam, and gained experience AFTER initial licensure that meets Alaska's current minimum requirement, the board may consider approving the application by comity.
2. In order to meet Alaska's requirements, exam candidates may project their anticipated work experience up to the date of the exam.

12 AAC 36.067. DATE OF EXPERIENCE. Computation of qualifying experience for admission to the examination as architect, engineer or land surveyor is up to the date of exam.

The board may require that an applicant submit an updated employment verification or letter from present employer prior to the exam date.

3. Credit for engineer or land surveyor experience PRIOR to obtaining a degree shall be based on work experience verifications submitted and evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Education and work experience may not be accumulated concurrently. Note: A maximum of 12 months' credit may be claimed for a calendar year (12 AAC 36.062(b), 12 AAC 36.063(e), 12 AAC 36.064(b), 12 AAC 36.065(f) , 12 AAC 36.068(d)).
4. Architect by comity applicants, if initial registration was obtained in another jurisdiction after January 1, 1990, must have completed the NCARB IDP program and submit NCARB verification (12 AAC 36.103).
5. In 12 AAC 36.064 and .065, coursework in land surveying – no degree (minimum of two years credit hours), means 30 credit hours of core surveying courses and 30 credit hours of professional development courses.
6. Other Work Experience Issues:

Other verified work experience or questionable experience requires a full board review and the board may require more information.

#### B. Examinations

1. All NCEES or NCARB exams are considered as acceptable to meet minimum qualifications for exam under 12 AAC 36.100 for architect, engineer and land surveyor.
2. EQUIVALENT exams:
  - a. Architects: NONE
  - b. Fundamentals of Engineering: NCEES and its equivalent (Alaska offered a state specific exam prior to April 1966 when Alaska began offering the NCEES national exam).
  - c. PE: NCEES and its equivalent (Alaska offered a state specific exam prior to April 1966 when Alaska began offering the NCEES national exam).
  - d. PS, 6 hours: NCEES or board approved other state exams. (Texas exam is NOT acceptable.)
  - e. Alaska Land Surveyor state specific exam (AKLS), 2 hours: NONE

3. A registrant whose registration has been lapsed for five years or more may reinstate the registration by completing the form "Reinstatement for Expired Registration" and paying the current registration fee. If an applicant was originally registered in Alaska by exam prior to April 1967, or in another state that did not offer the national examinations, the board has discretion to not require the applicant to take the current national examinations. The board may require re-testing for registrants who have been sanctioned. (12 AAC 36.165)
4. 12 AAC 36.105(d) is interpreted to mean a non-NCEES examination.
5. 12 AAC 36.105(b) is interpreted to mean that an engineer by comity must have passed the NCEES exam in the same discipline for which he/she is applying.
6. The exam referenced in 12 AAC 36.105(d)(1) must be in the same discipline for which the applicant is applying.

C. Education

1. Engineering and/or land surveying exam candidates

- a. The board shall follow the requirements for education credit as outlined in the regulations for FE (was formerly the EIT), PE, FS (was formerly the LSIT), and PS exam applicants, (12 AAC 36.062, 12 AAC 36.063, 12 AAC36.064, 12 AAC36.065)
- b. If a degree was earned over a period of more than the traditional four years, and the applicant was working at the same time, the board shall review the transcripts in comparison to work experience verifications and assign calendar years/months for education credits and work experience gained while in college. (12 AAC 36.063(e))
- c. If a person worked full time during the day and attended college at night and obtained a degree after six years, the board will not give the applicant any work experience credit beyond two years.

2. Architectural Exam Candidates

First time architectural registrants applying to take the exam for registration in Alaska shall have an NAAB degree or meet NCARB alternative education standards. Documentation of alternative standards shall be as recommended and accepted by NCARB (per the current NCARB Education standard publication) (12 AAC 36.060)

D. Arctic Engineering

Arctic Engineering courses are approved by the Board. The following are approved courses:

1. **University of Washington:** Cold Regions Engineering Short Course.
2. **University of Alaska Anchorage:**
  - a. UAA Arctic Engineering - CE A603 (semester web-based course)
  - b. UAA Arctic Engineering – ES AC030 (web-based short course)
  - c. UAA Northern Design Course – ES A411 (semester course)
  - d. UAA Arctic Engineering – CE A403 (semester web-based course)
  - e. UAA Introduction to Arctic Engineering – ES AC031 (short course)
3. **University of Alaska Fairbanks:**
  - a. UAF Arctic Engineering- CE 603 (semester course).
  - b. UAF Arctic Engineering-CE 603 (web-based semester course).

E. Council Records

1. Applicants for architect registration by comity must submit a completed NCARB Council Certificate, commonly known as the NCARB "Blue Book" with the application. (12 AAC 36.103)
2. Engineer applicants may submit a council record issued by the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) to verify qualifications. (12 AAC 36.105)
3. Intern architects who apply to sit for the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) in Alaska must submit a

“NCARB Council Record in Support of Application for Examination”. This council record must include verification of an NAAB degree or compliance with NCARB's education standard (per the current publication). (12 AAC 36.060)