

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Division of Professional Licensure**  
**Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors**

**RE-TAKING THE EXAM AFTER A FAILURE:**

This bulletin is directed at those candidates who have failed to pass any of the four NCEES sanctioned examinations, namely the “Fundamentals of Engineering Examination” (FE) or the “Fundamentals of Land Surveying” (FLS) or “Principles and Practices of Engineering Examination” or the “Principles and Practices of Land Surveying” OR the Massachusetts state specific examination, “Legal Practices and Massachusetts Law Examination for Land Surveyors”.

**Fundamentals of Engineering and Fundamentals of Land Surveying Examinations:** There are no restrictions on the number of times that an applicant may take the NCEES sanctioned FE or FLS examinations. Arrangements for retaking these examinations are made directly between the testing service and the applicant. *Specific approval of the Board is not required.* Any and all fees and costs involved in taking these examinations are the direct responsibility of the applicant.

**Principles and Practice of Engineering Examination, Principles and Practices of Land Surveying Examination, and Legal Practices and Massachusetts Law Examination:**

Applicants *failing* one of these examinations for *the first time* will automatically receive an invitation from the testing service to take the examination a second time at the applicant’s expense.

Following a **SECOND** failure, Board approval is required for an applicant to be considered for any subsequent examination attempts. In order to be considered for a third exam attempt, applicants must submit documentation demonstrating that he or she has successfully completed an educational program aimed at helping the applicant succeed on the applicant’s next attempt. In addition, the Board may require the applicant to sit for an interview for the purpose of evaluating the applicant’s updated qualifications before being approved to sit for re-examination.

Following a **THIRD** failure, applicants must wait one year before seeking Board approval for re-examination and will again be expected to demonstrate completion of new education aimed at increasing the applicant’s ability to pass the examination. The Board may require a greater amount of new education before being admitted to each succeeding attempt to pass the examination. Once it becomes apparent to the Board that the applicant’s attempt at further education is not getting them any closer to passing the examination, the Board may notify the applicant that his or her next attempt will be the applicant’s last opportunity and failure to pass on that attempt will result in the formal denial of his or her application for licensure in Massachusetts.

The applicant is responsible for all fees and other costs associated with the retaking of any of the examinations listed above. The Board must formally approve the request to retake the specific examination. The approval for the next available test is contingent upon the testing service’s ability to accept the additional candidates for that particular examination. Entrance into any specific testing window cannot be guaranteed by the Board.

**EXPIRATION OF EXAM APPROVAL:**

If an applicant fails to take an examination within 20 months after notification of eligibility is received, the application automatically lapses. This does not apply to an applicant actively serving in the armed forces.

If an applicant takes an examination, fails to pass and does not re-take the examination again within 20 months, the application automatically lapses. This does not apply to an applicant actively serving in the armed forces.