



COMMONWEALTH OF
VIRGINIA
 ENGINEERING (FE / PE) EXAMINATIONS
 FIRST TIME APPLICANTS AND REPEAT EXAMINEES

EXAMINEE INFORMATION BULLETIN

Examinees will NOT be eligible for the examination without first applying to, and receiving approval from, the VA Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers, and Landscape Architects.

SPRING 2013 EXAM DATES AND DEADLINES:

12/3/2012	Board application deadline for PEs
12/4/2012	Board application deadline for non-student EITs
12/17/2012	NCEES registration begins
2/12/2013	Board application deadline for student EITs
2/21/2013	NCEES registration deadline and PCS scheduling deadline*
4/12/2013	Exams given for PE (other than structural), PE Structural (Vertical Forces only),
4/13/2013	Exams for FE, PE Structural (Lateral Forces only)

FALL 2013 EXAM DATES AND DEADLINES:

6/17/2013	Board application deadline for PEs
6/18/2013	Board application deadline for non-student EITs
6/17/2013	NCEES registration begins
8/27/2013	Board application deadline for student EITs
9/5/2013	NCEES registration deadline and PCS scheduling deadline*
10/25/2013	Exams given for PE (other than structural), PE Structural (Vertical Forces only)
10/26/2013	Exams for FE and PE Structural (Lateral Forces only)

*Scheduling with PCS or registering with NCEES is NOT available after the deadline. NO EXCEPTIONS.

CALCULATORS

Please visit the NCEES website, www.ncees.org, for the most up-to-date information regarding calculators. Only the models on the [NCEES-approved list](#) may be used on the examination. All other models are prohibited in the exam room. The NCEES website also has information regarding examination content.

INTRODUCTION

The Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers and Landscape Architects (APELSCIDLA Board) is responsible for licensing and regulating the engineering professions. The

Board, through DPOR, has contracted with Professional Credential Services (PCS) to provide various testing services. Please read the following information carefully before registering online with PCS for the exam. All inquiries regarding the examination must be directed to the Virginia Engineering Coordinator at PCS - this includes questions regarding both engineering examinations.

CHANGES: BEGINNING WITH THE APRIL 2013 EXAMINATION CYCLE:

* The PE Industrial examination will be administered in the spring only.

* The PE Software examination will be offered for the first time in April 2013.

For more information on all examination updates please visit www.ncees.org.

CHANGES: BEGINNING [JANUARY 2014](#)**[REGISTRATION DATE BEGINNING NOVEMBER 4, 2013](#)**

*The FE exam will be given via computer-based testing beginning in 2014. These examinations will be given during assigned windows of time rather than specific April and October dates.

First-Time Examinees

You are considered to be a first-time examinee if you are an applicant who has never received approval from the Virginia Board, or if you have lost your exam eligibility and must reapply to the Board.

1. All applicants must be approved by the Board. First-time applicants must contact the Board for application information. If approved, proceed to step 2.
2. All applicants must create an account online with NCEES. This account may be created anytime once NCEES registration begins (see the schedule on the left hand side of this page). After your account is created, proceed to step 3.
3. Register online with NCEES by the registration deadline. This deadline is strictly enforced; NO EXCEPTIONS. Select your exam type and site information at this time. Only Board-approved applicants proceed to step 4.
4. Within 5 business days of registering with NCEES, applicants will receive an email from PCS with a link to schedule and pay for the exam. If you do not see the email in your Inbox, please check your Spam or Junk folder before emailing your PCS coordinator for

the link. Exams must be scheduled and paid for by the scheduling deadline.

Re-Exam Examinees

You are considered to be a re-exam examinee if you are an applicant who has already received approval from the Virginia Board and your exam eligibility has not expired. Remember, you are exam-eligible for three years from the date the Board approved you for the exam.

1. All applicants must create an account online with NCEES. This account may be created anytime once NCEES registration begins (see the schedule on the left-hand side of page 1). After your account is created, proceed to step 2.
2. Register online with NCEES by the registration deadline. This deadline is strictly enforced; NO EXCEPTIONS. Select your exam type and site information at this time. Only Board-approved applicants proceed to step 3.
3. Within 5 business days of registering with NCEES, applicants will receive an email from PCS with a link to schedule and pay for the exam. If you do not see the email in your Inbox, please check your Spam or Junk folder before emailing your PCS coordinator for the link. Exams must be scheduled and paid for by the scheduling deadline.

ENGINEERING EXAMINATION FEES

Payment must be made by Visa, MasterCard, or Discover only.

EXAMINATION FEES

FE	\$145
PE (other than Structural)	\$255
PE Structural 16-Hour *	
8 hour Vertical Forces (Friday only)	\$500
8 hour Lateral Forces (Saturday only)	\$500

* Examinees may register for one or both structural exams. However, both exams must be passed within five years of each other in order for the examinee to receive an overall passing score for the PE Structural exam.

WITHDRAWAL AND POSTPONEMENT POLICY

Examinees may request either a withdrawal or a one-time postponement before the scheduling deadline. The request must be in writing and forwarded to PCS via email. Requests after the scheduling deadline will only be approved in cases involving extenuating circumstances. Proper documentation may be required such as military orders, doctor notes (for illness), a death certificate (for a death in the family), etc. Extenuating circumstances are NOT job requirements, vacations, lack of study time, weddings, etc.

Please note: It is only after you register and submit payment via internet that you are considered "scheduled" for the examination with PCS.

ONLY SCHEDULED EXAMINEES CAN REQUEST A POSTPONEMENT OR A WITHDRAWAL.

Examinees approved for a postponement will be transferred to the next available examination administration; however, their exam eligibility with the VA Board will *not* be extended. Examinees will be responsible for paying the difference if fee increases occur.

If a withdrawal is granted, the examinee will be withdrawn from the examination and receive a refund less the \$50 non-refundable processing fee. Refunds may be issued 45-days after the examination date.

It is the examinee's responsibility to contact PCS prior to the test date if admission materials have not been received. Admission materials will be received via email accounts posted in NCEES records. If you do not appear for testing, and a withdrawal or postponement has not been granted, you will be considered absent and will forfeit your examination fee. Absentee examinees should visit www.pcshq.com for rescheduling instructions.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

In accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), examination administration modifications are available for examinees who qualify. Also, examinees who are members of religious faiths that cannot take the examination on an assigned date may qualify for special accommodations. Examinees must visit the NCEES website (www.ncees.org) to read complete information as to the application procedures for special accommodations. All requests and supporting documentation must be submitted to NCEES before the specified deadline. The specific accommodations granted and the reporting time will be on the exam authorization.

NAME OR ADDRESS CHANGES

Name and address changes must be submitted to both the Board office and PCS in writing. In order to change your name or address with PCS records you must show your old name or address and new name or address. Please include copies of any court documents if applicable (marriage or other legal name changes). Also include the name of the examination taken (profession) and examination date.

Name or address changes may be emailed to vaeng@pcshq.com. Name or address changes may be faxed to the Board office at (866) 465-6206 or emailed to the Board at apelscidla@dpor.virginia.gov.

**Examinees with name or address changes should submit the change before the NCEES registration deadline. If you fail to report this information prior to the deadline it can result in you missing the scheduled examination.

NOTIFICATION OF EXAMINATION ADMISSION

Approximately two weeks prior to the examination, examinees will receive an email from NCEES prompting them to log into their NCEES account and print their exam authorization. The authorization will include the date, time, and location of the exam.

Examinees determined to be ineligible for the examination will receive a partial refund of their scheduling fees approximately 45 days after the examination.

MECHANICAL PENCILS

Examinees must use the mechanical pencils provided by NCEES at the examination site (no other options).

TEST SITE AND REPORTING TIME

The exact test site location, map to the site, parking information and reporting time will be provided in your admission materials. It is also suggested that you visit a website for driving directions from your departure location to the test site.

NCEES

Examinees are encouraged to visit the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying website (www.ncees.org) for information regarding the examination content, scoring system, and the latest information regarding the calculator prohibited items policies.

ENVIRONMENTAL DISTRACTERS

Although every attempt is made to provide a quiet and comfortable testing environment, noise and room temperatures may be an unforeseen distracter. It is suggested that if you are sensitive to noise or temperature variations, you may want to bring earplugs and types of dress that can help you to adapt to a cooler or warmer climate in the examination room. PCS will work with the testing site staff to anticipate potential problems.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. You must present your exam authorization and one form of government-issued identification with a photograph, signature, your date-of-birth and expiration date (i.e. drivers license or passport) in order to be admitted to the examination room.
2. The identification must be current and clearly recognizable or you will not be admitted to the examination. Copies are not acceptable.
Military Examinees: If you have a Military ID without a signature, you must bring another form or ID showing your signature and other items required in item 1 to the examination.
3. It is the responsibility of the examinee to be at the examination on time. Examinees will not be permitted into the examination room after the announcements have begun (NO EXCEPTIONS). It is strongly suggested that you visit the site before the day of the examination so you are familiar with the route and the needed travel time.
4. In the event of inclement weather or a national disaster, please call PCS for updates at (877) 364-3926.

FE EXAMINEES ONLY

The FE is a closed-book exam. You will be provided with a FE Reference Handbook on exam day.

PE EXAMINEES

You may use published books, codes, tables, standards and ordinances, and bound reference materials. Bound reference materials are defined as stitched, glued or fastened by spiral binders, plastic snap binders, brads or screws. Current regulations, available on the Board's website at http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/uploadedFiles/MainSite/Content/Boards/APELS/04REGS_APELS_07_01_11.pdf, will print as a single sheet format and immediately become an "unbound document". Please bind all reference materials as noted above.

Examinees may tab reference books before the examination with Post-it™ type notes and flags, but pads of Post-it™ notes and flags are not permitted in the examination room. Examinees are not permitted to exchange reference materials or aids during the examination. Examinees are not permitted to write and make notes in any of the reference materials.

All items brought to the test site will be the examinee's sole responsibility. PCS, the Board or the facility are not responsible for any lost, misplaced and/or stolen items.

ITEMS PROHIBITED IN EXAMINATION ROOM

Unapproved calculators are not permitted. Only the calculators listed on the NCEES website are permitted.

Devices or materials that might compromise the security of the exam or disrupt the examination process are not permitted. Devices with copying, recording, or communication capabilities are not permitted. These include, but are not limited to, cameras, cell phones, desktop/handheld laptop and palmtop computers, databanks, data collectors, organizers, pagers or beepers, PDA's, radios, headsets, tape players, MP3 players, portable fax machines, calculator watches, reproduction equipment, electronic dictionaries, electronic translators, transmitting devices and recorders.

Personal writing and erasing instruments may not be used to complete any portion of the examination. Only NCEES-supplied pencils and erasers are permitted.

Loose paper, legal pads, writing tablets, and unbound notes are prohibited. All scratch work must be written in the exam book. Writing on any other paper including the supplied FE Reference Handbook, or removing pages from the examination book or Handbook, is strictly prohibited. Weapons of any kind, tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and personal chairs are not permitted.

If any prohibited item is found in a examinee's possession after the examination begins, or if a examinee is found to be using a writing instrument other than the NCEES-supplied pencil, the item will be confiscated, the examinee will be dismissed from the examination, and his/her examination will not be scored or refunded. All confiscated items will be forwarded to NCEES.

SCORE NOTICES

Examinees may log in to their NCEES account to view their results. Please allow 8 to 10 weeks for NCEES to update individual accounts with exam results. Examinees will receive an email from NCEES when their results are ready for review. Engineer license examinees who pass all of the requisite exams will receive their license in the mail from the Board within 10-12 weeks of passing the exams. Engineer-in-training examinees, who pass the fundamentals exam, may contact the Board for their assigned designation number. A designation number issued by the Board is *not* a license; the number only identifies that you have passed the fundamentals exam.

SECURITY GUIDELINES

Copying, reproducing or taking any action to reveal the contents of an examination in whole or in part is unlawful. Removal of an examination booklet, answer sheet or other confidential material supplied to you at the examination is prohibited.

Any irregularity such as an act of impersonation, creating a disturbance, giving or receiving unauthorized information or aid to other examinees, attempting to remove examination information by any means, or possession of unauthorized notes or equipment may be sufficient cause for you to leave the examination room. All such irregularities will generate a report to the Board.

The *Examination Site Conduct Agreement Form* will be supplied to you at the examination. The form provides for your agreement to the security guidelines discussed above and must be completed prior to taking the exam. No visitors, guests or children are permitted in the examination room.