Arkansas Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors

New Rules Effective
January 1, 2017 For
Surveyor Licensure
Surveyor Intern License
(Prior to January 1, 2017)

Bachelor Science degree
or Associate of Science degree

Pass Fundamentals of Surveying
(must pass by 1/2020)

Board Approval

Surveyor Intern License

OR

4 years experience
(3 years field + 1 year office)

3 references
(2 Professional Surveyor references)

Pass Fundamental of Surveying
(must pass by 1/2020)

Board Approval

Surveyor Intern License
Professional Surveyor License
(Prior to January 1, 2017)

Bachelor Science degree
or Associates of Science degree
or Associate of Applied Science degree

2 years progressive experience
(9 months field + 9 months office + 6 months field/office)

5 references (3 Professional Surveyors)

Pass the Fundamentals of Surveying

Board Approval for licensure upon passing Professional Surveyor exam and State Specific exams. (must pass by 1/2020)

Professional Surveyor Licensure

OR

Experience ≥ 6 years

5 references (3 Professional Surveyors)

Pass the Fundamentals of Surveying

Board Approval for licensure upon passing Professional Surveyor exam and State Specific exams (must pass by 1/2020).

Professional Surveyor Licensure
Surveyor Intern License
(After January 1, 2017)

* Bachelor Science degree
or
* Associate of Science degree
or
* Associate of Applied Science degree
or
* Bachelor Science degree (EAC of ABET)

Pass Fundamentals of Surveying → Board Approval = Surveyor Intern License

* See applicable Article 8.D.3.a-c
Professional Surveyor License (After January 1, 2017)

- Bachelor Science degree or Bachelor Science degree (EAC of ABET)
- 3 years progressive experience (1 year field + 1 year office + 1 year field/office)
- 5 references (3 Professional Surveyors)
- Pass the Fundamentals of Surveying
- Board Approval for licensure upon passing Professional Surveyor exam and State Specific exams.

OR

- Associate of Science degree or Associate of Applied Science degree
- 6 years progressive experience (2 year field + ≥2 year office + 2 year field/office)
- 5 references (3 Professional Surveyors)
- Pass the Fundamentals of Surveying
- Board Approval for licensure upon passing Professional Surveyor exam and State Specific exams.

* See applicable Article 8.E.1.c.i-iii
ARTICLE 8. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE

D. Surveyor or Intern

3. Effective January 1, 2017, an applicant shall submit:

a. Proof of graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree in Surveying, Geomatics, Geomatics Engineering, or Spatial Information Systems with a minor or emphasis in Surveying, from a program accredited by ABET or approved by the Board; or

b. Proof of graduation with an Associate of Science or Associate of Applied Science degree in Surveying or Surveying Technology from a program approved by the Board; or

c. Proof of graduation with a baccalaureate degree from a curriculum of four (4) years or more that includes core general education courses in subsection i. of this section, or an engineering degree from a program that is EAC of ABET accredited. Both degrees require at least thirty (30) hours of surveying or surveying-related courses as specified in subsection ii. of this section.

i. General education courses shall include:
A. Mathematics (College Algebra and higher) – twelve (12) semester credit hours or the equivalent; and
B. English, Technical Writing, Public Communication or Speech – nine (9) semester credit hours or the equivalent; and
C. Basic Sciences (General, Elementary, College or University Physics and lab) – four (4) semester credit hours or the equivalent; and
D. Additional Sciences that may include Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Dendrology, Biology, Geology, Geography, Soil Mechanics, Ecology, Engineering Science, Computer Science or Programming or other similar courses – nine (9) semester credit hours or the equivalent; and
E. Ethics and Business Management (Unless taken as part of Surveying curriculum below) – six (6) semester hours or the equivalent.
ii. Surveying or Surveying-related courses shall consist of:
A. At least eighteen (18) semester credit hours or the equivalent to include all of the following courses or equivalent topics. One or more of the courses shall emphasize U.S. Public Land Survey System aspects and principles:
1. Boundary Surveying principles; and
2. Plane Surveying; and
3. Survey Plats and Deeds; and
4. Law and Professionalism in Geomatics or Surveying; and
5. Plane Trigonometry; and
6. Route and Construction Surveying

B. At least six (6) semester credit hours or the equivalent, and at least two (2) courses or equivalent topics from the following:
1. Cartography; or
2. Remote Sensing; or
3. Photogrammetry; or
4. Advanced GPS; or
5. Advanced Surveying; or
6. Advanced GIS; or
C. Not more than six (6) semester credit hours or the equivalent, and no more than three (3) courses or equivalent topics from the following:
1. Intro to GIS, GPS or Remote Sensing; or
2. Digital Photogrammetry; or
3. Digital Remote Sensing; or
4. Spatial Statistics; or
5. Hydrology; or
6. Principles of Real Estate; or
7. Route or Highway Design; or
8. Geographic Coordinate Systems; or
9. Subdivision and/or Land Development; or
10. Any other courses or subjects deemed acceptable by the Board.

Applicants verified by an appropriate school official as being enrolled in and within 12 months of graduation from programs meeting the requirements of subsection a. or subsection b. of this section and who are otherwise qualified, shall be admitted to an approved NCEES examination in the fundamentals of surveying and licensed as a surveyor intern upon successful completion of that examination and after furnishing proof of graduation.

Other applicants meeting the requirements of this section shall, upon consideration and approval of all materials required by the Board, and if otherwise qualified, shall be admitted to an approved NCEES examination in the fundamentals of surveying and shall be licensed as a surveyor intern upon successful completion of that examination.

d. Except as provided otherwise in this subsection d., an applicant that submitted an application prior to January 1, 2017 and found by the Board to meet the requirements in effect at that time, may take or continue to take the NCEES examination as provided in Article 11. In no case, however, shall an applicant be allowed to take the NCEES examination after January 1, 2020 unless he or she meets the requirements of subsection 3. of this section.
ARTICLE 8. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE

E. Professional Surveyor

c. Effective January 1, 2017, an applicant shall submit:

i. Proof of graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree in Surveying, Geomatics, Geomatics Engineering, Spatial Information Systems with a minor or emphasis in Surveying, from a program accredited by ABET or approved by the Board; or

ii. Proof of graduation with an Associate of Science or Associate of Applied Science degree in Surveying or Surveying Technology from a program approved by the Board; or

iii. Proof of graduation with a baccalaureate degree from a curriculum of four (4) years or more that includes both core general education courses in subsection A. and surveying or surveying related courses in subsection B., or an engineering degree from a program that is EAC of ABET accredited, and at least thirty (30) hours of surveying or surveying-related courses as specified in subsection B. below.

A. General education courses shall include:

1. Mathematics (College Algebra and higher) – twelve (12) semester credit hours or the equivalent; and
2. English, Technical Writing, Public Communication or Speech – nine (9) semester credit hours or the equivalent; and
3. Basic Sciences (General, Elementary, College or University Physics and lab) – four (4) semester credit hours or the equivalent; and
4. Additional Sciences that may include Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Dendrology, Biology, Geology, Geography, Soil Mechanics, Ecology, Engineering Science, Computer Science or Programming or other similar courses – nine (9) semester credit hours or the equivalent; and
5. Ethics and Business Management (Unless taken as part of Surveying curriculum below) – six (6) semester hours or the equivalent.
B. Surveying or Surveying-related courses shall consist of:

1. At least eighteen (18) semester credit hours or the equivalent to include all of the following courses or equivalent topics. One or more of the courses shall emphasize U.S. Public Land Survey System aspects and principles:
   a. Boundary Surveying principles; and
   b. Plane Surveying; and
   c. Survey Plats and Deeds; and
   d. Law and Professionalism in Geomatics or Surveying; and
   e. Plane Trigonometry; and
   f. Route and Construction Surveying

2. At least six (6) semester credit hours or the equivalent, and at least two (2) courses or equivalent topics from the following:
   a. Cartography; or
   b. Remote Sensing; or
   c. Photogrammetry; or
   d. Advanced GPS; or
   e. Advanced Surveying; or
   f. Advanced GIS; or
   g. Hydrographic Surveying.

3. Not more than six (6) semester credit hours or the equivalent, and no more than three (3) courses or equivalent topics from the following:
   a. Intro to GIS, GPS or Remote Sensing; or
   b. Digital Photogrammetry; or
   c. Digital Remote Sensing; or
   d. Spatial Statistics; or
   e. Hydrology; or
   f. Principles of Real Estate; or
   g. Route or Highway Design; or
   h. Geographic Coordinate Systems; or
   i. Subdivision and/or Land Development; or
   j. Any other courses or subjects deemed acceptable by the Board.
iv. Proof of three (3) years of acceptable experience if the applicant’s educational qualifications meet the requirements of subsection i. or subsection iii. of this section or six (6) years of acceptable experience if the applicant’s educational qualifications meet the requirements of subsection ii. of this section.

A. Those applicants requiring three (3) years experience shall demonstrate:
1. At least one (1) year in performing field duties that would include all aspects of planning and performing boundary surveys in a public land survey system similar to that in Arkansas including finding and evaluating evidence, monumentation, checking distances and locations, and verifying accuracies and closures; and
2. At least one (1) year in performing office duties involving the research and planning of boundary, title, right-of-way or other surveys requiring the determination of boundary lines and corners for field crews, computations for plats, and the drawing, drafting, publishing of surveys and survey plats; and
3. The remainder of the three (3) years in either of the office or field procedures identified above or may be in other types of surveying whether in the office or field such as construction stakeout, surveying for engineering projects, topographical surveying or any activity constituting Surveying Measurement Certification.

B. Those applicants requiring six (6) years experience shall demonstrate:
1. At least two (2) years in performing field duties that would include all aspects of planning and performing boundary surveys in a public land survey system similar to that in Arkansas including finding and evaluating evidence, monumentation, checking distances and locations, and verifying accuracies and closures; and
2. At least two (2) years in performing office duties involving the research and planning of boundary, title, right-of-way or other surveys requiring the determination of boundary lines and corners for field crews, computations for plats, and the drawing, drafting, publishing of surveys and survey plats; and
3. The remainder of the six (6) years can be in either office or field procedures identified above or may be in other types of surveying whether in the office or field such as construction stakeout, surveying for engineering projects, topographical surveying or any activity constituting Surveying Measurement Certification.

C. Time documented as spent in classroom training in engineering or surveying topics and that improve or enhance the applicant’s skills in one or more of the areas identified in subsections A. or B. of this section may substitute for some of the field or office experience at the discretion of the Board. Courses that meet the requirements of subsection iii.b. of this section and not taken or otherwise included or required as part of the applicant’s degree or educational requirements shall be presumed to qualify for experience credit. The amount of credit actually provided for classes or training shall be determined based on the time spent while taking or attending the course or class as well as its content and complexity, and the total of all classroom or training credit shall not exceed more than one third (1/3) of the required experience for an applicant.
d. Applicant shall submit five (5) references, three (3) of which shall be from Professional Surveyors having personal knowledge of his surveying experience. Preferably these references should include both present and past supervisors.
e. The applicant shall have previously passed an examination in the fundamentals of surveying that is acceptable to the Board.
f. When these requirements are met, the applicant shall be admitted to an approved NCEES Professional Surveying and/or state examination(s).
g. Upon satisfactory completion of these requirements, the applicant shall be granted licensure in the State of Arkansas.
h. Except as provided otherwise in this subsection h., an applicant that submitted an application prior to January 1, 2017 and found by the Board to meet the qualifications in effect at that time may take or continue to take the NCEES examination and state specific examination as provided in Article 11. In no case, however, shall an applicant be allowed to take the NCEES and/or state examination after January 1, 2020 unless he or she meets the requirements of subsection c. of this section.
Important Information Regarding Surveyor Licensure
Changes in Arkansas

• In 2009, the Arkansas Legislature passed Act 392 that would change licensing requirements for Surveyor Intern and Professional Surveyor applicants beginning January 1, 2017.

• The Act does not provide for licensing by experience after January 1, 2017. Applicants will only be able to qualify for licensure by education after this effective date.

• Licensure under the current rules means that the applicant has met all requirements for licensure, been approved by the Board prior to January 1, 2017 to take the appropriate exams, and will be licensed upon successfully passing the exam.

• If the applicant was qualified and approved by the Board to take the exams prior to January 1, 2017, the applicant has until January 1, 2020 to pass the exams before being required to submit another application under the new rules.

• The last Board meeting approving applications prior to the rule change will be in November 2016. Therefore, the application deadline for qualifying with “experience only” under the current rules is October 7, 2016.

• If you have any questions, please contact the Arkansas Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors at PELSBoard @Arkansas.gov or (501) 682-2824.