

## Eligibility for FE and PE Exams<sup>1</sup>

The following is a summary of the education and experience requirements to take the FE (Exam I) and PE exam (Exam II) contained in the North Carolina Administrative Code and applied by the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. There are two methods to be eligible to sit for the PE exam (21 NCAC 56 .0503 E):

### 1. Pass the FE exam:

To be eligible to sit for the FE exam (21 NCAC 56 .0501 A):

Education	Experience Required <sup>2</sup>		
	FE Exam	PE Exam <sup>3</sup>	PE License
4-year ABET Engr. Degree	Senior Status	After Graduation and Passing FE Exam	4 years
4-year ABET Engr. Technology Degree	Senior Status		8 years
4-year Non-ABET Engr. or Sci. Degree <sup>4</sup>	4 years <sup>5</sup>		8 years

Effective July 1, 2016, anyone who has not already passed the FE exam can no longer qualify with the 2-year AAS Engr. Technology Degree or High School Diploma educational categories<sup>6</sup>.

### 2. Receive waiver for the FE exam by providing evidence of 20 years of progressive engineering experience<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Primary information source: <http://www.ncbels.org/LicReqPE.html>

<sup>2</sup> Not less than one-half of the required engineering experience shall be of a professional grade and character, and performed under the responsible charge of a licensed Professional Engineer. The term "progressive engineering experience" means that, during the period of time in which an applicant has made a practical utilization of acquired knowledge, continuous improvement, growth and development in the utilization of that knowledge have been shown, as revealed in the complexity and technical detail of the work product or work record. The applicant must show that greater individual responsibility for the work product has been continuously assumed over that period of time. Experience prior to graduation is not considered in the calculation of progressive engineering experience. ABET accredited engineering cooperative experience may be considered with a maximum allowable credit of one (1) year.

<sup>3</sup> HB 742, Decoupling of PE Exam and Experience - <http://www.ncbels.org/forms/decoupling%20final.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Degrees are evaluated by the Board on a case by case basis. In general, acceptable degrees typically include any engineering, biology, chemistry, math, physics, construction management, computer science, or similar degrees. Common degrees that are not accepted include business, finance, accounting, criminal justice, English, history, and similar degrees.

<sup>5</sup> Although the current policy lists the 4 year waiting period, no waiting period is needed under decoupling.

<sup>6</sup> Upon successfully passing the FE exam (before the July 1, 2016 deadline), it is expected that the examinee will still be eligible to sit for the PE exam (after the July 1, 2016 deadline, if necessary). Please note that this is subject to change.

<sup>7</sup> An individual with a specific record of 20 years or more of progressive experience on engineering projects of a grade and character which indicates adequate engineering ability to the Board, may be approved for waiver of Exam I by the Board. Those qualified applicants desiring waiver of Exam I should make a written request for the waiver by letter, and submit the request with the completed application.