



IDFPR

Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSURE

Professional Land Surveyor (035)

Effective Date: 6/2018

Revised Date: 9/2025

READ ME FIRST

The Division of Professional Regulation hopes that you will find the below useful in successfully applying for licensure in the State of Illinois. Carefully review this information as it will assist you in applying for your license and eliminate any processing delays.

Important:

- An application is active for three years from the date of receipt by the Department.
- Before contacting the Department, please review our FAQs for answers to most questions. <http://www.idfpr.illinois.gov/About/FAQ.html>)
- If your question is not addressed in our FAQ's, please contact the department at 1-800-560-6420 or email us at FPR.DesignUnit@Illinois.gov

LICENSE QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION:

There are two (2) types of degrees that are accepted under the Land Surveyor Practice Act.

- **Approved degree:** baccalaureate degree in Land Surveying with 24 hours of LS coursework - Approved Program. (Section 1270.14 of the Administrative Rules).
- **Non-approved degree:** baccalaureate degree with 24 hours of LS coursework. (Section 1270.15 of the Administrative Rules).

Include official descriptions for land surveying courses to be reviewed by the Board for possible acceptance.

Acceptable coursework to satisfy the 24-hours of land surveying coursework requirement includes but is not limited to; fundamentals of land surveying, boundary surveying, route surveying, topographic surveying, descriptions, legal aspects, subdivision design, data computations and adjustments, map projections and geometric geodemy and photogrammetry.

Internationally Educated Applicants:

If your baccalaureate degree was earned outside the United States, an NCEES Credential Evaluation of the baccalaureate degree is required, pursuant to Section 1270.5 & 1270.10 of the Administrative Rules. The educational courses must meet Illinois specific requirements, which may differ from the NCEES standard. Here is the link to start the process:

<https://ncees.org/ncees-services/credentials-evaluations>

EXAMINATION:

- Pursuant to Section 1270.20 of the Administrative Rules, passage of the NCEES Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) examination, the NCEES Principles and Practices of Surveying (PS) exam, and the Illinois Jurisdiction (IJ) exam are required for licensure.

EXPERIENCE:

- Pursuant to Section 1270.13 of the Administrative Rules, a minimum of four (4) years of professional land surveying experience in responsible charge is required.

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NOTICE:

- If you are an Illinois Surveyor Intern, bachelor's degree transcripts are not required. Simply upload a copy of your SI certificate in lieu of your transcripts.
- If you are submitting an NCEES Record as supplemental documentation to your application, transcripts, exam certifications (except the IJ exam) or experience forms are not required as they should be contained within the Record.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS:

- Applicants who graduated from a U.S. or Canadian University must upload official transcripts showing the conferral date for any degree you wish to claim.
- Internationally educated applicants submitting an NCEES evaluation do not need to submit additional copies of their foreign transcripts, simply upload a document indicating that the NCEES evaluation will be sent to the Illinois PLS Board.

EXAM/LICENSE CERTIFICATION:

- Applicants must certify they have sent an exam certification for passage of the FS and PS exams to the Illinois Board through their MyNCEES account or have the state board use their respective electronic service to send the certification/verification directly to you and upload the PDF version. Unofficial copies are not accepted.
- Applicants must upload their examination score report for passage of the IJ exam during the application process.

EXPERIENCE:

- Experience must be submitted on the VE-LSR form.
- The form is available here: <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idfpr/forms/dpr/2024-ve-lsr.pdf>
- A separate form for each supervisor/place of employment must be uploaded during the application process.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ONCE LICENSED

- Upon satisfying the applicable requirements, your application will be approved and you will receive an email notification that your license has been issued and will include a link to download your license.
- All Professional Land Surveyor licenses expire on November 30th of each odd-numbered year, regardless of issuance date.

- It is your responsibility to update your contact information including email address with the Department to ensure that you receive all courtesy renewal email reminders and other notifications.
- We highly recommend that you review the Code Enforcement Manual as it will provide a sample of what your Illinois license seal/stamp should look like and other useful information regarding your profession.
- You may access the manual here:
<https://idfpr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idfpr/forms/dpr/design-codemannual.pdf>

PROFESSIONAL DESIGN FIRM REQUIREMENT

- Any company that offers professional services in Illinois must be registered as a Professional Design Firm (PDF) with this Department.
- Professional services include Architecture, Professional Engineering, Structural Engineering, and/or Land Surveying.
- Offering services without a PDF registration is a violation of each of the four design profession Acts and subject to discipline by the Department.
- Applicants are encouraged to advise a company principal of this requirement.
- You may review the requirements and apply here: <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/profs/landsurv.html>