



IDFPR

Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

License qualifications for:

Structural Engineer (081)

Effective: 6/2018
Revised: 09/2025

READ ME FIRST

The Division of Professional Regulation hopes that you will find the below useful in successfully applying for registration in the State of Illinois. Carefully review this information as it will assist you in applying for your certification 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

QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATION:

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

- **Approved Program:** A minimum of a baccalaureate degree in engineering and possession of 18-hours of SE coursework. (Refer to Section 1480.110 of the Administrative Rules).
 - Acceptable coursework to satisfy the 18-hour requirement may include, but is not limited to, structural analysis courses such as determinate and indeterminate structures, stability and finite element analysis, and structural design courses such as structural steel, reinforced concrete, prestressed concrete, foundation, masonry and wood engineering.
 - If you have a senior project course and functioned as the structural engineer on the project, include a course description for the course and a summary of your specific role on the project for Board review and possible acceptance.
 - Courses such as mechanics (statics and dynamics), mechanics of materials, properties of materials, and soil mechanics do not qualify.
- **Non-Approved Program:** An EAC/ABET baccalaureate degree, a NAAB Accredited Architecture degree or a baccalaureate degree meeting the listed course requirements. (Refer to Section 1480.120 of the Administrative Rules).
- **Additional requirements for foreign educated applicants:**
 - **NCEES Credential Evaluation.** If the baccalaureate degree was earned outside the United States and Canada, a course-by-course evaluation of the baccalaureate degree by NCEES is required, pursuant to Sections 1480.135, 1480.140 & 1480.170 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/nceesservices/credentials-evaluations/>

EXAMINATION:

Pursuant to Section 1480.150 of the Administrative Rules, there are two examinations that are currently administered and accepted for the Structural Engineer license:

- NCEES - FE Examination
- NCEES - PE Structural (multi-day) Examination
(The NCEES 16-hour Structural and SE I and SE II exams are accepted if passed during their respective timeframe)

EXPERIENCE:

- Review Section 1480.130 of the Administrative Rules for acceptable experience for the Structural Engineer License.
 - Four (4) years of structural engineering experience is required for approved program graduates.
 - Eight (8) years of structural engineering experience is required for all non-approved program graduates.

REQUIRED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

NOTICE:

- If you are an Illinois Structural Engineer Intern, an FE Exam certification or bachelor's degree transcripts are not required.
- If you are submitting an NCEES Record as supplemental documentation to your application; transcripts, exam certifications 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, have your university use their respective electronic service to send your transcript directly to you and upload the PDF version. Unofficial copies are not accepted.
- Applicants from a non-U.S. or Canadian university, request your NCEES Credential Evaluation to be submitted to the Illinois SE Board. The evaluation will contain your baccalaureate transcripts and any other degree transcripts you have submitted to NCEES. Additional copies are not needed.

EXAM & LICENSE CERTIFICATION:

- Applicants must certify they have sent exam and license certifications 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 then upload the PDF version. Unofficial copies are not accepted.

EXPERIENCE:

- Experience must be submitted on the VE-SEG form.
- The form is available here: <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idfpr/forms/dpr/2024-ve-seg.pdf>
- A separate form for each supervisor/place of employment must be completed by the supervisor and uploaded during the application process.
 - If you are applying via Endorsement, currently licensed in the U.S., and do not have a supervisor, the Board allows for self-verification of structural engineering experience under your own license since the date of original licensure.

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 Structural Engineer licenses expire on November 30th of even-numbered years, 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-codemanual.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/se.html>