



Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

Illinois Professional Land Surveyor Board

Candidate Examination Guide for:

Professional Land Surveyor

Effective 1/2024
Revised 2/2026

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation along with The Illinois Professional Land Surveyor Board hope that you will find the following information useful in preparing to take the Illinois Jurisdictional Examination that will lead you toward the path of licensure as a Professional Land Surveyor in the State of Illinois.

Pursuant to Section 1270.20 of the Administrative Rules, passage of the Illinois Land Surveying Jurisdictional Examination (IJ) is required for licensure. **Continental Testing Services, Inc.** (CTS) is designated as the authorized exam administration service for the IJ examination. Apply through CTS to reserve a seat for the IJ exam. Exam specifications are on the next page.

Web: <https://www.continentaltesting.net/Profession/Index/8>

REGISTRATION:

Candidates wishing to sit for the IJ exam must directly register with CTS to schedule your exam. Department pre-approval is no longer required.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

If you move after applying to take the IJ examination, you must submit your change of address in writing to:

Continental Testing Services, Inc.

547 South LaGrange Road

LaGrange, IL 60525

EXAMINATION RESULTS:

- The IJ examination results should be available within **approximately 6-8 weeks** from the date of the examination. CTS will send your examination results via U.S. Mail once available.
- Once you receive your exam score report, email it to the Department at FPR.DesignUnit@Illinois.gov and it will be applied to your application.

REFRESHER COURSES:

For information on refresher courses, contact the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association (IPLSA)

Phone: 217-528-3053

Website: www.iplsa.org

FAQ's FOR PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR:

<https://idfpr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/idfpr/faq/dpr/ls-faq.pdf>

ILLINOIS LAND SURVEYING JURISDICTIONAL EXAMINATION

The IJ Exam is a paper and pencil exam and is administered multiple times throughout the year. The Illinois Land Surveying Jurisdictional examination specifications are below.

Content Outline

This is a two-hour, 65-item, **closed** book examination. It is designed to assess each candidate's knowledge of Illinois law, regulations and practices related to public protection issues.

The examination covers the following content areas:

- 1. US Public Land Surveys (PLSS) - 13 Qs**
History of PLSS, Federal Instructions Related to Illinois, PLSS Retracement
- 2. Standards and Practice Requirements - 8 Qs**
ALTA/NSPS Standard Detail Requirements, Rules and Requirements for Illinois Land Surveyors
- 3. Legal Precedent and Procedures - 23 Qs**
Boundary Law, Conveyances, Deeds, Legal Descriptions, Monuments, Apportionment, Junior/Senior Rights, Riparian Rights, Water Boundaries, Patent/Latent Ambiguities, Acts of Owners, Boundary Retracement, Controlling Elements
- 4. Plats, Surveys and Legal Descriptions - 10 Qs**
Records Research for Plats and Surveys, Title Commitments, Legal Descriptions, Survey Calculations
- 5. Illinois Statutes Related to Land Surveying - 10 Qs**
Cities, Counties, Municipalities and Townships, Records, Recorders, Civil Procedure and Revenue Special Districts and Natural Resources, Roads, Bridges and Fences, Property and Liens, Canals, Waterways and Drainage, Utilities

Study Materials

- 1. 2018 Illinois Compiled Statutes & Administrative Rules for the Practice of Professional Land Surveying in the State of Illinois.**
Published by Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association (IPLSA).
Available online and as a book on www.IPLSA.org.
- 2. Minimum Standard Detail Requirements for ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys.** (Effective October 30, 2021). Available on the NSPS website at <https://www.nsp.us.com/page/2021ALTA>
- 3. Manual of Instructions for the Survey of Public Lands of the United States, 2009**
Available at https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Manual_of_Surveying_Instructions_2009.pdf
- 4. Restoration of Lost or Obliterated Corners, 1883-1974. Reprinted 1977.**
Available at www.amazon.com
- 5. Robillard, Walter G. & Wilson, Donald A., Brown's Boundary Control and Legal Principles, 2014.**
This reference was added in 2023. Available at www.amazon.com
- 6. Wattles, Gurdon H. Writing Legal Descriptions in Conjunction with Survey Boundary Control, 1979.** Available at www.amazon.com

Other Regulations for Administering Land Surveyor Examinations

Examination Security

1. By registering for this examination, each candidate acknowledges and accepts the responsibility to maintain the security of these examinations by neither copying nor divulging any questions, answers or solutions to any part of these tests, including any drawings or notes made with reference to these examinations. Each examinee will sign a statement acknowledging compliance.
2. Any breach of examination security is grounds for disciplinary action by the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation.

Photo Identification Required

Each candidate must present a photo ID and a valid exam authorization notice to be admitted to any of these examinations. Only a valid Driver's License, Secretary of State ID card, or a current passport is acceptable as photographic identification. If the name on the photo ID does not match the name on the exam authorization notice, proof of legal name change also must be presented before the candidate can be admitted to an examination.

Materials Prohibited during Examinations

1. Any devices or materials that might compromise the security of these examinations ARE PROHIBITED. All such devices or materials found during an examination may be checked by examination security personnel and confiscated pending any investigation or action regarding possible threats to the security of these tests.
2. Communicating devices such as pagers, beepers, cellular telephones or other electronic instruments that may disturb or distract candidates ARE PROHIBITED, including electronic watches with set alarms.
3. Smoking and the consumption of food and drink ARE PROHIBITED in the examination room.
4. Luggage, boxes or cases ARE PROHIBITED in the examination room.
5. Laptop computers and all calculators other than those specified below ARE PROHIBITED in the examination room.

Calculators Permitted During Examinations

Only calculator models that are listed as approved for this test are shown on the NCEES Web site (www.ncees.org) are permitted during the test. No candidate will be allowed to use any calculator that is not designated on the NCEES Web site as approved. No calculators will be available or provided to any candidate who brings a calculator to the test that is not on the approved list at www.ncees.org.

Special Accommodations

Any candidate who needs special accommodations in test-taking procedures because of a disabling condition must communicate that need in writing with his or her application for each test date. No such accommodations can be arranged on the day of an examination.

Marking Answer Sheets

All answers must be recorded on the answer sheet to be scored for this exam. However, all such materials MUST be turned in at the end of the test for security reasons and may not be removed from the examination room by any candidate. All valid answers must be properly recorded on the answer sheet to be scored in these examinations.

Permission to Leave the Room

Permission must be obtained from examination security personnel to leave the examining room for any reason. Talking or any contact with other examinees during the exam is not permitted and may be grounds for immediate removal and disqualification.

Visitors

Friends and relatives are not permitted in the testing area at any time. Anyone who accompanies you to the test site and is not registered to take these tests must meet you outside the testing facility after you have finished.

Score Reporting

Scores for the Illinois Land Surveying Jurisdictional Examination are posted on the CTS website. Results typically are available within 10 business days after the date of the examination.

Results of NCEES scores for Professional Land Surveyors can be delayed for six to eight weeks after the date of the examination. CTS staff cannot respond to questions about NCEES scores during this period. Please do not call CTS to ask for information about NCEES scores during this period.