

**Chapter 196-12 WAC**  
**REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS**

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**WAC**

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**DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS FORMERLY CODIFIED IN THIS CHAPTER**

196-12-011 Application requirements. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 08-11-100, § 196-12-011, filed 5/20/08, effective 7/1/08.] Repealed by WSR 22-17-121, filed 8/23/22, effective 9/23/22. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035.

196-12-012 Reexamination requirements. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 08-11-100, § 196-12-012, filed 5/20/08, effective 7/1/08.] Repealed by WSR 22-17-121, filed 8/23/22, effective 9/23/22. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035.

196-12-031 Examinations—Modification of examination times. [Filed 12/13/67.] Repealed by WSR 82-01-064 (Order 81-10), filed 12/18/81. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035.

196-12-035 Examination review and request for rescoring of examination questions. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 01-09-016, § 196-12-035, filed 4/6/01, effective 5/7/01.] Repealed by WSR 08-11-100, filed 5/20/08, effective 7/1/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035.

196-12-040 Reports. [Rule ID, filed 12/26/62.] Decodified as omitted from comprehensive refiling of rule dated 11/15/65 and 8/4/64.

196-12-050 Waiving the fundamentals-of-engineering examination. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 08-11-100, § 196-12-050, filed 5/20/08, effective 7/1/08. Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.43 and 18.235 RCW. WSR 04-04-001, § 196-12-050, filed 1/21/04, effective 2/21/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 98-12-052, § 196-12-050, filed 5/29/98, effective 7/1/98; WSR 93-01-081, § 196-12-050, filed 12/15/92, effective 1/15/93; WSR 92-01-101, § 196-12-050, filed 12/17/91, effective 1/17/92; WSR 84-04-027 (Order PL 454), § 196-12-050, filed 1/25/84; WSR 82-01-064 (Order 81-10), § 196-12-050, filed 12/18/81; Order PL 181, § 196-12-050, filed 1/28/75; Order PL-121, § 196-12-050, filed 5/3/72; Order ELS 7001, § 196-12-050, filed 5/18/70; Order 11, § 196-12-050, filed 9/12/68; Rule IID, filed 11/15/65, 8/4/64; Rule IE, filed 12/26/62.] Repealed by WSR 15-08-064, filed 3/27/15, effective 4/30/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035.

196-12-060 Persons enrolled as E.I.T.s. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 84-04-027 (Order PL 454), § 196-12-060, filed 1/25/84; WSR 82-01-064 (Order 81-10), § 196-12-060, filed 12/18/81; Order PL 224, § 196-12-060, filed 11/5/75; Order 11, § 196-12-060, filed 9/12/68; Rule IIE, filed 11/15/65, 8/4/64; Rule IF, filed 12/26/62.] Repealed by WSR 98-12-052, filed 5/29/98, effective 7/1/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035.

196-12-070 Fees. [Order PL 224, § 196-12-070, filed 11/5/75; Order PL 181, § 196-12-070, filed 1/28/75; Order 11, § 196-12-070, filed 9/12/68; Rule IIF, filed 11/15/65, 8/4/64; Rule IG, filed 12/26/62.] Repealed by WSR 82-01-064 (Order 81-10), filed 12/18/81. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035.

196-12-075 Renewal of licenses. [Order PL 224, § 196-12-075, filed 11/5/75; Order PL 181, § 196-12-075, filed 1/28/75; Order PL 176, § 196-12-075, filed 10/15/74.] Repealed by WSR 82-01-064 (Order 81-10), filed 12/18/81. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035.

196-12-080 Branches of registration. [Order PL-129, § 196-12-080, filed 7/27/72; Order PL-115, § 196-12-080, filed 11/24/71; Order 11, § 196-12-080, filed 9/12/68; Rule IG, filed 11/15/65, 8/4/64; Rule IH, filed 12/26/62.] Repealed by WSR 82-01-064 (Order 81-10), filed 12/18/81. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035.

196-12-085 Corporation or joint stock associations. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 88-12-044 (Order PM 738), § 196-12-085, filed 5/27/88; WSR 84-04-027 (Order PL 454), § 196-12-085, filed 1/25/84; WSR 82-01-064 (Order 81-10), § 196-12-085, filed 12/18/81; Order PL 181, § 196-12-085, filed 1/28/75; Order PL-115, § 196-12-085, filed 11/24/71.] Repealed by WSR 98-12-052, filed 5/29/98, effective 7/1/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035.

196-12-090 Correspondence. [Order PL-115, § 196-12-090, filed 11/24/71; Order 11, § 196-12-090, filed 9/12/68.] Repealed by Order PL 181, filed 1/28/75.

196-12-100 Limited waiver of the requirement for licensure in structural engineering to design "significant structures." [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 08-11-101, § 196-12-100, filed 5/20/08, effective 7/1/08.] Repealed by WSR 14-07-106, filed 3/19/14, effective 4/19/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035.

196-12-103 Application requirements for waiver of structural license for designing "significant structures." [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 08-11-101, § 196-12-103, filed 5/20/08, effective 7/1/08.] Repealed by WSR 14-07-106, filed 3/19/14, effective 4/19/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035.

196-12-105 Ineligibility for licensing waiver. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 08-11-101, § 196-12-105, filed 5/20/08, effective 7/1/08.] Repealed by WSR 14-07-106, filed 3/19/14, effective 4/19/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035.

**WAC 196-12-005 Declaration and purpose.** This chapter contains rules and procedures for applications, examinations, experience, education, and eligibility to become licensed as professional engineers.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 22-17-121, § 196-12-005, filed 8/23/22, effective 9/23/22. Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.43 and 18.235 RCW. WSR 04-04-001, § 196-12-005, filed 1/21/04, effective 2/21/04.]

**WAC 196-12-010 Licensure requirements for all applicants—Initial licensure and licensed in another jurisdiction.** To become licensed as a professional engineer in the state of Washington, whether you are applying for an initial license or you possess a license in another jurisdiction, you must meet the requirements for experience and examinations described below, which need not be completed within the state of Washington:

(1) **Experience:** Have eight years of experience in engineering work of a character satisfactory to the board:

(a) The eight years may be a combination of education and practical work experience.

(b) The eight years of experience must be broad based and progressive to include gaining knowledge and comprehension of engineering subjects and applying engineering principles.

(2) **Examination requirements:** An applicant must have received passing scores on two stages of examination(s). One must test the fundamentals of engineering and the other must test the principles and practice of engineering. Exam results must be independently verified by a NCEES member board, or a board approved foreign jurisdiction.

(a) (i) **Fundamentals of engineering examination** must meet the following requirements:

(ii) The examination must be either:

(A) The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) fundamentals-of-engineering (FE) examination; or

(B) An equivalent examination as determined by the board which tests the applicant's knowledge of appropriate fundamentals of engineering subjects including mathematics and the basic sciences as defined in RCW 18.43.040 (1)(b)(i) and was administered by a board approved foreign jurisdiction.

(b) **Principles and practice of engineering examination:** The principles and practice of engineering (PE) examination must be the examination administered by NCEES.

(3) **Additional licensure requirements:** An applicant must meet the following additional requirements for licensure:

(a) Receive a passing score on the Washington law review;

(b) Fully complete the application form to the satisfaction of the board; and

(c) Pay all applicable fees.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 22-17-121, § 196-12-010, filed 8/23/22, effective 9/23/22; WSR 18-10-085, § 196-12-010, filed 5/1/18, effective 6/1/18; WSR 15-08-064, § 196-12-010, filed 3/27/15,

effective 4/30/15; WSR 14-07-106, § 196-12-010, filed 3/19/14, effective 4/19/14; WSR 08-11-100, § 196-12-010, filed 5/20/08, effective 7/1/08. Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.43 and 18.235 RCW. WSR 04-04-001, § 196-12-010, filed 1/21/04, effective 2/21/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 98-12-052, § 196-12-010, filed 5/29/98, effective 7/1/98; WSR 88-12-044 (Order PM 738), § 196-12-010, filed 5/27/88; WSR 87-13-005 (Order PM 606), § 196-12-010, filed 6/4/87; WSR 84-04-027 (Order PL 454), § 196-12-010, filed 1/25/84; WSR 82-01-064 (Order 81-10), § 196-12-010, filed 12/18/81; Order PL 224, § 196-12-010, filed 11/5/75; Order PL-129, § 196-12-010, filed 7/27/72; Order 11, § 196-12-010, filed 9/12/68; Rule IIA, filed 11/15/65; Rule IIA, filed 8/4/64; Rule IA, filed 12/26/62.]

**WAC 196-12-013 FE examination application.** (1) **ABET accredited degree applicants.** For those who have attended ABET accredited degree programs and now have reached senior standing, applications to take the FE examination may be completed online directly with NCEES. Applicants should list the state of Washington as their licensing state.

(2) **All other applicants.** Those who do not meet the requirements of subsection (1) of this section must fill out the FE exam application provided on the board website, <https://brpels.wa.gov/>, demonstrate they meet the requirements, provide required documentation, and be approved by the board to take the examination.

Further details on education experience records are provided under WAC 196-12-021.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 22-17-121, § 196-12-013, filed 8/23/22, effective 9/23/22.]

**WAC 196-12-014 PE licensure application form.** The board has a single application form for PE licensure in the state of Washington. This application form must be used by all applicants including those applying for the PE exam and licensure concurrently, those who have already taken the PE examination in another jurisdiction but have not obtained their initial license, and those who are already licensed in another jurisdiction and are seeking a license in Washington state.

(1) **Current PE examination and licensure applications:** Applicants who have not taken the PE examination will apply for both the PE examination and licensure on the application form. In order to be approved by the board to take the PE examination, the applicant must complete all sections of the form, except the date and location of taking the PE exam and must otherwise meet all of the qualifications for licensure. Upon passing the PE examination, the applicant is also qualified for licensure.

Applications for PE examination and licensure must be received at the board's address with the applicable fee by the date posted on the board's website.

(2) **All other applicants for PE licensure in Washington state.** All other applicants applying for licensure in the state of Washington, including those who are licensed in another jurisdiction or have passed the Principles & Practices of engineering examination but have not obtained their initial license, must complete all sections of the application form provided by the board.

(a) All applicants must provide information on the application form that demonstrates they meet all requirements for licensure. This

includes work experience requirements, education requirements, and examination requirements as detailed in WAC 196-12-010, 196-12-020, and 196-12-021; and RCW 18.43.040.

(b) All applicants must provide the following documents to verify these requirements:

(i) Education experience records - Official transcripts or the equivalent, showing all grades and degrees.

(ii) Work experience records - Completed form titled "Professional Engineering Experience Verification" which includes not only work experience information and details but also verifications of work experience by supervisors or other verifiers, per RCW 18.43.050.

(iii) Verification of licensing in any other jurisdiction(s), if any.

(iv) Verification of passing the FE examination or its equivalent (if any) and verification of passing the PE examination.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 22-17-121, § 196-12-014, filed 8/23/22, effective 9/23/22.]

**WAC 196-12-020 Work experience records.** The following criteria will be used in evaluating an applicant's experience record:

(1) Work experience will be approved based on a demonstration of competency and progressive responsibility in the analysis, synthesis and evaluation of engineering concepts and data, under the direct supervision of a person authorized by chapter 18.43 RCW or other applicable statute to practice engineering. Under the general guidance and direct supervision of an authorized professional, the applicant must be in a position of making independent judgments and decisions in the following experience areas:

- (a) Formulating conclusions and recommendations;
- (b) Identifying design and/or project objectives;
- (c) Identifying possible alternative methods and concepts;
- (d) Defining performance specifications and functional requirements;
- (e) Solving engineering problems;
- (f) Interacting with allied professionals;
- (g) Effectively communicating recommendations and conclusions;
- (h) Demonstrating an understanding and concern for energy/environmental considerations, socioeconomic impact, and sustainability of resources.

(2) Engineering teaching may be considered satisfactory experience up to a maximum of two years at the discretion of the board.

(3) Applied research is considered satisfactory experience when it meets the following conditions:

(a) The research must be conducted under the guidance or supervision of a professional engineer. For the purposes of this subsection, guidance or supervision means being cognizant of all applicable aspects of the work and a reviewer of all applicable reporting documentation.

(b) The principal result(s) of the research are in a published report or a recognized engineering journal article in which the applicant is the primary author or the work is adequately documented and available to the board upon request.

(4) For military engineering experience to be considered acceptable, it should be similar to engineering experience that would be

gained in a nonmilitary environment as defined in subsection (1) of this section, and such experience must be verified.

(5) All work experience gained must be under the direct supervision of a professional engineer authorized to practice under chapter 18.43 RCW or an individual authorized by another statute to practice engineering.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 22-17-121, § 196-12-020, filed 8/23/22, effective 9/23/22; WSR 08-11-100, § 196-12-020, filed 5/20/08, effective 7/1/08. Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.43 and 18.235 RCW. WSR 04-04-001, § 196-12-020, filed 1/21/04, effective 2/21/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 02-01-071, § 196-12-020, filed 12/14/01, effective 1/30/02; WSR 98-12-052, § 196-12-020, filed 5/29/98, effective 7/1/98; WSR 92-01-101, § 196-12-020, filed 12/17/91, effective 1/17/92; WSR 87-13-005 (Order PM 606), § 196-12-020, filed 6/4/87; WSR 84-04-027 (Order PL 454), § 196-12-020, filed 1/25/84; WSR 82-01-064 (Order 81-10), § 196-12-020, filed 12/18/81; Order PL-115, § 196-12-020, filed 11/24/71; Rule IIB, filed 11/15/65; Rule IIB, filed 5/26/65; Rule IIB, filed 8/4/64; Rule IB, filed 12/26/62.]

**WAC 196-12-021 Education experience records.** Official transcripts must be sent to the board's office for review and approval.

(1) A baccalaureate degree in engineering in a program accredited by the accreditation board for engineering and technology (ABET) is equivalent to four years of required experience. Satisfactory completion of each year of such an approved program is equivalent to one year of experience.

(2) A degree in engineering from a non-ABET accredited engineering program may be given four years at the discretion of the board. The board will determine if the degree is satisfactory in awarding years of experience.

(3) No more than one year may be granted for postgraduate engineering courses.

(4) A baccalaureate degree in a nonengineering program will be given a maximum of two years of experience.

(5) An associate degree in engineering from an approved program may be equivalent for up to two years of experience.

(6) Sporadic engineering related education may be considered as experience by the board at its discretion. For example, one or two engineering classes taken at a time, often at different schools; and/or classes taken through industry or the military may count as experience. In evaluating this type of education, the board will compare the courses taken to college coursework in a baccalaureate of engineering degree program.

(a) A number of foreign degree programs are included in mutual recognition agreements entered into by ABET with other accrediting authorities. Applicants with a degree from one of these programs will be evaluated by the board.

(b) Applicants having engineering degrees from programs in countries that are not ABET accredited will be required to have their transcripts evaluated by a transcript evaluation service approved by the board. This evaluation will be performed at the applicant's expense, and the applicant will be responsible for submitting all necessary information to the evaluation service. The board will use the

evaluation to determine if the foreign degree is satisfactory to the board to award years of experience.

(c) An applicant with an undergraduate degree from a foreign program that is not ABET accredited, can waive the requirement for a degree evaluation if they have a graduate degree in engineering from a school that has an ABET accredited undergraduate engineering degree program in the same discipline as the graduate degree. Years of experience will be determined at the discretion of the board.

(7) Any other education may be taken into account and evaluated on its merits by the board.

(8) Work experience gained between semesters or quarters or during summers while enrolled in an approved curriculum may be counted as experience at the discretion of the board.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 22-17-121, § 196-12-021, filed 8/23/22, effective 9/23/22; WSR 14-07-106, § 196-12-021, filed 3/19/14, effective 4/19/14; WSR 08-11-100, § 196-12-021, filed 5/20/08, effective 7/1/08.]

**WAC 196-12-030 Additional branches of engineering.** A professional engineer with a current registration in the state of Washington that is seeking to become licensed in an additional branch of engineering must pass the principles and practice examination for that additional branch.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 22-17-121, § 196-12-030, filed 8/23/22, effective 9/23/22; WSR 14-07-106, § 196-12-030, filed 3/19/14, effective 4/19/14; WSR 08-11-100, § 196-12-030, filed 5/20/08, effective 7/1/08. Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.43 and 18.235 RCW. WSR 04-04-001, § 196-12-030, filed 1/21/04, effective 2/21/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 02-01-071, § 196-12-030, filed 12/14/01, effective 1/30/02; WSR 01-09-016, § 196-12-030, filed 4/6/01, effective 5/7/01; WSR 98-12-052, § 196-12-030, filed 5/29/98, effective 7/1/98; WSR 93-01-081, § 196-12-030, filed 12/15/92, effective 1/15/93; WSR 84-04-027 (Order PL 454), § 196-12-030, filed 1/25/84; WSR 82-01-064 (Order 81-10), § 196-12-030, filed 12/18/81; Order PL-129, § 196-12-030, filed 7/27/72; Order PL-115, § 196-12-030, filed 11/24/71; Order 11, § 196-12-030, filed 9/12/68; Rule IIC, filed 11/15/65, 8/4/64; Rule IC, filed 12/26/62.]

**WAC 196-12-045 Registration of applicants licensed in other jurisdictions.** Licenses may be issued only in the branches of engineering currently recognized by the board. The board has discretion to issue a license to an out-of-state licensee who meets the following requirements:

(1) Completes the application form provided by the board including supporting documentation, as listed in WAC 196-12-010, 196-12-014, 196-12-020, 196-12-021, and pays the appropriate fee;

(2) Holds a currently valid license in a board recognized licensing jurisdiction in a state, territory, possession, district, or foreign country; and

(3) Meets minimum requirements for licensure as determined by the board under WAC 196-12-010 and 196-12-014, including testing that ade-

quately measures the fundamentals of engineering and principles and practice of engineering.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 22-17-121, § 196-12-045, filed 8/23/22, effective 9/23/22; WSR 18-10-085, § 196-12-045, filed 5/1/18, effective 6/1/18; WSR 08-11-100, § 196-12-045, filed 5/20/08, effective 7/1/08. Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.43 and 18.235 RCW. WSR 04-04-001, § 196-12-045, filed 1/21/04, effective 2/21/04. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 98-12-052, § 196-12-045, filed 5/29/98, effective 7/1/98.]

**WAC 196-12-047 Structural licensing requirements.** The branch of structural engineering requires specialized work experience to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. To be licensed as a structural engineer, an applicant must:

(1) Be currently licensed as a professional engineer in Washington state;

(2) Have at least two years of progressive responsibility in structural engineering experience in addition to the eight years of engineering experience required to be registered as a professional engineer. The structural experience should:

(a) Demonstrate the applicant's ability to design building structures or nonbuilding structures integrated within "significant structures" as defined in RCW 18.43.020(12);

(b) Be progressive in difficulty and magnitude;

(c) Demonstrate breadth and depth of seismic design and detailing experience for projects in seismic regions similar to those located in Washington state;

(d) Incorporate two of the four common construction materials (steel, concrete, wood, and masonry);

(e) Reflect ability to design and apply structural engineering principles that show sound judgment on projects involving public health, safety, and welfare;

(f) Be supervised by a licensed professional engineer in the branch of structural engineering or a licensed professional engineer with substantial structural engineering work experience for projects in seismic regions similar to those located in Washington state; and

(3) Pass a board approved structural exam.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 22-17-121, § 196-12-047, filed 8/23/22, effective 9/23/22; WSR 18-10-085, § 196-12-047, filed 5/1/18, effective 6/1/18.]

**WAC 196-12-055 Permit for temporary practice.** Any nonresident engineer who intends to practice engineering in the state of Washington on a temporary basis must provide the board with the following before starting any work:

(1) A completed application with applicable fees.

(2) Dates work is to be started.

(3) Name and address of client.

(4) Description and location (address) of project.

(5) Name and contact information for local permitting authority.

Plans, specifications, and reports prepared by the nonresident engineer must be signed, dated, and stamped with their professional

seal. A copy of the permit issued by this board shall be attached to the engineering documents submitted for approval or building permit.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 22-17-121, § 196-12-055, filed 8/23/22, effective 9/23/22; WSR 08-11-100, § 196-12-055, filed 5/20/08, effective 7/1/08. Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.43 and 18.235 RCW. WSR 04-04-001, § 196-12-055, filed 1/21/04, effective 2/21/04.]

**WAC 196-12-065 Retired status.** A professional engineer having reached the age of 65 and having discontinued active practice as a professional engineer may be eligible for retired status. "Active practice" is defined as exercising direct supervision and control over any professional engineering activity as defined in RCW 18.43.020(5).

(1) Request for retired status. Upon approval, a request for retired status will be granted effective the next scheduled renewal date.

(2) A licensee on retired status may:

(a) Retain the board issued wall certificate of registration;

(b) Use the title "retired professional engineer" or "PE-retired" or "SE-retired" as appropriate;

(c) Work as an engineer in a volunteer capacity, provided that the retired licensee does not create an engineering document or use their seal;

(d) Provide experience verifications and references for persons seeking registration;

(e) Serve as an instructor for engineering related courses;

(f) Provide services as a technical expert before a court, or in preparation for pending litigation, on matters directly related to engineering work performed by the licensee;

(g) Serve in a function that supports the principles of registration and/or promotes the profession of engineering, such as members of commissions, boards or committees;

(h) Serve in an engineering capacity as a "good samaritan." The state laws governing such activity are RCW 38.52.195 and 38.52.1951 and chapter 18.43 RCW.

(3) A licensee on retired status must not:

(a) Perform any engineering activity, as provided for in RCW 18.43.020(5), unless the activity is under the direct supervision of a licensed professional engineer with an active registration in Washington;

(b) Act as the designated engineer for a corporation or limited liability company;

(c) Apply their professional engineers seal to any plan, specification, or report.

(4) Certificate of registration reinstatement. A retired licensee may resume active engineering practice with payment of the current renewal fee.

(5) Exemptions. A licensee is not eligible for retired status if their license to practice is under board ordered sanction. This exemption exists until the sanctions have been lifted or satisfied by the board.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.43.035. WSR 22-17-121, § 196-12-065, filed 8/23/22, effective 9/23/22; WSR 08-11-100, § 196-12-065, filed 5/20/08, effective 7/1/08. Statutory Authority: Chapters 18.43 and



18.235 RCW. WSR 04-04-001, § 196-12-065, filed 1/21/04, effective 2/21/04.]