California

State Contact:

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Board Composition: 8 public members, 7 industry practitioner members

Requirements:

Education:

Geologist - Graduate with a major in geological sciences, or complete 30 semester units in courses that, in the opinion of the Board, are relevant to geology. At least 24 of the 30 units must be upper division or graduate courses. Regulations specify ABET accreditation for a qualifying degree or required coursework for the geologist license.

Geophysicist - Graduate with a major in geophysical-related sciences or complete 30 semester units in courses that, in the opinion of the Board, are relevant to geophysics. At least 24 of the 30 units must be upper division or graduate courses.

Experience:

Geologist - Three years of "professional geologic work" experience in a "responsible position" after meeting minimum education requirements, with a possible reduction of one year of "responsible position" work credit with a Masters or Doctorate in geological sciences. Professional work experience begins once educational requirements are met.

Geophysicist - Five years of "professional geophysical work" experience in a "responsible position" after meeting minimum education requirements, with a possible reduction of two years of "responsible position" work credit with a Masters or Doctorate in geophysical science.

CEG or CHG - Must be licensed in California as a PG and have seven years total education and work experience of which at least three years qualifying "responsible charge" experience under the supervision of a CEG or civil PE for the CEG, or a CHG for the CHG. Five years responsible charge of work in the specialty may be submitted for the three years' experience described above with acceptable documentation.

Examination:

Professional Geologist (PG) - Candidates must take and pass the ASBOG® Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and Practice of Geology (PG), as well as a California Specific Examination (CSE) testing knowledge of state laws, rules, and regulations and of seismicity and geology unique to practice within California.

Licensed Professional Geophysicist (PGP), Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG), and Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG) - Candidates must take and pass the California developed examinations.

First ASBOG® Exam: March 2000

Continuing Education: None

Grandfathering: Does not recognize grandfathered registrants.

Cooperative Licensure: Any applicant licensed in another state or country passing the ASBOG® FG and PG examinations on or after November 1, 1996, if he/she meets California education and experience requirements and passes the California Specific Examination (CSE).

Registrant Count:

Professional Geologists – 4,974
Professional Geophysicists - 146
Geologist-in-Training – 1,123
Certified Hydrogeologists - 847
Certified Engineering Geologists - 1,300

Information Updated: As of July 1, 2025