FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Tennessee Geologist Registration

1. What are the requirements for registration as a geologist in Tennessee?

Per TCA 62-36-109 (a)To be eligible for a certificate of licensure, an applicant shall meet each of the following minimum qualifications:

(1) Be a graduate of an accredited college or university. The applicant shall have successfully completed a minimum of thirty (30) semester or forty-five (45) quarter hours of course work in geology, geophysics, geochemistry, engineering geology or their subdivisions.

(2) Have at least five (5) years of geological education and professional experience. Any combination of the following kinds of education and experience qualify toward accumulating the required five (5) years:

(A) Each year of graduate study shall count as one (1) year of experience; provided, that credit for graduate study or graduate courses, shall in no case exceed a total of two (2) years toward meeting the five-year requirement of this subdivision (a)(3);

(B) Each year of teaching or geological research by persons teaching upper-level geology courses at the college or university levels; provided, that the teaching or research can be demonstrated to be of a sufficiently responsible nature to be equivalent to a year of professional experience; and

(C) The geologic ability of an applicant shall be demonstrated by the applicant performing professional geologic work in a responsible position as determined by the department. The adequacy of the required supervision and experience shall be determined by the department in accordance with rules promulgated by the department.

(3) Have successfully passed any examination developed or determined by the department to assess adequately the knowledge and skills that are common to the competent practice of geology as a profession.

(b)(1) Any person who holds an active certificate as a registered geologist or licensed professional geologist under the Geologists Registration Act of 1988, formerly compiled in this chapter, prior to January 1, 2008, shall be deemed to have met the requirements of subdivisions (a)(1), (2) and (3). The person shall be issued a certificate of licensure when renewal is due under the established renewal cycle upon applying for and meeting all requirements for renewal. The department shall assign the registration number of the registration certificate as the certificate of licensure number.

(2) Any person holding an active certificate as a registered geologist or licensed professional geologist prior to January 1, 2008, who does not renew the certificate when renewal is due shall be required to apply for licensure under this chapter and meet all requirements or subsection (a), except that a reasonable period of time shall be accorded by the department for late renewals.

2. How do I get an application packet?

You can download the application packet from our website at www.tn.gov/commerce/boards/geology or one can be mailed to you or emailed to you.

3. How much does it cost to become licensed in Tennessee?

The initial registration/application fee is $115.00, which must be paid at the time your application for licensure is submitted.

4. Does Tennessee require an examination?

Yes. Tennessee uses the ASBOG® exam.

5. How do I contact the board for an application packet or other information?

You can contact the board at:

Tennessee Professional Geologist Licensing Program
500 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-1139
615-741-3611
615-741-1245
donna.moulder@tn.gov

6. How often do we renew?

A license issued to a licensed professional geologist pursuant to this chapter shall expire two (2) years from the date of its issuance and shall become invalid on such date unless renewed.

7. How much is the renewal fee?

$100.00

8. Is there a late fee?

Yes, the penalty for late renewal of registration shall be $25.00 for each month or fraction of a month which elapses during the six month following the month of expiration. If renewal is more than six months late, then the applicant for late renewal must reapply for registration and pay the requisite fees.

9. Does Tennessee require continuing education?

Not at this time.

10. Can I renew my registration on line?

Yes. Go to our website at www.tn.gov/commerce/boards/geology.

11. How do I file a complaint against a geologist?

You can download a complaint form from our website at www.tn.gov/commerce/boards/geology or you call the board office at 615-741-3611 and we can mail you a complaint form package.

12. What happens after I file a complaint?

Once the complaint is received in the board office, it is opened and assigned a complaint number. A request for a response is then sent, via certified mail, along with a copy of the complaint, to the respondent. The respondent then has fourteen (14) business days from the time he/she receives the request and complaint, to respond to the complaint. If a response is not received within the fourteen

(14) days, the complaint is sent to our legal department for review and is then presented to the board for action. The complaint is sent to our legal department after fourteen (14) day deadline, regardless of whether or not a response is received. A letter is also sent to the complainant acknowledging receipt of the complaint and a copy of the respondent's response is also sent to the complainant when it is received in the board office.

13. Do I need an attorney to represent me if a complaint has been filed against me?

It is your choice as to whether you want any attorney. It is not required by the board.

14. What happens to me if the allegations in the complaint are unfounded?

You still need to file a response to the complaint with the board. If the board finds that the complaint is unfounded, it is generally dismissed.

15. What happens to me if the allegations in the complaint are true?

Depending on the violations found and the severity of the violations, the board will take the appropriate action.

16. Is disciplinary action available to the public?

Yes, disciplinary actions are listed on the Regulatory Boards website at www.tn.gov/commerce/boards/geology

17. How can I get a copy of the Laws and Rules for the Board?

We can mail you a copy or you can get one by visiting the LexisNexis link on our website at www.tn.gov/commerce/boards/geology.

18. If I need additional information, who should I contact?

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Nashville, TN 37243-1146
Phone: 615-741-3611
Fax: 615-741-1245
E-Mail: Donna.Moulder@tn.gov