

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Tennessee Geologist Registration

1. What is the purpose of the Professional Geologists Licensing Program?

The purpose of the Tennessee Professional Geologists Licensing Program is to ensure that only qualified persons are licensed to practice geology in the state of Tennessee, thereby benefiting the safety, health, and property of the people of this state and promoting the public welfare.

2. Does the board have a website?

Yes: <http://www.tn.gov/regboards/geology/index.shtml>.

3. What are the statutes and rules that govern the Board of Professional Geologists?

Tennessee Code Annotated 62-36-101 through 62-36-122 and Rule 0780-5-7-.01 through 0780-5-7-.10.

4. Where can I obtain the laws and rules of the Board?

The laws and rules may be obtained on the Board's website at www.tn.gov/regboards/geology.

5. 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.

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

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

7. How do I get an application packet?

You can download the application packet from our website at <http://www.tn.gov/regboards/geology/forms> or one can be mailed to you or emailed to you.

8. What must I submit with my application?

The following items must be submitted with your application before it will be reviewed:

- **Completed application form – signed and notarized**
- **Non-refundable application/registration fee of \$115.00**
- **Certified transcripts per TCA62-36-108**
- **Completed course reporting form(s)**
- **Completed Employment Verification form**
- **Completed Verification of Licensure form from other states in which the applicant is licensed**
- **Completed sole proprietorships, partnerships, and corporations form**

9. Does Tennessee require an examination?

Yes. Tennessee uses the ASBOG® exam. Once your application has been approved, you will receive an approval letter, notifying you that your application has been approved and that you are now eligible to take one or both of the ASBOG® exams, along with an ASBOG® Examination Candidate Request form and a Candidate Examination Handbook, from this board via email and US mail. You must complete the ASBOG® Examination Candidate Request Form, attach your payment for the appropriate exam fee(s) and send it in to ASBOG® by their deadline date shown on the form. If this information and fee is not received by ASBOG® by the deadline date which is shown on the exam candidate request form, you will not be allowed to sit for the exam. The exam booklets will be mailed to the board office approximately two weeks prior to the exam date. You will come to board office in Nashville, TN to take the exam.

Results of the exams will be forwarded to the board office approximately 60 days from the date of the exams. ASBOG® does not release information directly to examination candidates. You will be notified of your examination results by the board office shortly after they are received.

10. When is the ASBOG exam given? **The two part examination is offered twice a year.**

	Date of Exam	Deadline for Submission of Request Form	Date of Exam	Deadline for Submission of Request Form
2015	March 6	January 20	October 2	August 28
2016	March 4	January 29	September 30	July 29
2017	March 3	January 27	October 6	August 25

11. What kind of examination is it?

Multiple choice. Many of the 100 questions require calculation to arrive at an answer. Part I is fundamentals of geology; Part II is practical application of geology.

12. What kinds of study material or courses are available?

No formal study materials have been suggested other than those required for undergraduate geology degrees. No preparatory courses targeting the ASBOG exam are offered by Tennessee or other state geology boards, but private groups may offer courses from time to time. None are offered currently in Tennessee.

13. What is the cost of the ASBOG exam?

The cost of the Fundamentals of Geology exam is \$150.00. The cost of the Practice of Geology exam is \$250.00.

14. Where can I get additional information regarding the ASBOG exam?

Visit the [National Association of State Boards of Geology](#) for additional information concerning registration of geologists in the United States and to view a copy of the Study Guide.

15. 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
615-253-1692
donna.moulder@tn.gov**

16. 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.

17. How much is the renewal fee?

\$100.00

18. 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.

19. Does Tennessee require continuing education?

Not at this time.

20. Can I renew my registration on line?

Yes. You may renew online at <https://apps.tn.gov/cirens/>.

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

The Tennessee Professional Geologist Licensing Program does not license companies, but you may file a complaint against a licensed professional geologist.

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

22. What happens after I file a complaint? What can the state do if I have a legitimate grievance?

- **By opening a complaint file for further investigation and processing, neither this office, the Tennessee Professional Geologists Licensing Program, nor the department's Office of Legal counsel has adopted your point of view, nor are we able to act as your advocate. We have not agreed to seek discipline against the respondent-geologist merely because a complaint has been opened.**
- **We do not represent either the complainant's interests or those of respondent-geologist in the processing of a complaint, but only represent the interests of the State of Tennessee, which may differ from the interests of particular complainants or respondents on a case-by-case basis.**
- **In some complaints, we will determine that the matter should be closed. In others, we will seek and may obtain discipline against a respondent-geologist's license or certificate.**
- **We cannot provide you with legal advice. Should you desire legal advice or desire to file suit against a geologist, please consult with independent legal counsel of your choosing. We can offer no opinion on whether any suit should or should not be filed. Also, please keep in mind that the filing of a complaint with this office does not toll, or stop the running, of any statute of limitations which may exist on filing a lawsuit.**
- **We do not seek damages on behalf of complainants and in most instances cannot recover allegedly excessive fees paid to respondent-geologists on your behalf.**
- **Our jurisdiction is limited to seeking and obtaining professional discipline against a respondent-geologist's license or certificate. Types of discipline include revocation, suspension, and probation of licenses and certificates, and the imposition of civil monetary penalties,**
- **All documents a complainant may submit to us will be considered public records and cannot be held confidentially on your behalf.**
- **Please understand that while we endeavor to resolve all complaints promptly, some matters take longer than others to resolve. In some instances, lengthy settlement negotiations are taking place. In others, contested case proceedings that may require a contested hearing might take considerable time. Many complaints have to be reviewed for probable cause determinations by the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Insurance, and this process takes time. There may be other factors present in individual cases that take considerable time for certain complaints to resolve.**
- **We have made no determination regarding whether there will be a hearing on any preliminary complaint. Not all complaints result in hearings. The Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Insurance will determine whether a hearing is necessary. If a hearing is later scheduled in this complaint and if it becomes necessary for the complainant to attend as a witness, we will notify you.**
- **In any event, you will be notified in writing of the outcome of your complaint.**
- **Please remember to notify us in writing of any changes in your mailing and/or e-mail addresses during the pendency of your complaint, or of any changes in your phone and/or fax numbers.**
- **Finally, please keep in mind that there are no appeal rights on behalf of a Complainant to challenge the decisions of the Commissioner or Department in the courts of this state.**

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. Is disciplinary action available to the public?

Yes, disciplinary actions are listed on the Regulatory Boards website at <http://www.tn.gov/regboards>.

27. 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 <http://www.tn.gov/regboards/geology>.

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

***Tennessee Professional Geologists Licensing Program
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