



STATE OF TENNESSEE
Department of Commerce and Insurance
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR LAND SURVEYORS
500 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-1146
615-741-3611
<http://www.tn.gov/regboards/surveyors>

REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAMINATION AND LICENSURE AND OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION

TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR LAND SURVEYORS

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

- (2) To be licensed as a professional land surveyor, an applicant shall:
- (A) Make a complete application to the board;
 - (B) Be of good character and reputation;
 - (C) Submit five (5) character references to the board, three (3) of whom are professional land surveyors or individuals acceptable to the board and who have personal knowledge of the applicant's land surveying experience;
 - (D) Comply with the requirements of this chapter; and
 - (E) Satisfy one (1) of the following requirements:
 - (i) Obtain a baccalaureate degree from a surveying or surveying technology curriculum of four (4) or more years, approved by the board, and a record satisfactory to the board of two (2) years of progressive practical experience after the applicant passes the Fundamentals of Land Surveying examination, one (1) year of which shall have been in responsible charge of duties performed under a practicing professional land surveyor. An applicant who passes the Principles and Practice of Land Surveying examination and the Tennessee State Jurisdictional examination shall be granted licensure as a professional land surveyor;
 - (ii) Obtain a baccalaureate degree from a science, engineering or technology curriculum of four (4) or more years related to the practice of land surveying, approved by the board, with a minimum of twenty-four (24) semester hours of board-approved coursework in the surveying sciences, and a record satisfactory to the board of two (2) years of progressive practical experience after the applicant passes the Fundamentals of Land Surveying examination, one (1) year of which shall have been in responsible charge of duties performed under a practicing professional land surveyor. An applicant who passes the Principles and Practice of Land Surveying examination and the Tennessee State Jurisdictional examination shall be granted licensure as a professional land surveyor;

(iii) Obtain a baccalaureate degree from a non-surveying related curriculum of four (4) or more years, approved by the board, plus an additional thirty-six (36) semester hours of board-approved coursework in the surveying sciences, and a record satisfactory to the board of two (2) years of progressive practical experience after the applicant passes the Fundamentals of Land Surveying examination, one (1) year of which shall have been in responsible charge of duties under a practicing professional land surveyor. An applicant who passes the Principles and Practice of Land Surveying examination and the Tennessee State Jurisdictional examination shall be granted licensure as a professional land surveyor;

(iv) Obtain an associate degree in surveying technology or a related science, engineering or technical field approved by the board with a minimum of thirty (30) semester hours of board-approved coursework in the surveying sciences, and a record satisfactory to the board of four (4) years of progressive practical experience, three (3) years of which shall have been in responsible charge of duties performed under a practicing professional land surveyor if the applicant passes the Fundamentals of Land Surveying examination on or before June 30, 2016, or if the applicant does not pass the Fundamentals of Land Surveying on or before June 30, 2016, a record satisfactory to the board of six (6) years of progressive practical experience after the applicant passes the Fundamentals of Land Surveying examination, four (4) years of which shall have been in responsible charge of duties under a practicing professional land surveyor. An applicant who passes the Principles and Practice of Land Surveying examination and the Tennessee State Jurisdictional examination shall be granted licensure as a professional land surveyor; or

(v) Comply with the requirements of subdivision (b)(1)(F)(v) as approved by the board and pass the Fundamentals of Land Surveying examination on or before June 30, 2017, or if the applicant does not pass the Fundamentals of Land Surveying examination on or before June 30, 2017, obtain six (6) years of progressive practical experience which shall have been in responsible charge of the duties performed under a professional land surveyor after the applicant passes the Fundamentals of Land Surveying examination, plus an additional twelve (12) hours of board-approved coursework in the surveying sciences. An applicant who passes the Principles and Practice of Land Surveying examination and the Tennessee State Jurisdictional examination shall be granted licensure as a professional land surveyor.

APPLICATIONS:

The applicant must submit an application fee of \$200.00 with their application, made payable to the State of Tennessee. **EVERY APPLICANT IS REQUIRED TO TAKE A WRITTEN EXAMINATION.**

Applications are reviewed in March for the April exam and in September for the October exam.

APRIL Exam - Deadline to have applications (new AND retakes) in to the board office: January 15. ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

OCTOBER Exam - Deadline to have applications (new AND retakes) in to the board office: July 15. ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

Applicants who fail the examination two or more times must make an appointment to appear before the board prior to completing a retake request form. The applicant will have to be approved by the Board before being allowed to take the exam again {TCA 62-18-111(b)}.

Tennessee Surveying Exam registration

How do I register?

You must first apply to the [Tennessee board](#) for approval to sit for the exam. Visit [the board's website](#) for the appropriate forms, instructions, and fee information. After the board has notified you of your approval, register online with NCEES to reserve your seat for the exam. You will not be required to pay additional exam fees when registering through the NCEES website.

Exam authorization

NCEES will e-mail you 2-3 weeks before the exam with a link to download and print your exam authorization notice. Read it carefully. You will be required to present this document along with a valid, government-issued photo ID upon arrival at the exam site.

Results

NCEES will email you your results of the PS portion of the exam 8–10 weeks after the exam date. The board will notify you of your TS exam results by email.

PROCEDURE TO MEET WITH THE BOARD:

Any applicant wishing to meet with the Board must send a letter requesting the meeting and an appointment will be scheduled for you

APPLICANTS APPROVED TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION:

The exam fees are as follows:

Principles and Practices of Land Surveying (PS) - \$150.00
Tennessee Specifics of Land Surveying (TS) - \$150.00

Applicants will be notified of their approval and the required examination fee. The applicant is notified in a timely manner regarding the date, time and location of the exam, which portions of the exam are open book, which portions are closed book and the materials allowed at the exam site.

Examination dates are released by NCEES and Tennessee adheres to these dates.

EXAMINATIONS:

Both the PS and TS Examinations are given in April and October.

We give a one day national exam {6-hour NCEES (PS)} and a Tennessee specific exam {2-hour (TS)}. The Tennessee specific exam (TS) consists of legal and specific terms related to general surveying in the state of Tennessee.

If the applicant fails either or both the NCEES PS or the Tennessee specific (TS), he/she must take that exam over.

STUDY MATERIAL FOR THE EXAMINATIONS:

NCEES: For specific information about the examination and for a study guide, contact: National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), Publications Department, P.O. Box 1686, Clemson, SC 29633-1686, phone: 864-6824 ext. 233, fax: 864-654-6033. You may also visit their web site at www.ncees.org and select the *Students* link on the home page. On the *Students* page, select the *fundamentals examination* link and then view *Study Guides and NCEES Land Surveyor Task and Knowledge Statements*.

SUGGESTED REFERENCE LIST FOR TENNESSEE SPECIFIC LAND SURVEYING (TS) EXAMINATION

Tennessee Land Surveyors Law and Regulations, issued by the Tennessee Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors, phone: 615-741-3611.

Tennessee Boundary Law published by the Tennessee Association of Professional Surveyors (TAPS), revised 1998. Available from the Tennessee Association of Professional Surveyors, phone: 615-860-9311.

Sections of the Tennessee code, state agency regulations and Tennessee case law related to the practice of surveying, boundaries and subdivisions. This information may be researched at any local law library that catalogues Tennessee law and www.tennesseeanytime.org/main/government/laws.html and www.tennesseeanytime.org/main/justice/courts.html

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) regulations relative to wetlands, streams, septic systems, and erosion and sediment control. Contact TDEC Environmental Assistance Center, phone: 888-891-8332.

TDOT Survey Manual and TDOT TGRN Manual by Tennessee Department of Transportation. Available from TDOT Map Sales Office, phone: 615-741-2195 or at www.tdot.state.tn.us/Chief_Engineer/assistant_engineer_design/design/field_surveys/ html.

Elevation Certificate and Instructions, latest edition, by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Flood Insurance Program. Contact FEMA for this information of view <http://nfip.kevric.com/ecsurveyor/>

Any applied drainage manual or text covering the hydrology of storm water runoff and the hydraulics of culverts and open channel flow (some state DOT's may have in-house drainage manuals available for sale.)

ACSM Sample Contracts Manual. A reference manual that describes the essentials of a contract for surveying services. Available from American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, phone: 301-493-0200 or www.surmap.org

Advanced Land Descriptions by Paul Cuomo and Roy Minnick. A book that deals with the essentials of writing various types of proper land descriptions. Available from Landmark Enterprises, Fax: 800-497-2665 or www.rhmls@earthlink.net

The following may be useful for the TS examination as well as the NCEES FS and PS examinations and may be ordered from Landmark Enterprises or ACSM or most book stores:

Definitions of Surveying and Associated Terms, by American Congress on Mapping and Surveying

Black's Law Dictionary (hard cover and soft cover versions available)

Boundary Control and Legal Principles by Brown, Robillard and Wilson.

Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location by Brown, Robillard and Wilson.

A good plane surveying text such as *Elementary Surveying* by Wolf and Ghilani or *Surveying* by Moffitt and Bossler.

Route Surveying and Design by Gibson and Meyers (or similar book on route geometry).

Surveying with Construction Applications, by Kavanagh (or similar book on construction surveying).

State Plane Coordinate System of 1983 by James E. Stern, published by NGS, GPO,
[www.ngs.noaa.gov/PUBS LIB/pub index.html](http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/PUBS_LIB/pub_index.html)

Land Survey Manual, 3rd Edition by R.B. Buckner