Agency Name: Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors - Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Statutory Authority: 40-1-50, 40‑1‑70, 40-22-50, and 40‑22‑60

Document Number: 5246

Proposed in State Register Volume and Issue: 47/10

House Committee: Regulations and Administrative Procedures Committee

Senate Committee: Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee

120 Day Review Expiration Date for Automatic Approval: 05/08/2024

Final in State Register Volume and Issue: 48/5

Status: Final

Subject: Professional Land Surveyor Licensure Requirements

History: 5246

By Date Action Description Jt. Res. No. Expiration Date

- 10/27/2023 Proposed Reg Published in SR

- 01/09/2024 Received President of the Senate & Speaker 05/08/2024

H 01/09/2024 Referred to Committee

S 01/09/2024 Referred to Committee

S 04/02/2024 Resolution Introduced to Approve 1224

- 05/08/2024 Approved by: Expiration Date

- 05/24/2024 Effective Date unless otherwise

 provided for in the Regulation

Document No. 5246

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION**

**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS**

CHAPTER 49

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 40‑1‑50, 40‑1‑70, 40‑22‑50, and 40‑22‑60

49‑201. Professional Land Surveyor Licensure Requirements.

**Synopsis:**

 The Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors proposes to amend R.49‑201 to correct a scrivener’s error.

 A Notice of Drafting was published in the *State Register* on August 25, 2023.

**Instructions:**

 Print the regulation as shown below. All other items remain unchanged.

**Text:**

49‑201. Professional Land Surveyor Licensure Requirements.

 A. Qualifying Experience and Documentation.

 (1) Experience must be obtained under the supervision of a registered professional surveyor and must be of a character satisfactory to the Board.

 (2) Qualifying experience approved by the Board is experience beyond elementary surveying duties such as rodman and other unskilled tasks. In order for work to be considered as qualifying experience, an advanced level of responsibility must have been placed on the applicant. Responsibility should involve mature judgment and expertise gained in such job assignments as instrument man, assistant crew chief or crew chief. Work claimed as qualifying experience should demonstrate a sound working knowledge of surveying with respect to research (records and field), instrumentation, note‑keeping and data management, calculations and mapping.

 (3) An experience record in boundary and route surveying, topographical surveying, construction surveying, control/geodetic surveying, and rights‑of‑way surveying is beneficial to the applicant in the Board’s evaluation of the application. Recognizing that boundary surveys are the types of surveys which more critically affect the public welfare, experience in boundary surveys should constitute a significant portion of the applicant’s experience record and will be given more weight by the Board in considering an applicant’s qualifications for licensure.

 (4) An applicant must submit copies of three different maps and plats of land surveys on which he has worked. The documents must be signed by the professional land surveyor who supervised the work and contain a statement describing that part of the work done by the applicant. Submitted plats and maps must meet the requirements of the Standards of Practice Manual for Surveying in South Carolina, Chapter 49, Article 4, of the Code of Regulations, in effect at the time of licensure.

 (5) An applicant must submit five references as to the applicant’s character and quality of work, three or more must be registered land surveyors having personal knowledge of the applicant’s qualifications.

 B. Examination Requirements—Land Boundary Surveyor.

 (1) An applicant applying for certification as land surveyor‑in‑training must take and pass a written examination on the Fundamentals of Surveying (FS), prepared and graded by the NCEES.

 (2) An applicant applying for licensure as a TIER A land boundary surveyor must have taken and passed the FS written examination and must take and pass the Principles and Practice of Surveying (PS), prepared and graded by the NCEES, and a South Carolina State Specific Surveying examination.

 (3) A person licensed as a professional land boundary surveyor may practice as a professional photogrammetric surveyor only by meeting the requirements as described in the section R.49‑201C of this Chapter, and may practice as a professional GIS surveyor only by meeting the requirements as described in the section R.49‑201D of this Chapter.

 C. TIER A Professional Photogrammetric Surveyor.

 (1) After June 30, 2004, any person applying for licensure as a photogrammetric surveyor must meet the following requirements:

 (a) Education Requirement—Photogrammetric Surveyor.

 1. Education must be evaluated by an Education Consultant and approved by the Board before an application can be considered for further processing.

 2. In addition to one of the following degrees, an applicant must submit proof of satisfactorily completing not fewer than 12 semester hours, or the equivalent in quarter hours, of course work specific to the discipline of photogrammetric surveying, satisfactory to the Board:

 a. Four‑year engineering or bachelor of science degree in a related field from a program accredited by the Related Accreditation Commission (RAC) or the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

 b. Four‑year civil engineering technology degree from a program accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) of ABET.

 c. Four‑year related baccalaureate degree, or equivalent degree, approved by the Board.

 (b) Experience Requirement—Photogrammetric Surveyor.

 1. Photogrammetric Surveyor‑in‑Training.

 a. An applicant applying for certification as a photogrammetric surveyor‑in‑training who meets the four‑year education requirements must have one year of progressive practical experience.

 2. Photogrammetric Surveyor.

 a. An applicant applying for licensure as a photogrammetric surveyor who meets the four‑year education requirements must have four years of progressive practical experience.

 3. Qualifying Experience and Documentation.

 a. Experience must be obtained under supervision of a licensed photogrammetric surveyor or a recognized professional in the field of photogrammetry and must be of a character satisfactory to the Board.

 b. Qualifying experience approved by the Board is experience beyond elementary level activities. In order for work to be considered as qualifying experience, an advanced level of responsibility must have been placed on the applicant. Work claimed as qualifying experience should demonstrate a sound working knowledge of photogrammetry.

 c. At least two years of the required experience must have been at the professional level in responsible charge of photogrammetric mapping projects meeting ASPRS Accuracy Standards.

 d. The applicant must submit proof of employment in responsible charge of at least one project as a photogrammetrist. Maps and documents satisfactory to the Board detailing methods, procedures, amount of applicant’s personal involvement must be submitted to document this project. These maps and documents must be signed by the professional who supervised the work and contain a statement describing the part or the work performed by the applicant. The applicant must submit the name, address and telephone number of references to verify this information.

 e. An applicant must submit five references as to the applicant’s character and quality of work, three or more must be licensed surveyors or practicing professionals in the field of photogrammetry, having personal knowledge of the applicant’s photogrammetric surveying experience.

 (c) Examination Requirements—Photogrammetric Surveyor.

 1. An applicant applying for certification as a photogrammetric surveyor‑in‑training must take and pass a written examination on the Fundamentals of Surveying (FS), prepared and graded by the NCEES.

 2. An applicant applying for licensure as a photogrammetric surveyor must have taken and passed the FS examination and must take and pass an examination on the principles and practice of photogrammetry and an examination on the Board’s rules and regulations as referred to in the section R.49‑104B(5) of this Chapter.

 (2) A person licensed as a professional photogrammetric surveyor may practice as a professional land boundary surveyor only by meeting the requirements of the section R.49‑201A of this Chapter, and may practice as a professional GIS surveyor only by meeting the requirements of the section R.49‑201D of this Chapter.

 D. TIER A Professional Geographic Information System (GIS) Surveyor.

 (1) Education Requirement—GIS Surveyor.

 (a) Education must be evaluated by an Education Consultant and approved by the Board before an application can be considered for further processing.

 (b) In addition to one of the following degrees, an applicant must also submit evidence of completion of discipline specific courses of not fewer than 12 semester hours or the equivalent in quarter hours satisfactory to the Board.

 1. Four‑year baccalaureate degree in a related field from a program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

 2. Four‑year civil engineering technology degree from a program accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) of ABET.

 3. Four‑year related baccalaureate degree, or equivalent degree, approved by the Board.

 (c) Experience Requirements—GIS Surveyor.

 1. Geographic Information System Surveyor‑in‑Training.

 a. An applicant applying for certification as geographic information system surveyor‑in‑training who meets the four‑year education requirements must have one year of progressive practical experience.

 2. Geographic Information System Surveyor.

 a. An applicant applying for licensure as a geographic information system surveyor who meets the four‑year education requirements must have four years of progressive practical experience.

 b. An applicant applying for licensure as a geographic information system surveyor who holds a master’s degree in surveying, geography, or a related field of study approved by the Board must have three years of practical experience.

 3. Qualifying Experience and Documentation.

 a. Experience must be obtained under supervision of a licensed geographic information system surveyor or a recognized professional in the field of GIS and must be of a character satisfactory to the Board.

 b. Qualifying experience approved by the Board is experience beyond elementary level activities. In order for work to be considered as qualifying experience, an advanced level of responsibility must have been placed on the applicant. Work claimed as qualifying experience should demonstrate a sound working knowledge of GIS.

 c. At least two years of the required experience must have been at the professional level in responsible charge of geographic information system mapping projects.

 d. The applicant must submit proof of employment in responsible charge of at least one project as a GIS Surveyor. Maps and documents, satisfactory to the Board, detailing methods, procedures, amount of applicant’s personal involvement must be submitted to document this project. The map and related project information submitted must include the project information.

 e. Maps and documents must be signed by the professional who supervised the work and contain a statement describing the part or the work done by the applicant. The applicant must submit appropriate contact information including the name, address and telephone number of references to verify this information.

 f. An applicant must submit five references as to the applicant’s character and quality of work; three or more must be licensed surveyors or practicing professionals in the field of GIS having personal knowledge of the applicant’s GIS surveying experience.

 (d) Examination Requirements—GIS Surveyor.

 1. An applicant applying for certification as geographic information system surveyor‑in‑training must take and pass the written examinations on the Fundamentals of Surveying (FS), prepared and graded by the NCEES.

 2. An applicant applying for licensure as a geographic information system surveyor must have taken and passed the FS examination and must take and pass an examination on the principles and practice of geographic information systems and pass an examination on the Board’s rules and regulations.

 E. TIER B Professional Land Surveyor.

 (1) An applicant shall be licensed as a TIER A Land Boundary Surveyor prior to submitting an application for licensure or registration as a TIER B Land Surveyor.

 (2) An applicant must meet the requirements of education, experience and examinations.

 (a) Education—Tier B Land Surveyor.

 An applicant must meet the education requirements in S.C. Code Ann. Section 40‑22‑225(D).

 (b) Experience—Tier B Land Surveyor.

 1. Applicant must have qualifying experience acceptable to the Board in the design of storm drainage systems and preparation of sedimentation and erosion control plans associated with the development of residential subdivisions.

 2. The experience must be obtained under the supervision of a licensed Tier B surveyor or a licensed professional engineer.

 (c) Examinations—TIER B Land Surveyor.

 1. An applicant must have taken and passed the written examinations required for licensure as a TIER A Land Boundary Surveyor which include the FS and PS examinations, prepared and graded by the NCEES, and the State Specific Land Surveying Examination.

 2. An applicant must also take and pass a special written examination pertaining to the practice of TIER B land surveying in the State which includes the design of storm drainage systems and preparation of sedimentation and erosion control plans associated with the development of residential subdivisions.

 (3) A TIER B land surveyor may practice as a professional photogrammetric surveyor only by meeting the requirements of the section R.49‑201C of this Chapter, and may practice as a professional GIS surveyor only by meeting the requirements of the section R.49‑201D of this Chapter.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:**

 There will be no cost incurred by the State or any of its political subdivisions for these regulations.

**Statement of Rationale:**

 The Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors proposes to amend R.49‑201 to correct a scrivener’s error. Specifically, R.49‑201B(3) should be revised to reference R.49‑201C as opposed to 201D and R.49‑201E should be revised to reference R.49‑201D.