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Guidance on Becoming Licensed in the Specialty Discipline of Structural vs. Civil Engineering **(Approved 2019-4-4; Amended 2023-06-01)**

In Vermont, Professional Engineers are licensed by practice specialties. *See*, Administrative Rules of the Board on Professional Engineering, Rule 2.5.¹ The Civil and Structural specialty disciplines are distinct but with discipline-specific content overlap. Civil examinations passed after August 1, 2017, are not recognized toward the requirements for Structural licensure. Applicants must possess progressive engineering experience in the discipline corresponding to the discipline in which they were examined.

Applicants for Civil licensure from time to time provide a record of experience that is substantially Structural in nature. *In such a case, and if an applicant meets the requirements for Structural I licensure in accordance with Rule 2.9(c)(3), the Board may grant a Structural I license, in lieu of or in addition to a Civil license.*

NCEES examinations in Structural and Civil engineering have evolved. The traditional, 8-hour Civil exam tests the general Civil knowledge of all examinees, in addition to knowledge in a specialty discipline, selected by the applicant from the following categories: (1) Construction, (2) Water Resources, (3) Environmental, (4) Transportation, (5) Geotechnical, and (6) Structural. In the early 1980s, NCEES developed an 8-hour Structural examination, separate from the Civil exam. Today, only a single, multi-day, multi-section Structural exam is offered.

Regardless of license titles applied by other jurisdictions, licensure in Vermont requires a showing of progressive engineering experience in the specialty discipline sought. Applicants who passed the Civil examination after August 1, 2017, must either: (1) demonstrate progressive engineering experience that is substantially Civil in character, upon which the Board will issue a Civil license, or (2) demonstrate progressive engineering experience that is substantially Structural in character and pass the multi-day, multi-section Structural examination, upon which the Board will issue a Structural II license.

Licensees must practice in their area of technical competence, regardless of designated specialty discipline.

An applicant who is denied licensure for lack of discipline-specific experience, or who is issued a license in a discipline other than that for which he or she applied, may request a hearing before the Board as to the proper characterization of the applicant's progressive engineering experience.

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