

Professional Licensure as an Engineer

Doesn't my degree make me an engineer?

A company can hire you as an employee to help them with their engineering work, but, because it affects public safety:

Engineering is actually a licensed profession!

Can't offer engineering services to the public without a license!

Professional Engineering (PE) License

Licensed by state, but the exams are national (some exceptions)

The PE allows you to:

- Offer engineering services to the public

- Approve (stamp) plans, drawings, etc. (by you or others)

- Accept liability for (stamp) a design

See me if you have questions about starting an engineering firm (esp. in GA)

Do I need to do it?

Again, a company can call you whatever it wants!

If selling eng. services/products, someone must be a PE

Yes, you can have a successful career without a PE

But...

It's hard to predict what you'll be doing in 10 years, so let's try to keep your options open!

How do you get licensed?

‘Now’ things that are requirements for the PE

ABET-accredited degree

FE exam

EIT (depends on the state)

‘Later’ things that are requirements for the PE

Experience (**4** to 20-ish years... depends on degree)

PE exam

Signatures from other PE’s

Fee (\$30 in GA)

The Engineer-in-Training (EIT) License

Requirements for the EIT

ABET-accredited degree (almost there!)

FE exam

Signatures from at least three PE's

Fee (\$20 in GA)

About Those Exams...(\$\$\$)

Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Exam (\$225)

6 hours, 110 questions

Broadly covers Mechanical Engineering

PE Exam (\$400)

9 hours, 80 questions

More focused

See ncees.org website for details

Recommendation #1

***EVERYONE: Take the FE Exam as soon as you can...
...before you forget anything else!***

It never expires

It is the major hurdle for the EIT (and PE)

If you want to wait until you have a paying job, fine, but then take it as soon as you can!

Recommendation #2

If you can (that exam fee!), apply for your EIT before you graduate

The additional application fee is small

You can add 'EIT' to your resume/profile

But, the main reason:

The advising office has special permission to attach signatures from your professors ***while you are undergraduate students here***, so it's quick and easy and you don't have to hunt for three PE's who know your work!

Questions?

General licensing questions, exams, etc.

ncees.org

Georgia

sos.ga.gov/georgia-professional-engineers-and-land-surveyors-board