

Land Surveyor Exam Content Outline

Domain 1: Laws, Rules, and Regulations

Sub-Domain 1.1: Platting and Conveyance Laws

- 1.1.1 Interpretation of past subdivisions
- 1.1.2 Creation of subdivisions
- 1.1.3 Performance of control survey
- 1.1.4 Knowledge of rules and guidelines of exemptions
- 1.1.5 Application of Survey Map Requirements
- 1.1.6 Comprehension of subdivision types

Sub-Domain 1.2: Condominiums

- 1.2.1 Knowledge of types of condominiums
- 1.2.2 Creation of the map and plans
- 1.2.3 Performance of site plan survey
- 1.2.4 Knowledge of common areas, limited common areas, and ownership
- 1.2.5 Determination of unit boundaries
- 1.2.6 Knowledge of development rights
- 1.2.7 Phasing of condominium
- 1.2.8 Coordination of the declaration

Sub-Domain 1.3: Road / easements / rights-of-way

- 1.3.1 Differentiation between public and private ownership
- 1.3.2 Determination of grantor and grantees
- 1.3.3 Determination of ancillary beneficiaries
- 1.3.4 Knowledge of easements by prescription
- 1.3.5 Knowledge of automatic vacation
- 1.3.6 Control of monumentation of easements or rights-of-way
- 1.3.7 Comprehension of types of easements and reversions
- 1.3.8 Knowledge of dominant and servient easements
- 1.3.9 Knowledge of establishment of roads

Sub-Domain 1.4: Case law and Attorneys General Opinions

- 1.4.1 Understanding of Superior Court causes and citations
- 1.4.2 Knowledge of landmark State Supreme Court decisions
- 1.4.3 Understanding Implications of AGOs
- 1.4.4 Understanding Applicability of AGOs
- 1.4.5 Knowledge of Legal land terminology

Domain 2: Public Land Survey System (PLSS) / Manual of Survey Instructions

Sub-Domain 2.1: Corner Identification

- 2.1.1 Identification and utilization of closing corners
- 2.1.2 Identification and replacement of lost / obliterated corners
- 2.1.3 Understanding of the importance of topographic calls
- 2.1.4 Identification of monuments, memorials, and accessories
- 2.1.5 Re-establishment of corners

Sub-Domain 2.2: Meander Lines

- 2.2.1 Re-establishment of meander lines
- 2.2.2 Knowledge of auxiliary and special meander corners
- 2.2.3 Knowledge of meander lines as boundaries
- 2.2.4 Research of historical meander lines

Sub-Domain 2.3: General Land Office / Bureau Land Management notes and plats

- 2.3.1 Understanding and analysis of types of notes and plats
- 2.3.2 Knowledge of local use of guide meridians and correction lines
- 2.3.3 Knowledge of land patents
- 2.3.4 Knowledge of types of BLM survey
- 2.3.5 Knowledge of Geographic Coordinate Database (GCDB)
- 2.3.6 Understanding of the basis of bearing use of the original surveys

Sub-Domain 2.4: Sector Subdivision

- 2.4.1 Determination of regular sections
- 2.4.2 Determination of irregular sections
- 2.4.3 Subdivision of sections using latitudinal curve
- 2.4.4 Recognition and application of local controlling corners
- 2.4.5 Calculation of weighted mean bearings for fractional sections
- 2.4.6 Knowledge of three-mile section subdivision

Sub-Domain 2.5: Indian lands and rights

- 2.5.1 Knowledge of three-mile section subdivision
- 2.5.2 Re-establishment of reservation boundaries
- 2.5.3 Research of historical Indian records
- 2.5.4 Recognition of tribal trust or fee lands

Sub-Domain 2.6: Special types of surveys

- 2.6.1 Knowledge of mineral surveys
- 2.6.2 Knowledge of homestead entry surveys
- 2.6.3 Knowledge of donation land claims (DLC)
- 2.6.4 Knowledge of Grant boundary adjustments

Domain 3: Land Descriptions

Sub-Domain 3.1: Metes and Bounds

- 3.1.1 Recognition of informative and controlling terms of descriptions
- 3.1.2 Distinction between point of commencement and point of beginning
- 3.1.3 Knowledge and use of area calls
- 3.1.4 Recognition of Jr and Sr rights and remedies
- 3.1.5 Distinction between metes and bounds

Sub-Domain 3.2: Aliquot parts / remainders

- 3.2.1 Recognition of informative and controlling terms of descriptions
- 3.2.2 Knowledge of terms and definitions
- 3.2.3 Knowledge and use of area calls

Sub-Domain 3.3: Right-of-way / strip descriptions

- 3.3.1 Recognition of informative and controlling terms of descriptions
- 3.3.2 Distinction between point of commencement and point of beginning
- 3.3.3 Recognition of gaps and overlaps and remedies
- 3.3.4 Recognition of sidelines issues and remedies

Sub-Domain 3.4: Platted lots

- 3.4.1 Recognition of informative and controlling terms of descriptions
- 3.4.2 Knowledge and use of area calls
- 3.4.3 Recognition of Jr and Sr rights and remedies

Sub-Domain 3.5: Structure of legal descriptions

- 3.5.1 Proper usage of captions
- 3.5.2 Knowledge of components of the body
- 3.5.3 Knowledge of proper structure of descriptions
- 3.5.4 Recognition of hierarchy of calls

Domain 4: Survey Practice

Sub-Domain 4.1: Unwritten conveyances and rights

- 4.1.1 Recognition of encroachments and remedies
- 4.1.2 Recognition of evidence of prescriptive rights
- 4.1.3 Recognition of evidence of adverse possession

Sub-Domain 4.2: Topography / Vertical Control

- 4.2.1 Knowledge of sources of utility as-built information
- 4.2.2 Knowledge of topographic elements required on maps

Sub-Domain 4.3: Boundary line agreements

- 4.3.1 Knowledge of state laws regarding agreements

Sub-Domain 4.4: Error Analysis / Accuracy Standards

- 4.4.1 Distinction between random errors and systematic errors

Sub-Domain 4.5: Identification of Records Research

- 4.5.1 Identification of state and local sources

Domain 5: Water Boundaries

Sub-Domain 5.1: Freshwater Boundaries

- 5.1.1 Understanding and interpretation of 1st and 2nd class shorelands
- 5.1.2 Application of ordinary high water mark (OHW)
- 5.1.3 Understanding of application harbor lines
- 5.1.4 Application of lateral boundary lines
- 5.1.5 Knowledge of applicable court cases
- 5.1.6 Understanding of terminology

Sub-Domain 5.2: Tide land boundaries / Tide elevations

- 5.2.1 Understanding and interpretation of 1st and 2nd class tidelands
- 5.2.2 Understanding and application of tidal datums
- 5.2.3 Understanding of implications of date of statehood
- 5.2.4 Application of lateral boundary lines
- 5.2.5 Understanding of application harbor lines
- 5.2.6 Understanding of terminology
- 5.2.7 Knowledge of applicable court cases

Sub-Domain 5.3: Navigability

- 5.3.1 Determination of navigability
- 5.3.2 Understanding terminology
- 5.3.3 Knowledge of applicable court cases

Sub-Domain 5.4: Avulsion / Accretion / Reliction / Erosion

- 5.4.1 Understanding of terminology
- 5.4.2 Knowledge of applicable court cases
- 5.4.3 Identification of changes of water boundaries

Domain 6: Horizontal and Vertical Datums

Sub-Domain 6.1: State Plane Coordinate Zones

- 6.1.1 Understanding and application of terminology and definitions
- 6.1.2 Knowledge of reporting requirements

Sub-Domain 6.2: Conversions

- 6.2.1 Calculation of scale factors / convergence angle
- 6.2.2 Understanding and calculation of ground vs. grid
- 6.2.3 Knowledge of conversion of historic datums

Sub-Domain 6.3: Mapping projections

- 6.3.1 Understanding of mapping projections and terminology
- 6.3.2 Understanding of resources and research