



Exam Qualifications Committee Meeting Report

June 12, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.
Teams Meeting (virtual) & Port Angeles (in-person)

- Committee:** James Wengler, PLS, Chair
Marjorie Lund, PE, SE
Michael Harney, PE
- Support staff:** Ken Fuller, PE, Director
Kris Horton, PLS, Deputy Director
Vonna Cramer, Licensing Lead
Shanan Gillespie, Regulatory Program Manager
Mackenzie Wherrett, Executive Assistant
Greg Schieferstein, Communication & Outreach Manager
Bryce Dickison, Administrative Assistant
Jill Short, Investigations Manager
- Guests:** Stef Goodenow, NCEES
Doug Hendrickson, PE via Teams

Discussion topics:

- NCEES Decoupling Exams, speaker Stef Goodenow

The committee had a guest speaker, Stef Goodenow with NCEES who provided some information on the decoupling of the exams. Currently, 32 boards have decoupled the engineering exam, and 20 boards that have decoupled the PLS exam. The committee had a lot of questions for a better understanding of decoupling and exam approval. NCEES does not evaluate anything, each Board chooses one of the two approval processes:

- Auto Approve
No requirements are needed (education or experience) for FE/FLS, however, to take the PE/PLS the system will identify if the applicant has taken & passed the FE/FLS to take the PE/PLS exam.
- Education restriction
Requires education to move forward with exam approval. Applicant would be required to have one of the following: ASAC/EAC/ETAC degree.

There are benefits to decoupling the exam:

- Examinees can test anytime (Applicants are only allowed to take the exam once per quarter, not to exceed 3x per calendar year)
- It encourages those who are examining to stay in the profession
- Gives the boards & staff easier application flow
- Allows the examinees to apply to more boards

The board can write an attestation statement, this statement would be before the exam, for example, "Just because you passed this exam, does not mean you will get licensed"

Action item:

- Staff to provide the committee with the attestation examples to be received by NCEES for review.
- Staff to work with the AAG Advisor to see if an attestation letter would allow decoupling without legislative changes.

Recommendation to the board

The Committee wants the board to move forward with decoupling at the August board meeting.

- Draft exam policy
The committee reviewed the exam policy and made a few minor language recommendations.
Action Item:
Staff to make minor language changes and present to the August meeting for final approval.
- On-Site JTA final blueprint
The committee reviewed the final On-Site JTA (Job Task Analysis) provided by Dainis. The On-Site SMEs have reviewed the final exam content blueprint and approved the content. Minor edits were made, and one additional domain was added to Domain 2.
Requesting Board approval of the On-Site exam blueprint
- Report of NCEES Western Zone (Jim/Mike)
Mr. Wengler and Mr. Harney provided a quick verbal report of the NCEES Western Zone meeting and their inquiries with other representatives concerning decoupling, and how the other boards feel about it. The consensus was that other boards agreed that it is a beneficial process and makes the administrative side of licensing much easier.
- NCEES UK MRA responses
The Committee discussed an ongoing conversation concerning the UK MRA and decoupling.
- Foreign Degree Evaluation
 - FCSA
The committee reviewed foreign education evaluation from FCSA (Foreign Credential Services of America). Staff to notify the applicant of the committee's determination. (WAC outlines non-abet accredited degrees that are not in Engineering will be granted 2 years.)