

New Assessment Processes January 2024

(updated January 12, 2024)

APEGS is always striving to be a better regulator. In December 2023 APEGS Council approved new policies regarding how academic and experience qualifications are assessed for professional registration. The changes came into effect January 1, 2024 and are aimed at ensuring fair, transparent, and timely processes, while maintaining admissions standards to protect the public. We aim to achieve a level of regulation that is both sufficient and necessary to protect the public.

APEGS will be using a confidence-based approach to both academic and experience assessment processes. In cases where APEGS has high confidence that the applicant meets the requirements to practice safely in the public interest, the review will be limited. In cases where APEGS has low confidence, the review will be more rigorous. Detailed assessments will be undertaken by professional staff, with oversight and auditing of their work by volunteer assessors and the Academic and Experience Review Committees.

Academic Assessment Process

Three confidence levels are based on how confident we are that the academic program is acceptable to practice professional engineering or professional geoscience safely in Canada. The rigor of the assessment process is commensurate with the level of confidence.

For **Confidence Level 1**, APEGS is confident that the academic program is acceptable to practice professional engineering or professional geoscience in Canada.

Applicants providing verified and authenticated proof of any of the following qualifications will be deemed to have met the academic requirement for professional licensure and will not be required to undergo an academic assessment.

- A bachelor's degree in engineering accredited by the Canadian Engineering accreditation Board (CEAB)
- Canadian four-year Bachelor of Science degree in geoscience that meets the knowledge requirement defined by the Canadian Geoscience Standards Council
- Has met the academic requirement for licensure with another engineering/geoscience regulator in Canada
- International 4-year bachelor's degree in engineering (based on a WES ICAP document-by-document credential assessment) holding a PE in the United States
- International 4-year Bachelor of Science degree in geoscience (based on a WES ICAP document-by-document credential assessment) holding a PG in the United States
- Education from outside of Canada with a WES ICAP course-by-course credential assessment, Canadian Equivalency of *Bachelor's degree (4 years)* and at least 120 credits at undergraduate or post graduate level, with a major/specialization in engineering and a Canadian graduate degree, or a graduate degree from an institution that has Washington accord accredited programs, that is in a closely related engineering discipline to the bachelor's degree

- International 4-year bachelor's degree in engineering (based on a WES ICAP document-by-document credential assessment) in engineering deemed substantially equivalent to a CEAB program by virtue of an Engineers Canada/CEAB substantial equivalency evaluation or through international agreements signed by Engineers Canada (e.g., Washington Accord, CTI).
- Former APEGS members-in-training of who are applying for re-instatement

For **Confidence Level 2** APEGS believes that the academic program may be comparable to university level engineering or geoscience in Canada but needs to ensure this through an assessment. Applicants that do not clearly fit in either confidence level 1 or confidence level 3 will have the breadth, depth, progression and coherence of their education assessed and the level confirmed. All applicants assigned to confidence level 2 must pay the academic assessment fee.

For **Confidence Level 3**, APEGS believes that the program is missing the equivalent of one or more years of fulltime bachelor's level engineering/geoscience study in Canada, which is too much to be remediated through APEGS processes and therefore is not acceptable to practice professional engineering or geoscience in Canada. Applicants that fall into level three will be denied registration as a member-in-training and will be advised whether the academic background meets the requirements for engineering or geoscience licensee.

Minimum Requirement for an Academic Assessment

APEGS considers 120 WES credits at an undergraduate level to be the minimum requirement for a 4-year bachelor's level degree to be considered a comparable amount of education to a Canadian bachelor's degree. Applicants deemed to be missing the equivalent of one or more years of fulltime study (30 credits) at a bachelor's level, will be denied. To qualify for an academic assessment your WES assessment must indicate a Canadian Equivalency of *Bachelor's degree (4 years)* and at least 90 credits at undergraduate or post graduate level, with a major/specialization in engineering or geoscience. If your application is denied based on these criteria you will not be required to pay the academic assessment fee. You will be advised if your education meets the academic requirement for engineering or geoscience licensee.

If you have a bachelor's degree in science, computer science, engineering technology or geoscience technology that does not qualify to practice professional engineering or geoscience in the country where it was obtained, you will not qualify for an academic assessment. Your application as a member-in-training will be denied, and you will be advised if your education meets the academic requirement for engineering or geoscience licensee.

If you have a bachelor's degree in science, computer science, engineering technology or geoscience technology that does qualify to practice professional engineering or geoscience in the country where it was obtained, you will qualify for an academic assessment.

If APEGS can't clearly determine whether your bachelor's degree in science, computer science, engineering technology or geoscience technology would qualify to practice professional engineering or geoscience in the country where it was obtained, APEGS will undertake an academic assessment to determine if the content of your program is acceptable to practice professional engineering or professional geoscience in Canada.

Possible Outcomes of Academic Assessment

10 Years of Experience Process

Any applicant who is deemed by APEGS to fall into confidence level two, and who has 10 or more years of consecutive*, professional level engineering or geoscience work experience since graduation from their bachelor's-level program may be considered for the opportunity of a full competency assessment of their work experience before the academic assessment. If 48 months of experience, all the competency requirements and all validator requirements are deemed acceptable by the Experience Review Committee, then an academic assessment is not required. They will be approved as a member-in-training. If their experience is determined to be not acceptable, then an academic assessment will be undertaken. After reviewing your WES assessment and resume, APEGS will let you know if you qualify for this option.

*no breaks longer than one year and not to total more than 18 months

Academic Assessment Process

Deficiencies

Any applicant missing between 10 and 30 credit units of content will be assigned deficiencies and must take courses or write challenge exams to cover the gaps.

Confirmatory Exams

Any applicant missing 9 or less credit units of content will be deemed to have sufficient breadth, depth, progression and coherence to their program. The level of the program must be confirmed by writing confirmatory exams.

Work Experience Option to Waive Confirmatory Exams

Any applicant assigned confirmatory exams, who has four or more years of engineering or geoscience work experience as determined by APEGS professional staff, will be given the option to submit work experience to try and get the confirmatory exams waived. Applicants must pass the technical competency category(s) to get the exams waived.

Experience Assessment Process

APEGS has defined three confidence levels for evaluating work experience submissions received through the competency assessment system. The confidence levels reflect APEGS confidence that the work experience is at a level acceptable to practice professional engineering or professional geoscience safely in Canada. The rigor of the assessment process is commensurate with level of confidence.

Confidence level 1 requires that at least four years of experience have been supervised by a licensed professional engineer, or geoscientist or equivalent*, and all the competencies have been validated by a licensed professional engineer or professional geoscientist or equivalent*.

Confidence level 2 requires that some of the experience (but less than 4 years) has been supervised by a licensed professional engineer, or geoscientist or equivalent*, and/or some (but not all) of the competencies have been validated by a licensed professional engineer or professional geoscientist or equivalent*.

Confidence level 3 includes anyone who does not have any of their experience under the supervision of a licensed professional engineer, or geoscientist or equivalent*, and none of the competencies have been validated by a licensed professional engineer or professional geoscientist or equivalent*.

**or equivalent* includes engineering licensee and geoscience licensee in Saskatchewan (or equivalent titles elsewhere in Canada) and licensed professional engineers from countries that are members of the International Professional Engineers or Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Agreement under the International Engineering Alliance and those licensed as a Professional Geoscientist in the United States.

Quality Control Checks

All competency-based assessment submissions will be reviewed by a professional staff assessor (*Admissions Engineer/Admissions Geoscientist*) before being reviewed by a volunteer assessor. The Admissions Engineer or Admissions Geoscientist will check to ensure the experience described in the employment history table is engineering or geoscience work and that it might be at a professional level. If they think it might not be, it will be sent to the Experience Review Committee (ERC) to determine whether it warrants an assessment. If the ERC determines the work is not likely to qualify as professional engineering/geoscience as defined in the Engineering and Geoscience Professional Act, the applicant will be advised that it does not qualify for assessment.

If the Admissions Engineer or Admissions Geoscientist is not able to understand the submission because spelling or grammar, or the amount of information provided is insufficient, the applicant will be advised that the quality of the submission is not good enough to qualify for assessment. In this case, the assessment will be reopened, and the applicant will be required to rewrite all the competencies and have them revalidated.

Competency Example Requirements

- Every Competency example must clearly identify that it was undertaken within an engineering or geoscience context. If it does not, it will receive a rating of zero.
- Every example must clearly explain how it addresses the Competency. If it does not relate to the Competency, it will receive a rating of zero, even if the work described is engineering or geoscience.
- Any Competency that receives a rating of zero must be rewritten, revalidated and resubmitted.
- Examples must include specific details that demonstrate the work is engineering or geoscience.
- Examples must demonstrate the appropriate level of involvement of the applicant.

Possible Outcomes of Experience Assessment

If the initial assessment is lacking specificity, evidence of engineering/geoscience context, or sufficient detail, the applicant will be provided with feedback from the Admissions Engineer or Admissions Geoscientist. Once the information submitted by the applicant is sufficient to rate all the Competency examples, the applicant will receive one or more of the following outcomes.

Competencies Are Not Professional Level

If any Competency Category average has failed, all the individual Competencies rated below the passing level have not been demonstrated at a professional level. Applicants will be advised to obtain additional experience and then resubmit the Competencies using different examples. Applicants will not be permitted to resubmit the same examples for reassessment unless they have gained additional experience in the position.

Competencies Are Not Equivalent to Canadian

Any Canadian Environment Competency (CEC) that has not received a rating equal to or greater than the required category average, has been failed because it has not demonstrated a sufficient understanding of Canadian context. Engineering applicants must take the relevant section(s) of the Working in Canada Seminar, then resubmit the failed competencies using different examples. Geoscience applicants must resubmit the competency using a different example or obtain more experience in the position and then resubmit the same example.

Work Experience is Acceptable

If the applicant has 48 months of acceptable work experience and all the Competency requirements have been met, then the work experience will be accepted.

Academic Assessment Cases

Any applicant who has been given the option to submit work experience to attempt to waive Confirmatory Exams:

- Must submit work experience in the same discipline as their bachelor's level education
- Is only required to submit examples for the technical Competencies, Category 1 for engineering and Categories 2 and 3 for geoscience.
- Is not required to meet the Canadian environment requirement for the Canadian Environment Competencies (CECs)
- Is not required to have validators that are professional engineers or professional geoscientists or equivalent*
- Only has three chances to submit/resubmit the competencies. If they have not successfully completed all the competencies after three tries, they will be required to write the confirmatory exams.