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Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

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Professional
Geoscientist
Licensure

*Texas Board of
Professional Geoscientists*

* 1 Board vacancy as of 2/1/20

What is a Professional Geoscientist?

A Professional Geoscientist (PG) is someone licensed by the State of Texas to practice non-exempt geoscience for the public in one of three disciplines:

Geology Geophysics Soil Science

Geology is the science of the origin, composition, structure and history of the earth and its constituent soils, rocks, minerals, fossil fuels, solids, fluids and gasses. Engineering geology, hydrogeology and environmental geology are fields in which professional geologists apply the practice of geology to public health and safety concerns, such as active faults, earthquakes, water supply, erosion control, sedimentation, pollutions of water, soil and rock and many other issues. Submitting geological information to a state government agency in Texas requires a PG license.

Geophysics is the science of the physical earth by means of measuring its natural and induced fields of force, including electricity, gravity and magnetism.

Soil Science is the science of soils, their classification, origin and history. The investigation of physical, chemical, morphological and biological characteristics of the soil including its ability to produce vegetation and the fate and movement of physical, chemical and biological contaminants.



How do I become a Professional Geoscientist?

Review your education and determine the discipline under which you qualify for licensure; geology, geophysics or soil science. Applicants are required to have taken 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of credit in geoscience coursework.

Apply to the organization that administers the exam(s) appropriate for your discipline. These include the National Association of State Board of Geology (ASBOG®), The Council of Soil Science Examiners (CSSE) or the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG), which administers the Geophysics Exam (TGE).

Make sure you have five years of qualifying work experience in your discipline of geoscience, under the appropriate supervision of a Professional Geoscientist. Each year of full-time graduate study in your discipline of geoscience can apply toward qualifying work experience, up to a maximum of two years. Once you have met the above requirements, log on to our website at www.tbpg.state.tx.us or contact our office directly for information regarding the required examinations.

WHY IS LICENSURE IMPORTANT?

“Much of today’s geological practice impacts engineered works, the health, safety, and welfare of the public, and the environment... Inadequate and incompetent practice by a geologist can cause loss of life, or property, and can be expensive because of the need to redo work. Licensure by individual states helps provide protection for the public by establishing minimum standards in the discipline that individuals wishing to practice must meet and maintain.”

Quote from John W. Williams, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Geology, San Jose State University, Past President of the National Association of State Boards of Geology, Past President of the Association of Engineering Geologists, excerpt taken from GSA Today, June 2001

TBPG PURPOSE:

The mission of the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists is to protect public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring that only qualified persons carry out the public practice of geoscience.