Licensure of Geologists in North Carolina (and elsewhere)

--- Why it’s important

--- How to become licensed

North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists
The Future Looks Promising for Careers in Geology!


- “Society needs more geoscientists than there are currently students” (*Environmental Science and Technology* 2010, 44 (2), pp. 550-555)
Why Pursue Licensure?

• Required for many positions in > 30 U.S. states, including North Carolina, and Canada

• Impressive professional accomplishment, often associated with pay increase and/or promotion

• Can be licensed in other states via reciprocity/comity
North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists

• Established by the Geologists Licensing Act, NC General Statute 89E in 1985

• Requirements, NCAC 21 Chapter 21

• Professional Code of Conduct for licensed geologists:
  “...to safeguard the life, health, property and welfare of the public and to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity, skills, and practice in the profession of geology...”
North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists

• Offers licensure for North Carolina geologists and corporations engaged in geologic work

• Five members appointed by the governor – mining geologist, academic geologist, consulting geologist, corporate geologist, and a non-geologist – plus the State Geologist (ex officio)

• Member, National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)

• Administers exams for licensure in North Carolina
The Licensing Exam
NCBLG administers the ASBOG exam

• Two tests:
  ➢ Fundamentals of Geology (FG) - Part I
  ➢ Practice of Geology (PG) - Part II

• Each test is multiple-choice

• 4 hours to take each test

• Exams given in March and October
Fundamentals of Geology Exam – FG

Minimum Requirements to Apply:

• Graduation from college or university with a degree in geology or have completed 30 credit hours in geology, of which 24 are advanced level.

• FG *should* be taken immediately after graduation.
Practice of Geology Exam – PG
Minimum Requirements to Apply:

• FG requirements **PLUS:**

• Three years of geological experience after graduation. A master's degree in geology fulfills two years of the experience requirement.

• Job-experience verification is required.

• Five references from geologists or professional engineers.
How to Apply

• Application instructions available on NCBLG website (http://www.ncblg.org)

• Be aware of deadlines for submittal – deadline to order for March 15, 2019 exam is January 25, 2019, but first you must be approved by the Board to take the exam. The one-time application fee is $55.

• The board reviews submitted applications and approves candidates to take the exam.

• Exams given in March and October at the McKimmon Center.

• Parts I ($230) and II ($280) both given each time; candidates can take one or both on a given day.
The Licensing Exam – What’s On It?

• Content Based on ASBOG Task Analysis Survey:
  ➢ Conducted every 5 years; most recent TAS 2015
  ➢ Surveys academic and professional geologists in the U.S. and Canada
  ➢ Rates importance of 43 geologic tasks in a series of ‘domain areas’ for protecting the general public
  ➢ Includes ethics issues faced by geologists

• FG focus: information gained in an academic setting
• PG focus: skills/knowledge applied in work setting
A. General and Field Geology, 21%
B. Mineralogy, Petrology, and Geochemistry, 11%
C. Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, and Paleontology, 12%
D. Geomorphology, Surficial Processes, and Quaternary Geology, 13%
E. Structure, Tectonics, and Seismology, 11%
F. Hydrogeology, 12%
G. Engineering Geology, 11%
H. Economic and Resources Geology, 9%
## From FG to PG

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ASBOG® Task Analysis 2015
PG Test Blueprint -- Domain Percentages

- A. General and Field Geology, 20%
- B. Mineralogy, Petrology, and Geochemistry, 5%
- C. Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, and Paleontology, 6%
- D. Geomorphology, Surficial Processes, and Quaternary Geology, 8%
- E. Structure, Tectonics, and Seismology, 8%
- F. Hydrogeology, 19%
- G. Engineering Geology, 19%
- H. Economic and Resources Geology, 15%
The Licensing Exam – Tips for Preparation

• Take the FG as soon as feasible

• Download ASBOG’s Candidate Handbook at www.asbog.org:
  ➢ Detailed instructions for taking the exam
  ➢ Information on the exam blueprints and topics
  ➢ Sample questions

• REVIEW!


• ASBOG data show that first-time candidates perform better than return candidates:
Figure 2
ASBOG® FG & PG Examinations
Passing Rates by Administration
1st Time Candidates vs. All Candidates
(March 2008 - March 2013)
Information Resources:

• North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists
  ➢ Board Executive Director, Barbara Geiger at Upton Associates
  ➢ 3733 Benson Dr., Raleigh NC  27609
  ➢ 919-850-9669
  ➢ [http://www.ncblg.org](http://www.ncblg.org)

• National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) [http://www.asbog.org](http://www.asbog.org)
Licensure of Geologists in NC

Questions?