

PE pass rates demonstrate importance of experience

Recent research into pass rates for the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam points to a correlation between experience level and performance.

According to analysis conducted by NCEES staff, examinees with four years of engineering experience have the greatest probability of success on the exam.

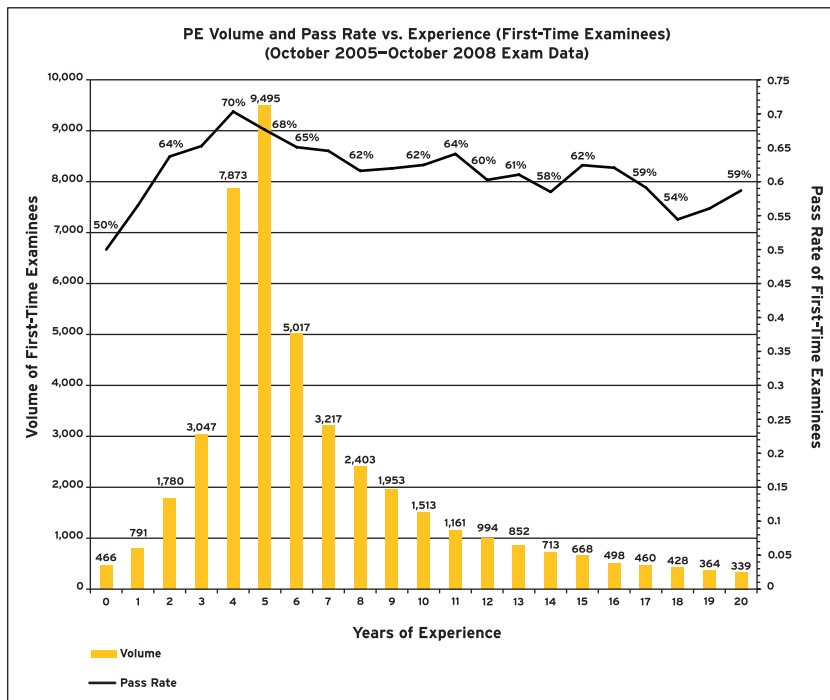
The analysis was performed on all first-time PE examinees in the United States who took the exam between October 2005 and October 2008. Pass rates for examinees with fewer than or more than four years' experience were lower, typically in proportion to the degree of divergence from the four-year mark.

Of the survey respondents (shown in the chart below), 7,873 candidates reporting four years of experience took the PE exam for the first time during this period. Of those, 70 percent passed. Of the 9,495 candidates reporting five years of experience, 68 percent passed. Only 50 percent of examinees with no engineering experience passed the exam.

The lower success rate for inexperienced examinees is noteworthy, said Tim Miller, P.E., NCEES director of exam services.

“You could reasonably assume that those who would venture to attempt the exam immediately after graduation probably would be strong students and test-takers,” said Miller. “It shows that experience plays an important part in passing the PE exam.”

The findings support the Council's recommendations for engineering licensure candidates. The NCEES *Model Law*, which serves as a best-practices guideline for the 69 member licensing boards that make up the Council, contains a provision that PE examinees with a bachelor's degree from an ABET-accredited engineering program show evidence of four years of “progressive experience on engineering projects of a grade and a character which indicate to the board that the applicant may be competent to practice engineering” (from *Model Law* 130.10, “Licensure by Examination”).



Engineers whose qualifications match those outlined in the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* can become Model Law Engineers (MLE) by establishing a Council Record with NCEES. The MLE designation makes the comity licensure process simpler, as many Member Boards have a fast-track process for those holding the designation.

In developing the requirements for engineering licensure, NCEES employs a

(continued on page 2)

three-pronged model that takes into account education, professional experience, and the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and PE examination performance. This model reflects the consensus of the Council as determined by majority vote during its annual business meetings. The *Model Law* stipulates that the experience must be completed before the candidate is allowed to sit for the PE exam.

“The licensure process is all about ensuring professional competence,” said NCEES Executive Director Jerry Carter. “Through the years, the Council has taken great care to develop standards that reflect this concern, and experience is a huge factor. For the public to have faith in the abilities of a professional engineer, that engineer must have knowledge and intelligence, but he or she must also have the judgment that only comes from experience.”

Experience cited by licensure candidates is verified by the licensing board, but NCEES exam item writers operate with the idea that engineering experience can also be verified through the content of the PE exam.

While the FE exam tests academic knowledge, the PE exam incorporates more field-specific material into many of its items. The Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers and the exam-writing committees are charged with incorporating experience-based knowledge into the exams (see article, page 8). The results of this analysis of exam performance are heartening to these groups.

“This research in many ways validates the efforts of the Council and our exam development staff and volunteers,” said Miller. “From the PAKS process through item writing and evaluation, we keep the idea in mind that we are developing these exams for engineers with education and four years of experience. That is the prototype candidate. So if examinees matching that profile exhibit a higher success rate than other examinees with less experience, that is a positive sign.”

While the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* are influential in the development of state practice laws, there are no states or territories within NCEES whose laws completely mirror the model. Almost all, however, have an experience requirement for engineering licensure. Of those, the majority require four years’ experience for candidates who have completed an engineering bachelor’s degree as the highest level of education.

Model Rules language about experience

Model Rules Section 230.20 details qualifying experience for engineering licensure, including the following (paraphrased):

- ◆ Experience must be progressive, indicating growth in responsibility.
- ◆ It should demonstrate the application of engineering principles in the practical solution of engineering problems as well as knowledge of mathematics, physical and applied science, properties of materials, and design.
- ◆ It must be completed under the supervision of a licensed P.E. unless an acceptable explanation can be provided.
- ◆ It may include experience in the armed services, provided that it is comparable to engineering work in the civilian sector.
- ◆ It may include sales experience, provided that it demonstrates use of engineering principles.
- ◆ It may include teaching experience if the candidate teaches advanced-level engineering courses.

For states requiring four years’ experience, in most cases that experience must be completed before being allowed to sit for the PE exam, although several states do deviate from that standard. These states allow candidates to attempt the PE—but not attain licensure—after graduation. Other states will accept engineering experience obtained prior to graduation as fulfilling the four years requirement.

“Member Boards are obligated to enforce their practice act as mandated by their legislature. The Council has developed the *Model Law* and *Model Rules* as recommended best practices for the professions,” said Carter. “Although requirements for licensure vary in most jurisdictions, the Council remains a strong supporter of the importance of experience, education, and exam performance as a method of measuring for minimum competence.”

Doug McGuirt
NCEES Editor

MESSAGE

Zone meetings set the stage for successful Annual Meeting

The spring zone interim meetings are vital to the success of the NCEES Annual Meeting. The meetings, which wrapped up at the end of May, were the first opportunity Council members had to hear directly from the 2008–09 committees and task forces, which provided an overview of their work and the motions they will present for Council vote in August. Zone meeting attendees gained insight on committee rationales as well as the background needed to make informed decisions on voting.

The meetings also provided a chance for committees and task forces to get feedback as they finalized their reports and motions for publication in the Annual Meeting *Action Items and Conference Reports*. This is one reason the Board of Directors decided to hold its fourth meeting of 2008–09 after the last zone meeting, rather than the traditional time of the week before it. At its June 1–2 meeting, the Board spent the bulk of its time reviewing the committee and task force reports, deciding Board positions on motions, developing a Consent Agenda, and reviewing the 2009–10 Operating and Capital Budgets that will be presented for vote at the Annual Meeting.

All of this information will be included in the *Action Items and Conference Reports*, which will be shipped to everyone who registers for the Annual Meeting. The publication will also be available for download on CouncilNet by July 2, so I encourage you to read it even if you won't be able to attend the meeting. The reports are a reflection of the Council today and offer a look at where it may be heading on many weighty issues.

At the August 12–15 Annual Meeting, workshops and forums will provide additional opportunities to find out about important Council issues. Wednesday afternoon sessions on computer-based testing and the master's or equivalent requirement will provide time for in-depth discussion prior to the Thursday business sessions. First, the Computer-Based Testing Task Force will share the results of its request for information from testing vendors.

The Engineering Education Task Force will then lead a session on its work related to the additional education requirement, including its written analysis responding to issues outlined in the 2008 Southern Zone resolution.

NCEES and ABET have worked this year to strengthen their relationship. Dr. Dayne Aldridge, ABET adjunct accreditation director for engineering, will lead a Wednesday morning workshop to explain the ABET accreditation process and how Council members can get involved.

Other workshops, including ethics and law enforcement, will allow boards to exchange ideas. If you have never been to an Annual Meeting, I especially encourage you to sign up for the New Member Orientation.

ANSI recognizes MLE standard

Finally, I would like to share the good news that NCEES has achieved a milestone by having its first standard, the Model Law Engineer, approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

This comes after a long process that began with the decision to pursue membership in ANSI—the U.S. representative to the International Organization for Standards—as an accredited standards developer. After being granted membership, NCEES established an ANSI Task Force to initiate the standards developing process. This involved identifying existing standards to present to ANSI and then taking the necessary steps to have the standards approved.

The fact that the MLE is now an ANSI-recognized standard lends great credibility to the mission of NCEES and has the potential to enhance the stature of the licensure process for the engineering profession. NCEES is now moving forward with doing the same for the Model Law Surveyor and Model Law Structural Engineer standards.

I look forward to seeing you in August.

Henn Rebane, P.E.
NCEES President



Henn Rebane, P.E.
NCEES President

UPDATE

NCEES prepares new look, improved services



Jerry T. Carter
NCEES Executive Director

As we move toward the Annual Meeting, NCEES is also moving toward the implementation of the integrated marketing strategy that staff have been working on with a marketing agency during the past year.

Some of the first changes you will notice will be the new NCEES logo and tagline and the updated Web site. After receiving feedback on the logo and tagline from Council members at the Board Presidents' Assembly in February, NCEES and the marketing agency made the necessary modifications, and we are ready to roll out the first phase of our new branding effort at the Annual Meeting in August.

The revamped NCEES Web site will go live in the fall, but we will present the new Web design and discuss its features at the Annual Meeting workshop Communicating with the Next Generation of Licensees. Council staff solicited input on the new design from Member Board administrators, and the result is a Web site that will be better organized, easier to navigate, and tailored to the different audiences using it. The new design is certainly more visually appealing, but it also provides much better access to NCEES information and services.

Exam changes that will affect board procedures

Two important upcoming exam changes require some preparation by Member Boards now. NCEES will begin using the candidate management system for the October 2010 exam. One important point for boards to note is that firm exam registration deadlines will be set with this new system. Boards also need to look at their rules and regulations to anticipate any that need to be modified to accommodate the candidate management system.

Likewise, Member Boards need to prepare for the introduction of the new 16-hour Structural exam in April 2011. Boards need to identify regulations that may need to be changed, and the switch to the new exam needs to be communicated to candidates. The Structural I

and II exams will be offered for the last time in October 2010. NCEES began publicizing this fact to Member Boards and examinees earlier this year to give plenty of time to prepare for the switch to the new exam. Member Boards need to communicate this change, as well, to ensure that candidates who have passed only one of the required exams for structural engineering licensure understand they need to pass the second part by October 2010 or they will have to start over with the new exam in April 2011.

New overseas exam sites

A couple of changes authorized at the 2008 Annual Meeting have now come to fruition. The American University in Cairo offered NCEES exams for the first time on April 25. ELSEES coordinated the administration of the FE exam to 166 examinees.

I traveled to Seoul, South Korea, to observe the Korean Professional Engineer Association's (KPEA) first administration of NCEES exams since receiving the Council's approval. ELSEES is also coordinating the administration there, and I had an opportunity on April 26 to evaluate the site where the 326 FE and PE examinees took the exams and to observe the proctor team. I went to make sure that this administration was consistent with other NCEES exam administrations and followed proper procedures. I left feeling very positive about how NCEES exams were administered there. It demonstrated that with proper diligence, foreign entities can offer the exams in a manner that follows NCEES policies and procedures.

Being at an exam site gives you the opportunity to see exam development and administration come together, and my trip to South Korea has left me even more certain that NCEES has the policies and security procedures in place to ensure the integrity of its licensing exams, even when the exam site is a 14-hour flight, and another world, away.

Jerry T. Carter
NCEES Executive Director

MISSION

- ♦ Assist Member Boards in the promotion and promulgation of regulatory processes for engineering and surveying licensure which demonstrate high standards of knowledge, competence, professional development, and ethics.
- ♦ Provide to Member Boards services that promote uniform licensing procedures which emphasize quality education, examination, progressive qualifying experience, and continuing professional competency.
- ♦ Coordinate with domestic and international organizations to promote licensure of all engineers and surveyors.

NCEES Strategic Plan

REPORT

Council's fiscal outlook remains positive

NCCEES continues to earn strong revenues doing what we do well. We lost money on our investments, but we had a good year with exam and exam services income. As a nonprofit, NCEES continues to strive to diversify its income stream to achieve stability.

The Records Program has continued its remarkable growth, and the number of Member Boards requiring comity licensure applicants to obtain a Council Record is increasing. The Rhode Island engineering board, on which I serve, is one of those boards that voted to require the Council Record for comity applicants. This decision was made after a forced reduction in staff caused us to evaluate the time being spent by the remaining employees on various tasks. We found that an inordinate amount of time was being spent on comity licensure applications for applicants who did not have a Council Record. Because the vast majority of our comity applicants did have a Council Record, this decision was a no-brainer.

This year, the Council went back to basics and projected a budget based on actual costs and revenues rather than working off previous budgets and adjusting for inflation. We are projecting a positive margin for 2008–09, and as we get closer to the Annual Meeting we should have a good sense of where we stand in our projections. We are optimistic that these projections will be met. A lot of the exam and ELSESES revenue has yet to be determined. If our projections prove to be accurate, it will allow us to properly use this year's budget as a planning tool and a benchmark for future planning.

The Council's policy of investing in mutual funds has been augmented by investing directly in equities. The private managers are beating their benchmarks, but in this economy, that is not a reason to cheer.

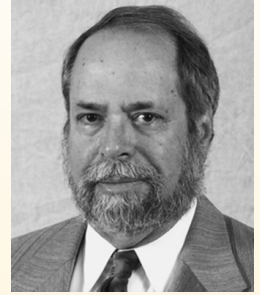
Due to overall stock market performance, some investments have been placed into laddered certificates of deposit at various banks. We have also decided to pay off the Council's outstanding economic development bonds. Doing so retires the debt incurred for the most recent addition to the Council headquarters building. Initially these bonds were quite attractive, but as interest rates have dipped we lost the arbitrage advantage. We decided to use some of the cash to pay off the bonds and eliminate future interest payments.

This year, the Board of Directors decided that ELSESES, which was established as a separate limited liability company, will be rolled into NCEES. The legal protection afforded by the separate LLC has been debated due to the close relationship between NCEES and ELSESES. With the elimination of the LLC, our accounting procedures will be vastly simplified, and those receiving the services provided by ELSESES will see no noticeable changes.

Finally, the Board of Directors decided to change an investment policy that required NCEES to keep all its operating funds in one bank. With the amount of money NCEES has in operating funds, this could have been catastrophic in the event of a bank failure. The Board of Directors voted to move the money into a minimum of three FDIC-insured commercial banks. The money is moved electronically, as needed, in and out of the various accounts. Our eggs are no longer in one basket.

As I finish my two-year term as treasurer, I would like to comment on the high degree of professionalism and knowledge that NCEES staff has exhibited, not just on financial matters, but on all matters.

*L. (Larry) Robert Smith, P.E.
NCEES Treasurer*



*L. (Larry) Robert Smith, P.E.
NCEES Treasurer*

NEWS

ADA Amendments Act expands eligibility for accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments Act, signed into law last September, should make it easier for exam candidates to receive testing accommodations. The act clarifies who is protected by the ADA and emphasizes a broader interpretation of the definition of “disability.”

NCEES Human Resources Director Donna Moss is expecting increased requests for special accommodations as a result of the amendments.

“We normally have about 200 requests for special accommodations, which include religious and ADA requests, but for the April 2009 exam we had about 25 more ADA-related requests,” Moss said. “I think we’ll continue to see our numbers increase.”

Under the provisions of the ADA, originally passed in 1990, private entities that offer licensure exams must make reasonable changes to its policies and procedures to accommodate individuals with disabilities. (Accommodations that fall outside of “reasonable” include those that jeopardize exam security.) As stipulated in Exam Administration Policy 7, NCEES reviews all requests for testing accommodations. According to Moss, the most commonly requested accommodations are extra time and private or semi-private rooms. Other accommodations include providing readers, scribes, and large-print examinations.

ADA amendments in brief

The new ADA Amendments Act is intended to clarify the original 1990 legislation. It keeps the basic definition of “disability” as an impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment. However, the amendments change the way this definition should be interpreted.

The new act expands the definition of “major life activities” by including two non-exhaustive

lists. The first is a general list of major life activities, such as caring for oneself, seeing, hearing, walking, reading, concentrating, and communicating. The second list includes examples of major bodily functions, including digestive, neurological, respiratory, or circulatory functions.

The new act states that mitigating measures, other than ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses, cannot be considered when assessing a disability. These measures include medication, medical supplies or equipment, prosthetics, and mobility devices. “The amendments makes it clear, for example, that if someone has a hearing disability, he’s not ineligible for accommodations because he wears a hearing aid,” Moss explained.

The amendments also clarify that an impairment that is in remission or occurs only occasionally, such as epilepsy or asthma, is still considered a disability if it substantially limits a major life activity when it is active. “This is an area where we expect to see more candidates qualifying for special accommodations,” Moss said.

NCEES response to amendments

To prepare for the ADA amendments, which came into force January 1, 2009, NCEES legal counsel reviewed the Council’s requirements for supporting documentation and found that they conform to the new rules. NCEES will also continue to seek advice on testing accommodations from legal counsel and work with the special accommodations coordinator, a consultant who reviews each candidate’s request for testing accommodations.

The overall process for evaluating requests remains the same. Candidates will continue to submit requests directly to the special accommodations coordinator, who will make recommendations to NCEES staff. NCEES will determine whether to give final approval and, if accommodations are granted, will send guidelines to the Member Board or testing service administering the exam.

The Member Board (or testing service) will inform candidates of the terms of their special accommodations.

“I think we’ll see requests for the same types of accommodations, like extra time or private rooms, but we’ll have more requests since it’s open to more people,” Moss said. “Most Member Boards use ELSEES or another testing service, who arrange these accommodations for them, but boards that administer exams themselves need to be aware that they may have more to organize in the future, such as providing more private rooms.”

Security matters

While the number of requests may increase, Moss is confident that the Council’s requirements for supporting documentation and its review process will continue to establish eligibility and identify appropriate accommodations.

Candidates must complete a questionnaire about their disability, the accommodations they are requesting, and their previous testing accommodations. They must send a report from a qualified doctor or psychological professional that identifies their disability and its effect on their ability to take the exam under standard conditions and recommends

necessary accommodations. The report must also establish the credentials of the evaluating professional that qualify him or her to make such a diagnosis. If candidates have received special accommodations from their school, a school official must complete a questionnaire attesting to their previous accommodations. Candidates must apply for accommodations each time they take an NCEES exam, but those who register for another exam administration within three years can use a simplified form.

The special accommodations coordinator follows up on any discrepancies between the accommodations applied for and those recommended by the evaluating professional or previously provided by the school.

“Requiring the professional evaluation as well as the other documents allows us to verify a disability and provide the appropriate accommodations,” Moss said. “I’m confident our requirements will continue to ensure that accommodations are given to individuals who are entitled to them.”

Jennifer W. Minchin
NCEES Associate Editor

Revised architectural engineering exam specifications introduced

NCEES has introduced new specifications for its Architectural Engineering PE exam. They will first be used for the April 2010 administration of the exam.

Exam specifications indicate knowledge areas to be tested and their relative weights of emphasis. As the developer of the exams used for engineering licensure in the United States, NCEES periodically conducts surveys of licensed engineers working in industry, private practice, government, and academia to gather information about the knowledge and skills required of professionals in a particular discipline. NCEES uses the results to update its exam specifications.

“With these surveys, we’re trying to find out what an engineer intern with four years of experience should be expected to know,” said Tim Miller, P.E., the director of exam services at NCEES. “They help us ensure NCEES licensing exams reflect current professional practice.”

The new specifications are now available on the NCEES Web site (www.ncees.org). The Architectural Engineering Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (AEI of ASCE) will publish updated study materials for the exam this summer.

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Send letters to *Licensure Exchange* editor at NCEES, PO Box 1686, Clemson, SC 29633 or dmcguint@ncees.org.

UPDATE

EPE, EPS, and EPP continue exam oversight in 2008–09

NCEES has been preparing and administering its two-tiered exams (the first testing fundamental knowledge, the second testing professional knowledge) for engineering and surveying licensure since the 1960s. As uniform measures of professional competency, they remain an important component of licensure throughout the United States.

Developing and maintaining these exams require careful planning and evaluation. That remains the case in 2008–09, as three of the standing committees that deal with exam content and policy—the Committee on Examinations for Professional Engineers (EPE), the Committee on Examinations for Professional Surveyors (EPS), and the Committee on Examination Policy and Procedures (EPP)—have been at work addressing their charges concerning exam-related issues and recurring duties. This article highlights some of their activities this year. Full committee reports will be made available to the Council in July, in preparation for the 2009 Annual Meeting in August.

Overseeing exam content

The EPE and EPS Committees are charged with supervising the development and maintenance of the fundamentals (FE and FS) and principles and practice (PE and PS) exams. Their recurring activities include

- ♦ Overseeing the development of items for future FE/FS and PE/PS exams and ensuring that they are developed in accordance with exam development policies
- ♦ Conducting Professional Activities and Knowledge Studies (PAKS)—these are surveys of licensed engineers and surveyors from across the professional spectrum, including industry, private practice, and academia. The surveys measure the importance these professionals assign to specific subject areas within their discipline and are used to form exam specifications.

- ♦ Implementing audit recommendations approved by the NCEES Board of Directors
- ♦ Overseeing the training of item writers to ensure that they understand the statistical methods used to create effective licensure exams
- ♦ Reviewing exam policies and procedures and recommending changes to the EPP Committee when necessary
- ♦ Updating exam items to reflect appropriate use of codes

The EPE Committee approved specifications for the Architectural Engineering PE exam that will go into effect in April 2010 (see page 7). It also plans to introduce new specifications for the Agricultural PE exam that will go into effect in October 2010. The committee has PAKS in progress for the Chemical and Environmental PE exams.

Regarding the NCEES Structural exam, which will debut as a new 16-hour exam to be used in all jurisdictions that license structural engineers, the committee has conducted a PAKS and will administer the exam for the first time in April 2011. The EPE Committee will present two motions to define the exam's format and its use for structural engineering licensure. The motions include suggested language changes to the *Model Law* and *Model Rules*.

The EPS Committee also addressed continuity of committee leadership this year and will propose that a Special Committee on Bylaws be charged with amending the *Bylaws* to establish the position of EPS vice-chair. The person holding this position would be in line to become EPS Committee chair after the current chair has completed a two-year term. The proposed language mirrors existing *Bylaws* provisions for an EPE vice-chair.

Name change for FE afternoon module

The FE exam is a breadth-and-depth exam that requires examinees to select an afternoon module matching their academic major. While the majority of examinees fit into the larger disciplines such as civil, mechanical, electrical, and chemical engineering, others major in engineering disciplines in numbers that do not justify the creation of a separate module. For these, a general afternoon module exists.

However, many examinees from disciplines that have afternoon modules choose the general module over the module corresponding to their major, despite data indicating that pass rates are consistent across the modules. This practice causes performance feedback that NCEES provides to engineering programs at colleges and universities to be less precise. To better convey the nature of the module and its intended examinee pool, the EPE Committee recommended that the general module be renamed “other disciplines.” The Board of Directors approved this change, which will go into effect in April 2010.

Research into “practice” vs. “academic” exam items

For the past few years, the EPE Committee has been researching PE exam items to determine whether they test academic knowledge or practical knowledge gained through experience practicing as an engineer intern. The committee looked at performance data for exam items based on the variable of the number of years of experience claimed by the candidate. If candidates with more experience performed better on a particular item, it was labeled a “practice” item. If candidates closer to their date of graduation performed better, it was labeled an “academic” item.

This year, the committee studied both item types to determine characteristics common to each. Their detailed findings are included in the committee’s report.

EPP Committee proposes amendments to exam policies

While the EPE and EPS Committees oversee exam content, the EPP Committee is charged with reviewing exam development and exam administration policies and proposing amendments to these policies when necessary.

This year, the committee will present motions to amend several of these policies, including Examination Development Policy (EDP) 14 to specify how scores for the new Structural exam will be reported and Examination Administration Policy (EAP) 2 to establish the schedule for administering the exam’s two 8-hour components.

Other policy changes include an amendment to EDP 8 to add language requiring that Member Boards be notified 12 months in advance of changes to exam procedures or formats and an amendment to EAP 1 to add language detailing the unique identification numbers that will be assigned to all exam candidates registering for exams beginning with the October 2010 administration.

The EPP Committee will also propose amendments to EDP 5 and EDP 10, which detail exam administrations in foreign countries. The proposed changes, which are included in the committee’s report, simplify the language according to whether the exam is administered within a Member Board’s jurisdiction or through a foreign entity.

Other EPP topics addressed

The EPP Committee, along with the EPE and EPS Committees, looked into the matter of reference materials used during open-book exams (the PE, PS, and structural exams). After considering the pros and cons of limiting reference materials, the committees agreed to continue the current policy of allowing an unlimited number of reference materials.

EDP 5 and EDP 7 describe the process for adding or removing disciplines and depth modules from NCEES exam offerings, but there is not an official procedure for dividing an existing exam into separate subdisciplines, as was done recently with the Electrical and Computer PE exam. It no longer features a morning breadth section but is an 8-hour depth exam divided into three separate subdisciplines. The EPP Committee will propose a new EDP that describes this process. The language will grant the EPE Committee the ability to recommend this type of change to the Board of Directors, which will then decide whether to divide the exam.

Doug McGuirt
NCEES Editor

Member Board

NEWS

Ohio

- ◆ Angela R. Newland, P.E., is no longer on the board.

Vermont PE and PS

- ◆ Carla Preston (cpreston@sec.state.vt.us) is the new board administrator. She replaces Lorin Rollins.

Wyoming

- ◆ E. Duane (Corky) Stetson, P.E., and Thomas V. Anderson are new appointees to the board. The terms of Peter J. Hutchison, P.E., P.L.S., and J. Michael Ballard have expired.



Alfred H. Samborn, P.E.

NCEES Past President Alfred H. Samborn, P.E., passed away March 19, 2009, at the age of 91. Samborn was the 1979–80 president and received the Distinguished Service Award in 1981 for his contributions to the Council. During his three terms as a member of the Ohio State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Surveyors, he served as board chair and vice chair and as Central Zone vice president. He was a member of numerous Council committees, including Constitution and Bylaws, ABET, Dues and Financial Structure, and NCEE/NCARB Liaison.

In 1948, Samborn founded what would become one of the nation's largest architecture and engineering firms, SSOE Inc. He was a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Engineering Education, and American Public Works Association and represented Ohio as a director of the National Society of Professional Engineers.

He is survived by his sons, Randy and Michael, and three grandchildren.

MBA wrap up productive year

The Member Board Administrators' (MBA) Networking Group conducted three face-to-face meetings this year. The first was held in conjunction with the 2008 Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. The second was conducted in October in Clemson, S.C., where NCEES hosted the MBAs for a daylong meeting. The third was held at the Board Presidents' Assembly (BPA) held in February in Atlanta.

MBA forums were held in conjunction with each zone meeting. Continuing with a program that began last year, the zone forums all had common agendas to provide a consistent forum from which all MBAs and NCEES staff could benefit. Committee reports were given, state and NCEES resolutions were discussed, and NCEES program reports were presented. The byproduct of this common agenda was a well-informed membership upon arrival at the national meeting.

The Minneapolis forum was slated for three hours, with an ambitious agenda. Items included NCEES committee reports by MBAs on committees, the Member Board survey, and CouncilNet updates. NCEES staff gave updates on ELSSES and the Center for Professional Engineering Education Services. A large block of time was dedicated to the UPLG report and update on the additional education requirement for engineering licensure. The group also heard two well-received presentations by outside speakers. The first was on *Robert's Rules of Order* and the second was on electronic communication and public disclosure requirements.

In October, NCEES sponsored the first-ever MBA workshop at NCEES headquarters. NCEES hosted the daylong event and a dinner afterward. The purpose was for MBAs to meet staff and to become familiar with NCEES programs available to Member Boards. The program was successful and productive and will now be scheduled as a biennial event.

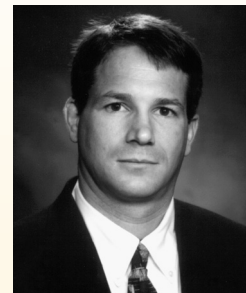
At the BPA, the MBA forum agenda included reports from several committees as well as NCEES staff about the national candidate management system and the new institutional scoring report formats.

Continuing the effort that began in 2006 (and now funded by NCEES) the MBAs again attended the NCEES Board of Directors' meetings. The original premise for attending was to allow the MBA leadership to maintain an open working relationship with the Board and to stay informed of critical issues and items of concern to the MBA Networking Group. This effort has met our objective of improving relations and opening the dialogue. The reports generated by the attending MBAs and distributed via the MBA listserv have allowed the MBAs to gain a much better understanding of the processes and hard work that go into each decision the Board makes and ultimately provides relevant feedback in a timely manner to Member Boards. Now that this program has been in place for over two years, we firmly believe that this effort has improved and will continue to improve the lines of communications between the MBAs and the NCEES Board of Directors.

Other MBA initiatives include MBAs serving on numerous NCEES committees and task forces where the MBA's institutional history and knowledge on a variety of subjects prove to be invaluable. In addition, the MBA listserv continues to be a popular and successful tool in assisting NCEES staff, Member Boards, and MBAs. It provides a national rapid response to boards that need immediate answers on topics as wide-ranging as legislative action, licensure issues, and compliance. And, like last year, the MBAs have made themselves available to all standing NCEES committees and task forces to assist with their charges.

The MBAs continue to serve as a fantastic resource to Member Boards, NCEES, and each other. It remains our objective to use the available tools—forums, listserv, committee participation, and attendance at Board meetings—to help us meet the mission of our own boards and of NCEES. It also remains our objective to continually improve communication and to be the conduit of information within our own jurisdictions and within NCEES and to take advantage of the unique role that MBAs have within NCEES.

Andrew L. Ritter
Spokesperson, MBA Networking Group



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Go online to register for the NCEES Annual Meeting by July 2

The 2009 NCEES Annual Meeting will be held August 12–15 in Louisville, Kentucky. Follow these steps for convenient and secure online registration.

1. Go to www.ncees.org/annual_meeting_2009.
2. Click “Register for Annual Meeting” to go to the online registration site.
3. Click the “Register Now” button on the right side of the screen.
4. Choose “Annual Meeting Attendee.” Complete the fields as prompted.
5. Select “Add Another Person” after you complete your information if you want to register a guest. Choose “Spouse/Other Guest” (two options: with or without breakfasts). Complete the fields as prompted.
6. Enter payment information.

Annual Meeting Attendees: The \$475 registration fee includes registration materials, breakfast and lunch (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday), refreshment breaks, and specified events on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings. Late registration: After July 2, the delegate registration fee is \$525.

Spouse/Other Guest (two options): The \$375 registration fee includes registration materials, Thursday activity, choice of tour on Friday, and specified events on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings. The \$425 registration fee includes the above plus breakfast on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Please note that Saturday’s Awards Luncheon is an additional cost of \$45. Late registration: After July 2, the guest registration fee is \$400 without breakfast, \$450 with breakfast.

Funded Attendees: Follow the special instructions you received in your invitation.

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