

FUNDAMENTALS OF ENGINEERING (FE) EXAMINATION

NOTE: Information about the FE and PE (Principles and Practice of Engineering) examinations and links to *state boards of registration* can be found at <http://www.ncees.org/>. You can also find out about the specific topics covered in the examinations, and also purchase sample exams and solutions. The information shown below has been excerpted from this site for you. In addition, you can also purchase FE (and PE) *review manuals* on-line. There are many good ones available and they become great handbooks to keep in your library for future reference.

WHAT TYPE OF EXAMINATION IS THE FE EXAM?

- National examination given annually across the US in April and October. The FE exam can be taken in any state.

WHY TAKE THE FE EXAM?

- To pursue a professional engineering license, you must first pass the Fundamentals (FE) examination.

WHEN SHOULD YOU TAKE THE FE EXAM?

- You can take the FE exam at anytime during or after your senior year.
- However, since the FE exam covers material that is pretty fresh in your mind while you are still a student, it is recommended that you take the FE exam during your senior year, or shortly thereafter.

WHAT MATERIAL IS COVERED IN THE FE EXAM?

- The FE exam covers subject matter taught in a typical EAC/ABET-accredited BS engineering program. It appropriately covers a comprehensive range of subjects in engineering. (See the NCEES web site for details.)

WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE FE EXAM?

- The FE exam is 8 hours long, with one 4-hr session in the morning and another 4-hr session in the afternoon. Examinees must participate in both sessions on the same day. Exams is closed book, and reference material is supplied. All questions are multiple choice.
- The FE exam consists of 180 multiple-choice questions. During the morning session, all examinees take a general exam common to all disciplines. During the afternoon session, examinees can opt to take a general exam or a discipline-specific (chemical, civil, electrical, environmental, industrial, or mechanical) exam.

AFTER I PASS THE FE EXAM, WHAT'S NEXT?

Passing the FE exam is the first step toward engineering licensure. To continue the licensure process:

- Obtain at least 4 years of experience deemed acceptable to your licensing board
- Take the discipline-specific Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam.

HOW DO THE FE AND PE EXAMS DIFFER (*both are required for professional engineering licensure*)?

- **FE exam** covers subject matter in a typical EAC/ABET-accredited BS engineering curriculum.
- **PE exam** goes beyond testing academic knowledge; includes required knowledge gained in engineering practice.

WHEN IS THE FE EXAM GIVEN?

- The FE exam is given each year in April and October.

REGISTERING FOR THE FE EXAM

- Download the application form from the state where you intend to take the FE exam. For Rhode Island, go to:
<http://www.bdp.state.ri.us/peng/ap/index.html>
- *Be sure to register for the discipline-specific FE exam for your area of expertise.*
- **APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE FOR EXAM** - Application and all required documentation must be received or postmarked by January 1 for the April examination and by August 1 for the October examination. Applications received after these dates will be considered for the following test administration.