

LICENSURE AND ADVANCED CREDENTIALING WITHIN THE CIVIL ENGINEERING PROFESSION

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Policy

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) supports licensure as a Professional Engineer (PE) that recognizes the traditional breadth of the civil engineering practice. ASCE also supports post-PE credentialing that attests to a Professional Engineer's expertise in a civil engineering specialty area. Obtaining a PE license or post-PE credential shall require the engineer to demonstrate attainment of an appropriate body of knowledge.

Issue

While the practice of civil engineering may require the performance of tasks within specialty areas, the successful completion of civil engineering projects requires comprehensive knowledge, experience, and judgment in a variety of related elements within the profession. Furthermore, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Model Law states that "licensees must demonstrate by education, experience, and examination that they are competent in their field." Therefore, licensure in accordance with the Model Law conveys to the public the Professional Engineer's qualifications. Additionally, following licensure as a Professional Engineer there is a desire to recognize those with engineering expertise in specialized areas of civil engineering. Post-PE credentialing helps achieve this goal. Credentialing is a generic term defining the granting of a credential; for example diplomas, licenses, and/or certifications.

Rationale

The NCEES Model Law is intended to provide greater uniformity of qualifications for licensure, simplify interstate licensing procedures and enhance mobility, and establish levels of qualifications for professional licensure that ensure the public's safety, health, and welfare.

The traditional concept of civil engineering is the integrated practice of engineering embracing a number of related specialty areas. The process of attaining a Professional Engineer license is the first step towards recognition of competency in these related civil engineering specialty areas. Furthermore, those engineers who exhibit additional or advanced expertise and credentials within a specific practice area of civil engineering should be identified through post-PE credentialing programs.

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