



FE Exam Guide

What is the FE exam?

The Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam is the first step towards becoming a Licensed Professional Engineer (PE). The exam is designed by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) and administered at [Pearson VUE test centers](#) as a computer-based exam. After you pass the FE Exam, you will earn the Engineer in Training (EIT) certification. All architectural engineering students are encouraged to take the FE Exam as the first step in obtaining their professional license. More firms and agencies are starting to require professional licensing and having the FE completed puts you on a path to the highly desirable credential of Professional Engineer.

How do you register for the FE exam?

To register to take an FE exam in Pennsylvania, [visit this page](#). The FE is offered in seven disciplines: FE Chemical, FE Civil, FE Electrical and Computer, FE Environmental, FE Industrial and Systems, FE Mechanical, and FE Other Disciplines. Architectural engineering students would probably be most qualified to take the Other Disciplines exam, but you can take one of your choosing. Most Penn State AE students previously taking the FE have indicated that they take the “FE Other Disciplines.” Penn State AE students who register and successfully pass the [FE Exam](#) before they graduate are eligible to receive a \$100 award from the Department of

Architectural Engineering. To learn more about this award and apply, please visit [AE FE Exam Support Award](#).

What can you take to an FE exam session?

The [NCEES Examinee Guide](#) is the official guideline to all policies and procedures for FE exams. Keep in mind that the types of calculators that you may use at the exam is also limited by NCEES and can be found [here](#). Note that effective July 1, 2020, the FE exam specifications will change. To learn more about the changes, please see Exam Specifications section on [NCEES Website](#). Note that due to delays in physically scheduling a time at a test center, especially due to virus-related restrictions in some locations, the exam specification in place when you take the exam may be different than the one in place when you register. Make sure you always check the latest exam specification as a part of your preparation process.

The only reference material that can be used during the exam is the NCEES FE Reference Handbook. You will be provided with an electronic reference handbook during the exam. After you have registered but prior to your exam, you may gain access to the handbook either by purchasing a hard copy or by downloading a free electronic copy of the NCEES FE Reference Handbook by logging in to your MyNCEES account: Common Tasks → Useful Documents → View reference handbooks. A screenshot of this action is provided below.

The screenshot displays the MyNCEES Dashboard interface. At the top, the title 'MyNCEES Dashboard' is visible. A navigation sidebar on the left includes icons for Dashboard, Exams, Exam Prep, PE/PS Exam Docs, and Multi-State Licensure. A notification banner at the top right states: 'Existing Record holders and Credentials Evaluation customers need to [link their legacy accounts](#) to migrate their information into the new system.' Below this, the 'Recent Items' section is empty. The 'Common Tasks' section is divided into four columns: 'Exams' (with links for Register for an exam, Purchase a practice exam, Access a result notice or diagnostic, and Request exam verification), 'Useful Documents' (with links for Learn about special accommodations, PE exam schedule, Review exam-day policies, Download the NCEES Examinee Guide, Review calculator policy, and 'View reference handbooks' circled in red), 'CPC Tracking' (with link for Enter and upload CPC courses), 'Records' (with links for Start an NCEES Record, Request license verification, Transmit my NCEES Record, and Link my legacy Records account), 'Education' (with links for Update my education, What is an NCEES Credentials Evaluation, and Link my legacy Credentials Evaluation), and 'General' (with links for Submit a support request, View my order history or print a receipt, and Update my contact information).

Exams

Reference Handbooks

To ensure that the handbook displays properly, make sure you have a current browser and pdf reader on your computer. If you experience font issues with the handbook, save the handbook to your desktop first and then view the file.

The handbooks may be printed from the NCEES website for your personal use, but they may not be copied, reproduced, distributed electronically or in print, or posted online without the express written permission of NCEES. Contact permissions@ncees.org for more information.

The only handbooks available are those listed here. Others will be added approximately 6 months before the related paper exam becomes computer-based.

Click on the handbook you want to view:

- FE Reference Handbook 10.0 (effective July 1, 2020)
- FE Reference Handbook 9.5 (effective through June 30, 2020)
- FS Reference Handbook 1.0 (effective through June 30, 2020)
- FS Reference Handbook 2.0 (effective July 1, 2020)
- PE Chemical Reference Handbook 2.0 (effective January 1, 2020)
- PE Environmental Reference Handbook 1.2
- PE Fire Protection Reference Handbook 1.0
- PE Industrial and Systems Reference Handbook 1.1
- PE Mechanical Reference Handbook 1.1
- PE Mining and Mineral Processing Reference Handbook 0.0 - refer to the SME Mining Reference Handbook, 2nd edition (available from SME)
- PE Nuclear Reference Handbook 1.1.1
- PE Petroleum Reference Handbook 0.0 - refer to the 2020 Update - SPE Petroleum Engineering Certification and PE License Exam Reference Guide (available from SPE)
- PS Reference Handbook 1.1

FE Exam Study Materials

Other than the NCEES FE Reference Handbook, the FE NCEES website also provides practice exams that you can purchase. To do so, when you are logged in to your account, click on the Exam Prep icon on the left sidebar. If you are taking FE Exam Other Disciplines, FE Other Disciplines Practice Exam (effective through June 30, 2020) and FE Other Disciplines Practice Exam (effective with exams beginning July 2020) items are the ones you may purchase if you need study materials to give you extra practice.

Exam Prep

Exam Prep

- FE
- FS
- PE
- PS

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| <p>FE Chemical Practice Exam (effective through June 30, 2020)</p> <p>\$29.95</p> <p>View Product ></p> | <p>FE Civil Practice Exam (effective through June 30, 2020)</p> <p>\$29.95</p> <p>View Product ></p> |
| <p>FE Electrical and Computer Practice Exam (effective through June 30, 2020)</p> <p>\$29.95</p> <p>View Product ></p> | <p>FE Environmental Practice Exam (effective through June 30, 2020)</p> <p>\$29.95</p> <p>View Product ></p> |

Other than practice exams, there are several other study materials out there for free or to purchase. Note that although most PSU AE students take the “FE Other Disciplines,” there are some overlaps between “FE Other Disciplines” and “FE Civil Engineering” or” FE Mechanical

Engineering”. There are sometimes some sections within the civil and mechanical engineering study materials that have more generic reviews on math, science, etc. that may be helpful to you.

The Penn State Engineering Library has some resources available on reserve or for check out. To access, log in to your PSU My Library Account and search for “FE Exam Other Disciplines,” “FE Exam Civil,” or “FE Exam ME.”

“[Fundamentals of Engineering Exam Review](#)” is a free course with self-paced videos on Coursera covering FE topics, particularly those in Civil and Mechanical Engineering. YouTube channels “[Engineering in Training Exam](#),” “[Daily FE Exam](#),” and “[enGENIEer](#)” also offer more than 100 videos on reviewing some critical concepts of FE exams and tips on how to prepare for the FE exam. In addition, North Carolina State University's Engineering Online Program has made “[FE Sample Questions by NCEES](#)” available for free.

Lastly, several online/print prep, review, and study materials are available on [PPI2PASS](#), a Kaplan Company, for purchase. You may find “[FE Other Disciplines Practice Problems](#)” and “[FE Other Disciplines Review](#)” items useful.

Remember that there are [no deductions for wrong answers](#) so at some point fill in every answer because you theoretically have a 25% chance even with a guess according to exam prep guidelines. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the contents of the Reference Handbook manual. How to effectively find formulas is very important as this is the only material you are provided with during the exam.

COVID-19 Testing Information

Please note that currently you can continue to register for the exam at any time. And, you are encouraged to register as soon as possible because the backlog of physical times available for taking the test is extensive for a variety of reasons.

Officially test centers are open **but** use of the physical testing facilities for scheduling and taking a test is in the control of local and state officials. For example, in Pennsylvania these decisions are being made by the Governor on a county-by-county basis and Pearson indicates they will follow those rules. In other words, even though you hear a test center is open and staffed by Pearson personnel, the center may not be open for you to schedule a test.

Also, note that currently (as of mid-May, 2020) Pearson is allowing only one person in a test room at a time and this policy is contributing to the backlog of actual testing days. Due to varying state and county restrictions, examinees should frequently check the official websites and should verify test centers are open and check requirements before arriving. For example, in most cases, test centers will require examinees to provide their own face mask for admittance.

Action Item

If you are intending to take the FE exam in the near future, the best course of action is to register for the exam as soon as possible. You cannot obtain scheduling information or check the availability of a test center seat without first registering.

Good Luck!

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