

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING STRUCTURAL LICENSING:

1. Are structural EI's required to take the SE exam? You will need to take the SE exam in order to design unlimited structures. A PE will only be able to design structures not classified as "designated structures". The clear definition of "designated structure" will be available upon adoption of SE licensure in Florida.
2. How should an EI plan for the future if they want to obtain an SE licensure? An EI should plan to take the Civil-Structural PE exam once they are able to, as allowed by FBPE. Once you have your PE, it is recommended to gain 6-12 months of experience before attempting the SE exam, though this additional experience will not be required to permit you to sit for the exam. All current EI's who want to design designated structures should expect to take the SE exam after passing their PE exam.
3. Why should I take the Civil-Structural PE Exam before the SE Exam? The SE Exam is a 16-hour exam which is taken over a period of two days. The SE exam covers a large amount of in-depth structural subjects, so normally people take the SE exam in two parts, 6 months apart, rather than two days in a row. By taking the one day, 8-hour, Civil-Structural PE as soon as you are able, you can attain your PE license and begin practicing as an engineer and gaining experience on structural projects that are not designated structures. If you do not take the Civil-Structural PE first, then you will need to pass both days of the SE exam before you are no longer an EI.
4. What are the benefits of passing the SE? Passing the 16-hour NCEES SE exam documents that you have obtained a baseline of knowledge to successfully design structures anywhere in the United States. It will also allow you to become licensed in states outside of Florida that require passing this exam to practice structural engineering.
5. What do the Civil Structural (PE) and Structural Exam (SE) consist of?

Civil Structural PE exam:

The six areas covered in the morning breadth section are: construction, geotechnical, structural, transportation, and water resources and environmental. The afternoon depth section contains questions related to structural engineering.

Structural SE exam:

(1) Vertical Forces (Gravity/Other) and Incidental Laterals (8 hours) and focuses on gravity loads and lateral earth pressures

(2) Lateral Forces (Wind/Earthquake) (8 hours) and focuses on wind/earthquake loads. Each component of the SE exam has a breadth (morning) module and a depth (afternoon) module. Examinees must take the breadth module of each component and one of the two depth modules in each component.

The **Breadth modules (morning sessions)** contain all multiple choice questions covering a comprehensive range of structural engineering topics.

FAQ for Engineer Interns
Post SE Licensure Adoption

The **Depth modules (afternoon sessions)** focus more closely on a single area of practice in structural engineering either buildings or bridges. All questions are constructed response (essay).