

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING STRUCTURAL LICENSING:

1. Under what circumstances will EI's be required to take the SE exam? *If separate SE licensure is adopted before you are able to take the PE exam, you will still need to take the PE exam and pass it before you can take the SE exam in order to become an SE. If you will have your PE by the time SE licensure is adopted, please refer to the next question.*
2. How should an EI plan for the future without knowing when SE licensure will be adopted? *An EI should plan to take the Civil-Structural PE exam once they are able to, as allowed by the FBPE. Once you have your PE, it is recommended to gain 6-12 months of experience before attempting the SE exam. If SE licensure is adopted *before* you take your PE exam, you will not be able to design and seal designated structures until you pass the SE exam and obtain an SE license. If SE licensure is adopted *after* you take your PE exam, you may apply to transition to an SE license without being required to take the SE exam if you have adequate experience. The amount of experience necessary to transition will be decided upon adoption of SE licensure in Florida. All current EI's should expect to take the SE exam after passing their PE exam.*
3. If SE licensure is adopted *before* I can sit for my PE, should I take the SE exam and skip the civil-structural PE 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, regardless of separate licensure adoption in Florida? *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)

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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.

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).