



## NOTICE OF TEXT

### [Authority G.S. 150B-21.2(c)]

**OAH USE ONLY**

VOLUME: 40

ISSUE: 04

CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX:

- Notice with a scheduled hearing
- Notice without a scheduled hearing
- Republication of text. Complete the following cite for the volume and issue of previous publication, as well as blocks 1 - 4 and 7 - 14. If a hearing is scheduled, complete block 5.  
Previous publication of text was published in Volume: Issue:

1. Rule-Making Agency: [Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors](#)

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2. Link to agency website pursuant to G.S. 150B-19.1(c): [www.ncbels.org](http://www.ncbels.org)

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3. Proposed Action -- Check the appropriate box(es) and list rule citation(s) beside proposed action:

ADOPTION:

AMENDMENT: [21 NCAC 56 .0501](#)

REPEAL:

READOPTION with substantive changes:

READOPTION without substantive changes:

REPEAL through READOPTION:

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4. Proposed effective date: [01/01/2026](#)

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5. Is a public hearing planned? [Yes](#)

If yes:

Date	Time	Location
<a href="#">09/24/2025</a>	<a href="#">9:00 am</a>	<a href="#">Board Office, 4601 Six Forks Rd, Ste 310, Raleigh, N.C. 27609</a>

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6. If no public hearing is scheduled, provide instructions on how to demand a public hearing:

**7. Explain Reason For Proposed Rule(s):**

The Board seeks to amend 21 NCAC 56 .0501 to update definitions related to educational and experience requirements for licensure as a Professional Engineer as well as to eliminate a minimum experience requirement for full-time engineering faculty members seeking licensure as a Professional Engineer.

**8. Procedure for Subjecting a Proposed Rule to Legislative Review:** If an objection is not resolved prior to the adoption of the rule, a person may also submit written objections to the Rules Review Commission. If the Rules Review Commission receives written and signed objections in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.3(b2) from 10 or more persons clearly requesting review by the legislature and the Rules Review Commission approves the rule, the rule will become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1). The Commission will receive written objections until 5:00 p.m. on the day following the day the Commission approves the rule. The Commission will receive those objections by mail, delivery service, hand delivery, or email. If you have any further questions concerning the submission of objections to the Commission, please call a Commission staff attorney at 984-236-1850.

**Rule(s) is automatically subject to legislative review. Cite statutory reference:**

**9. The person to whom written comments may be submitted on the proposed rule(s):**

Name: S. Wesley Tripp III  
Address: 4601 Six Forks Rd, Ste 310  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
Phone (optional): 919-791-2000, Ext. 111  
Fax (optional):  
EMail (optional) wtripp@ncbels.org

**10. Comment Period Ends: 10/14/2025**

**11. Fiscal impact. Does any rule or combination of rules in this notice create an economic impact? Check all that apply.**

No fiscal note required

**12. Rule-making Coordinator:**

Name: S. Wesley Tripp III  
919-791-2000  
wtripp@ncbels.org

**Agency contact, if any:**

Name:  
Phone:  
Email:

**13. The Agency formally proposed the text of this rule(s) on**

**Date: 07/16/2025**

1 21 NCAC 56 .0501 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2  
3 **21 NCAC 56 .0501 REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSING**

4 (a) Education. Pursuant to G.S. 89C-13, ~~The the~~ Board shall consider the education of an applicant in determining  
5 eligibility for ~~licensing~~ certification as an Engineer Intern or licensure as a Professional Engineer. ~~The Certain~~ terms  
6 used by the Board for ~~concerning~~ the educational requirements ~~found in G.S. 89C-13(a1) G.S. 89C-13~~ to be eligible  
7 to be licensed as a Professional Engineer are defined as follows:

8 (1) ~~"Engineering curriculum of four or more years approved by the Board" is defined as "An~~  
9 EAC/ABET accredited program" is a program ~~that has been~~ accredited by the Engineering  
10 Accreditation Commission (EAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology  
11 (ABET). This program is incorporated by reference including subsequent amendments and editions.  
12 This material is available at ~~www.abet.org/accreditation-criteria-policies-documents/~~ at no cost, or  
13 for inspection at the office of the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors.  
14 Copies may be obtained at the Board office at a cost of five dollars (\$5.00) per copy. A list of  
15 accredited programs can be found on ABET's website at <https://www.abet.org>.

16 (2) ~~"Engineering or related science curriculum of four or more years other than ones approved by the~~  
17 ~~Board" is defined as "An engineering curriculum or related science curriculum of four years or~~  
18 more" is a curriculum, although not accredited by ABET, of technical courses that contains  
19 engineering or scientific principles. This also includes a bachelor's degree in engineering  
20 technology, whether or not accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission  
21 (ETAC) of ABET.

22 (3) "A master's degree in engineering from an institution that offers EAC/ABET accredited programs"  
23 and "an earned doctoral degree in engineering from an institution that offers EAC/ABET accredited  
24 programs" are graduate degrees in engineering from an institution which offers EAC/ABET  
25 accredited undergraduate programs.

26 (4) Educational programs "approved by the Board as being of satisfactory standing" include foreign  
27 degrees equivalent to the NCEES Engineering Education Standard. A copy of the applicable  
28 standard is available at <https://ncees.org/ncees-services/credentials-evaluations/>. Foreign degrees  
29 shall be considered substantially equivalent only after the Board obtains an evaluation report from  
30 the Credentials Evaluations Service of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and  
31 Surveying (NCEES) evaluating the foreign degree.

32 (3) ~~"Equivalent education satisfactory to the board" is defined as:~~

33 (A) ~~A graduate degree in Engineering from an institution where the same discipline~~  
34 ~~undergraduate engineering program has been accredited by ABET (EAC) shall be~~  
35 ~~considered equivalent to an engineering curriculum of four or more years approved by the~~  
36 ~~Board.~~

1           ~~(B) — A bachelor's degree in Engineering Technology, whether or not accredited by the~~  
2           ~~Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) of ABET, shall be considered equivalent to~~  
3           ~~an engineering or related science curriculum of four or more years other than one approved~~  
4           ~~by the Board.~~

5           ~~(C) — Foreign degrees shall be considered equivalent only after receipt of an evaluation report~~  
6           ~~that the degree is substantially equivalent to an EAC/ABET accredited engineering~~  
7           ~~curriculum from the Center for Professional Engineering Education Services, an affiliate~~  
8           ~~of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), or from~~  
9           ~~the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO).~~  
10          ~~The Board shall equate the degree to an EAC/ABET accredited engineering curriculum of~~  
11          ~~four or more years approved by the Board in Subparagraph (a)(1) of this Rule if it receives~~  
12          ~~a substantially equivalent evaluation.~~

13 (b) Experience. Pursuant to G.S. 89C-13, the Board shall consider the experience of an applicant shall be  
14 considered in determining eligibility for certification as an Engineer Intern or licensure whether an applicant is eligible  
15 to be licensed as a Professional Engineer.

16           (1) Required Experience. In evaluating ~~the work experience required,~~ experience, the Board shall  
17 consider ~~the an applicant's~~ total experience record and ~~the its~~ progressive ~~nature of the record.~~  
18 nature. Experience shall be of a progressive engineering nature obtained after graduation from a  
19 program that meets the criteria set forth in G.S. 89C-13 and defined in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.  
20 Not less than half of required engineering experience shall be of a professional grade and character,  
21 and shall be performed under the responsible charge of a licensed Professional Engineer, or if not,  
22 the applicant shall submit a written explanation to the Board explaining why the experience should  
23 be considered acceptable. The Board shall approve the experience on a case-by-case basis if it is  
24 satisfied of the grade and character of the progressive experience. Experience gained under the  
25 technical supervision of an unlicensed individual shall be considered based upon the engineering  
26 education and experience credentials of the unlicensed supervisor. Experience gained in the armed  
27 services, typically while serving in an engineering or engineering related group, shall be accepted  
28 only if substantially equivalent to civilian work.

29           (2) Definition. ~~The word "progressive" in the terms "progressive nature of the record," "progressive~~  
30 ~~engineering experience," "progressive land surveying," "progressive engineering nature," or~~  
31 ~~"progressive experience on engineering projects"~~ "Progressive experience" means requires that  
32 during the period of time provided as experience, ~~that~~ an applicant made a practical utilization of  
33 acquired knowledge and demonstrated continuous improvement, growth, and development ~~have~~  
34 ~~been shown~~ in the utilization of that knowledge as revealed in the complexity and technical detail  
35 of the work product or work record. The applicant shall show continuous assumption of greater  
36 individual responsibility for the work product over that period of time. The progressive experience

1 on engineering projects shall be of a grade and a character that shows the Board that the applicant  
2 is competent to practice engineering.

3 (3) Credit for Experience. In evaluating progressive engineering experience, the Board shall give credit  
4 for experience in the following areas of work:

5 (A) Graduate schooling or research in an engineering program resulting in award of a master's  
6 degree from an institution that offers EAC/ABET-accredited programs – one year;

7 (B) Graduate schooling or research in an engineering program resulting in award of an earned  
8 doctoral degree in engineering from an institution that offers EAC/ABET-accredited  
9 programs – two years, with or without a master's degree, but this includes the one year for  
10 the master's degree, if obtained;

11 (C) Progressive land surveying - maximum two years; and

12 (D) Teaching of engineering subjects at the university level in an engineering program offering  
13 a four-year or more degree approved by the Board.

14 The Board shall not accept combinations of the categories in this Subparagraph as fulfilling all the necessary statutory  
15 experience requirements. ~~Every applicant for licensure as a Professional Engineer, as part of the total experience  
16 requirement, shall show a minimum of one year experience of a progressive engineering nature in industry,  
17 government, or under a licensed Professional Engineer offering service to the public.~~

18 ~~Full-time engineering faculty members who teach in an engineering program offering a four-year or more degree  
19 approved by the Board may request and shall be granted waiver of the minimum one year experience in industry,  
20 government, or private practice if they demonstrate consulting or research work of at least one year's duration, which  
21 was pursued to completion of the project, and that is of a progressive engineering nature. The faculty applicant shall  
22 document the work to evidence that the work meets the Board's requirement.~~

23 (4) An exception to the requirement in Subparagraph (b)(1) of this Rule that experience be obtained  
24 after graduation is for long-established practice of 20 years or more, as provided for in G.S. 89C-  
25 13(a3).

26 (5) Other experience is considered if it is:

27 (A) Experience obtained prior to graduation as part of an ABET accredited engineering  
28 program shown on the transcript, with a maximum credit of one year; or

29 (B) Experience obtained in a foreign country that is performed under direct supervision of a  
30 Professional Engineer licensed with a member Board of the National Council of Examiners  
31 for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES).

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33 *History Note: Authority G.S. 89C-10; 89C-13;*

34 *Eff. February 1, 1976;*

35 *Readopted Eff. September 29, 1977;*

36 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2014; August 1, 2011; May 1, 2009; August 1, 2002; August 1, 2000; August  
37 1, 1998; November 2, 1992; April 1, 1989; January 1, 1982;*

1                    *Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. April 27,*  
2                    *2019;*  
3                    *Amended Eff. January 1, 2026; July 1, 2020.*