

Becoming a Professional Geoscientist

Who, What, Where, When, Why and How



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*Ensuring proficiency
and competency*



A P E G S

*Association of Professional Engineers
& Geoscientists of Saskatchewan*

Outline

- Why is there licensing of geoscientists?
- Who is APEGS ?
- What are the requirements?
- How do I become registered
- When can I start working?
- Where can I practice?



Why Does APEGS License Geoscientists? It's the Law!!!

- In the mid 1990s the provincial government decided that geoscientists should be licensed.
- The government determined that the licensure of geoscientists would be regulated under the same legislation as engineering.
- Thus in 1997 APES became APEGS and the engineers loved their new colleagues and their new name.

How does professional regulation work?

- Role of Society
- Privilege of Self regulation
- What is a profession?
- *The Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act (the Act)*
- Right to practice

Role of Society

- Through an act of the Provincial Legislature *Society* has given the professions the privilege and authority of self regulation
- Self regulation is based on the premise that engineers and geoscientists (Professionals), are in the best position to determine who is competent to practice their professions

Self Regulation

- All professions in Canada are self-regulating under provincial / territorial legislation
- Members of the profession regulate themselves by ensuring:
 - only qualified people are licensed
 - all those practicing are licensed
- professional practitioners are in the best position to judge who is competent to practice

What is a Profession?

- A profession is a calling requiring specialized knowledge and long academic preparation
- Professionals assign their highest obligation to society above all others
- In cases of conflicting responsibilities / interests, public safety, health and welfare, and the environment are paramount

The Act

- APEGS is legally responsible to the people of Saskatchewan for licensing engineers and geoscientists in the province, and for regulating the practice of these professions **in the public interest** (i.e., to protect, the health, safety, financial wellbeing of the people and protect the environment).
- APEGS is governed by the “**Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act**” <http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=510>
- *The regulatory and administrative bylaws that govern the association can be found on our website*
<http://www.apegs.ca/Portal/Pages/Act-Bylaws>

Right to Practice

- If you are doing work that would be considered professional geoscience you must be licensed as a professional geoscientist
- If you are not, then you must be supervised by a professional member who is taking responsibility for your work.

Who is APEGS

- Approximately 14,000 individual members (as of Dec. 2018)
 - ~ 10,000 P.Eng.
 - ~ 2000 Engineer-in-Training
 - ~ 700 P.Geo.
 - ~ 200 Geoscientist-in-Training
 - ~ 90 Eng & Geo Licensees
 - ~ 30 Temporary Licensees
 - ~ 1000 Life Members
- Non-profit organization
- Financed by member fees



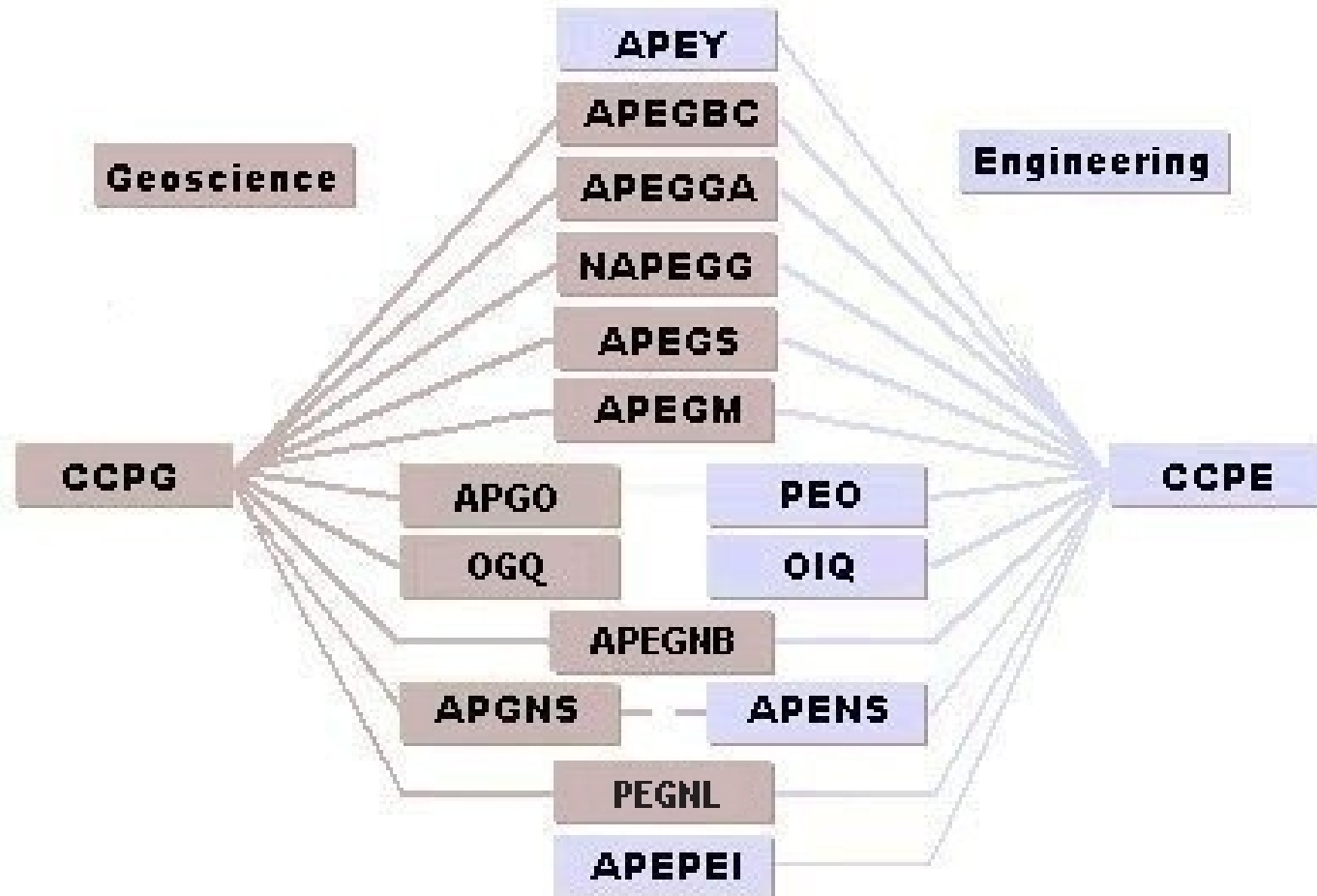
Structure of the Profession

- Geoscience and engineering are regulated on a provincial / territorial basis, as are all professions
- Each province/territory has it's own act and regulatory body.
- “Geoscientists Canada” is the federation of the provincial and territorial geoscience Associations
 - Canadian Geoscience Standards Council is a committee of GC.

Canadian Mobility

- Agreement on Internal Trade
 - Labour mobility provisions became effective April 2009
 - Removes all mobility barriers.
- Once you become a professional geoscientist in one province, apply directly as such in other provinces without being re-assessed.

Provincial / Territorial Associations



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What are the Requirements for Professional Registration?

- Academic Qualification
- Language Proficiency
- Work Experience
- Professional Practice Exam
- Good Character

How do I get licensed?

- All applicants must apply as a **member-in-training**, regardless of years of experience,
- **unless** registered elsewhere in Canada.



Member-in-Training Requirements

- Academic Qualification
- Good Character
 - If at any time during the registration process APEGS becomes aware of something that suggests good character might be an issue, action will be taken.

Required Documents

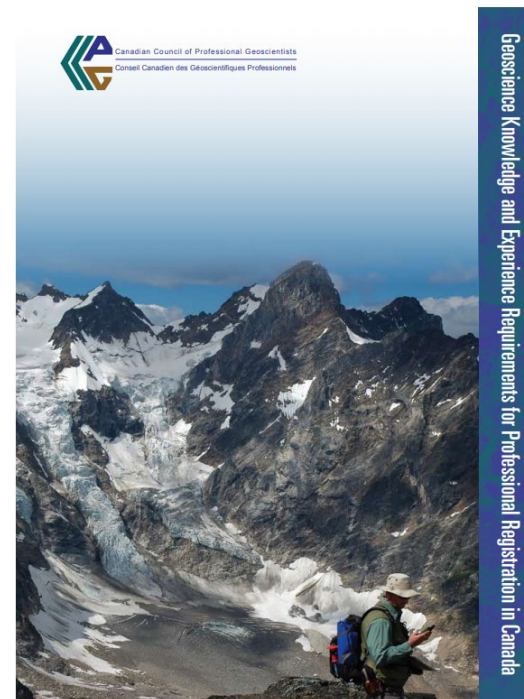
- Member-in-training application form and fee (\$210)
- Bachelor transcript issued to APEGS by the University
- Direct conformation of graduation and degree (if not on transcript)
- Proof of Identification Form and copy of photo ID
- Resume

Education

- “Four-year bachelor level university program of study in geoscience recognized by Council”
 - Geoscientists Canada – Knowledge and Experience Requirement (see APEGS web site under Apply, Applications for Geoscientists, Canadian Geo grads)

Geoscience Knowledge and Experience Requirements (GKE)

<https://geoscientistscanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/GC-Knowledge-Requ.BKLT-.REV-.EN-.web-.final-.pdf>



The standard for geoscience licensure – Published by Geoscientists Canada

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Possible Outcomes

- If you explicitly meet the course list you will be approved as a geoscientist-in-training within a few weeks
- If you do not explicitly meet the course list your file will be sent to the Academic Review Committee and you may be required to take additional courses.
 - May take a couple of months.
 - Complete the deficient courses then you will be registered as a GIT

Experience Review

- 4 years of “acceptable” work experience
- At least one year Canadian or “equivalent to Canadian” (US, in certain circumstances int’l)
- At least some “recent” (two years) at time of professional application
- P.Eng. or P.Geo. sign off:
 - Supervisor **OR**
 - Mentor (exceptions – pre-grad and international experience)

Other Experience Credit

- Pre-grad experience credit – max 12 months
 - write up reports asap, hold until approved as GIT
 - No opportunity for “mentor” arrangement with pre-grad. Have to be supervised by a P.Geo. or P.Eng. (or work closely with one)
 - only from after half done degree
- Thesis-based Masters – max 12 months
- PhD – max 24 months
 - but graduate studies max total 24 months

Experience Reporting

- At least 3 experience reports required:
 - 1 yr, 2yr, 4 yr points
 - more reports if you change employers or have a change in job function (separate reports for separate jobs)
- Final Report most important / critical

Experience Reporting

- Experience Review Committee reviews
- feedback provided
- Experience is measure against:
 - Definition of practice of geoscience (section 2(n) of the Act)
 - *Experience Guideline 3 – Components of Acceptable Geoscience Work Experience*

Experience Reporting

- Components of Acceptable Geoscience Work Experience includes:
 - Application of the knowledge of geoscience principles and practice
 - Management of Geoscience
 - Social implications
 - Communication skills

Role of Mentor

- When the supervisor is not a P.Eng. or P.Geo. (registered anywhere in Canada), P.Eng. or P.Geo. “mentor” required
- Provides a recommendation as to whether or not the experience is acceptable **geoscience** as per definitions from the Act and Guideline 3
- If this person is actually a “career” mentor, that is not the concern of APEGS for experience review purposes
- Note: no opportunity for mentor arrangement with pre-grad experience credit

Coming in 2021!

Competency Based Assessment (CBA) for Geoscientists

For more info go to:

<https://www.apegs.ca/Portal/Pages/competency-based-assessment-geo>

Professional Practice Exam

- 3 hour, closed book exam on Canadian law and ethics
- Questions are a combination of True/False, short answer, multiple choice, long answer, one essay
- 65% passing mark
- Two sittings per year – Regina and Saskatoon both times

Professional Practice Exam

- In order to be eligible to write:
 - must be registered as a member-in-training
 - Have at least one post-bachelors experience report submitted to the APEGS office by the exam application deadline

Professional Practice Exam

- Law and Ethics Seminar
 - 2 days long, approx. 6 weeks before the exam
 - In Saskatoon mid-April, in Regina late September
 - Excellent seminar which helps prepare you for professional practice

Professional Application

- Once all requirements are completed, submit the application for registration as a professional member
 - References from at least 3 P.Eng. or P.Geo.
 - One of the references must be from a previous P.Eng. or P.Geo. supervisor or mentor

Professional Development

- All members are required to participate in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program
 - Annual reporting of professional development “points”

When can I start working as an Geoscientist?

- You do not need to be licensed to start working in your field, but you must be supervised by someone who is a P.Eng. or P.Geo. until you become a professional yourself.
- As Geoscientist- in-Training you must be supervised by a P.Eng. or P.Geo. supervisor.

When Can I Use My Title?

You must **not** use the title engineer/geoscientist until you have been approved as a member-in-training. Once you have been approved (and paid your membership dues) you can use the title engineer/geoscientist, but you must also include that title *engineer-in-training or *geoscientist-in-training.

e.g., Jane Brown Engineer-in-Training
Geotechnical Engineer
Government of Saskatchewan

*must be written out in full, EIT and GIT not acceptable

Where Can I Use My Title?

- You can only use title in the jurisdiction(s) that you are licensed.
- This applies to both Geoscientist-in-training and P.Geo.
- As a geoscientist-in-training you may work anywhere as long as you are being supervised by a P.Geo. As a P.Geo. you must be licensed to be able to work or use title, in every Canadian jurisdiction that you have a project (exceptions PEI and Yukon have no licensure for Geos).

Confidentiality of Personal Info

- For APEGS to discuss applicants' files with anyone else, written consent from the applicant must be provided.
- This can be accomplished by including an authorization form with the APEGS application form, or by sending an email from the email address we have on file.
- Before discussing file details we will verify your identity, so make sure you know your file number when contacting the office for information about your file.

Contact Information

- All registration info under “Apply” on web site
- Presentation: see Public, University Students

Phone: 306-525-9547 or
1-800-500-9547

Website: <http://www.apegs.ca>

E-mail: apegs@apegs.ca