

MICHIGAN PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR (PS) LICENSING GUIDE FOR SKILLED IMMIGRANTS

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1. HOW THE PROFESSION IS ORGANIZED IN MICHIGAN

OVERVIEW

This guide looks at things that you as a foreign-educated Surveyor must do to become eligible for surveying licensing in Michigan. At the same time, it includes some background and tips on the larger surveying profession to give you an idea of the variety of opportunities available as you work to rebuild your career.

REGULATION OF THE PROFESSIONAL SURVEYING PROFESSION

Professional Surveyors in Michigan are regulated by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). You must be licensed to practice as a professional surveyor in Michigan.

The guide assumes that you are an international surveyor who is beginning to build your career in the U.S. and that your Michigan license will be your first U.S. professional surveyor's license. The guide will include steps that come before the final state licensing process which includes education and exams.

You will become a Professional Surveyor by examination. The Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) examination and the Principles and Practice of Surveying (PS) examination is administered through testing centers by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) at www.ncees.org. The Part IIB - Michigan Principles and Practice of Surveying Examination is administered through testing centers by PSI at www.psiexams.com.

2. ELIGIBILITY FOR PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR LICENSE

OVERVIEW

Internationally educated surveyors need to meet several requirements to receive a license in Michigan.

- I. Be of good moral character.
- II. Comply with the education requirements which requires an individual to have completed a baccalaureate degree. The degree must contain the required number of course hours in each subject listed in Rule 201 of the [Administrative Rules](#) for Professional Surveyors (R 339.17201).
- III. Pass the FS, PS, and Part IIB examinations.
- IV. Comply with the experience requirements which requires an individual to have obtained 8 years of professional experience, with no more than 5 of those years being from education.
- V. Submit your licensure application, required supporting documents, and pay the application fee.

Your application sent to the Bureau of Professional Licensing should include:

- Online Application for Professional Surveyor License from LARA that can be found at www.michigan.gov/occupationallicense.
- Appropriate Fee
- College transcripts

The Application for a Professional Surveyor License and fee are valid for 1 year. If you have not met all requirements within 1 year, you will need to submit a new application and pay the appropriate fee again.

3. TESTS

To obtain a professional surveyor license in Michigan, you must take and pass the FS, PS, and Part IIB examinations. To sit for the FS and PS examinations, you must apply to NCEES at www.ncees.org. To sit for the Part IIB examination, you must apply to PSI at www.psiexams.com.

CONTENT AREAS OF THE FS, PS, AND PART IIB EXAMINATIONS

The FS exam is a computer-based test that consists of 110 questions. The exam appointment time is 6 hours long, and includes a 25 minute break. The exam questions are divided into 13 different knowledge areas, which can be found at www.ncees.org.

The PS exam is a computer-based test that consists of 100 questions. The exam appointment time is 7 hours long, and includes an optional scheduled break. The exam questions are divided into 5 different knowledge areas, which can be found at www.ncees.org.

The Michigan Part IIB exam computer-based test that consists of 140 questions, with 240 minutes allowed to complete the exam. The exam questions are divided into 5 different categories, which can be found at www.psiexams.com.

FAILING THE FS, PS, OR PART IIB EXAM

If you fail any of the examinations, you may retake that exam again in a future testing window. There are no limits on the number of times you may sit for the exams.

PRACTICING FOR THE FS, PS, AND PART IIB EXAMS

There are many different resources that can help you prepare for the content and the testing environment. There are a variety of test preparation resources available for low cost.

NCEES offers examination preparation materials on their website at www.ncees.org. PSI also offers examination preparation materials on their website at www.psiexams.com.

4. OTHER CAREERS AND CREDENTIALS

LOWER-LEVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Preparing for licensing takes a significant amount of time, money, and effort. Some professionals choose to seek lower-level positions in surveying to help them meet longer-term licensing goals. If you take a job with fewer responsibilities but with access to a supervising professional surveyor, you may find some distinct advantages. These include the ability to build job security, polish technology skills and adapt to the US workplace culture in a lower-pressure environment, and to have more energy left over to focus on preparing for licensing exams.

Preparing for the FS, PS, and Part IIB exams can take time. Working in a surveying field in a different way and with fewer responsibilities may offer you some advantages, such as:

- more energy to focus on studying
- a chance to adapt to the U.S. surveying workplace culture in a lower-pressure environment

You should be honest with your employer about your long-term plans. You may find some employers have benefits such as tuition reimbursement or schedule flexibility that will support your goals.

5. BEYOND LICENSING

MAINTAINING LICENSURE

A Professional Surveyor license is renewed every 2 years and expires on October 31st. The cost to renew each license is \$100 and must be renewed online at BPL's website using the online payment system. LARA will send a notification reminding you to renew your license however, this is a courtesy reminder and it is the licensee's responsibility to renew the license in a timely manner. Be sure to keep your contact information up to date with the Licensing Division to ensure notices are received. If the license expires for more than 60 days, you will be required to apply for relicensure to reactivate the license.

As a condition of license renewal, an individual licensed as a Professional Surveyor in Michigan shall complete an average of 15 hours of continuing professional education annually for a total of 30 hours during a 2 year license cycle.

LICENSING MOBILITY (RECIPROCITY)

There is not a direct reciprocal agreement between Michigan and other states for licensing at this time. This means that if you earn your Professional Surveyor license in Michigan and wish to perform professional surveying services to people or organizations in other states, you will need to research the process for that state and learn how to practice temporarily or permanently there.

6. IMPORTANT LINKS

LICENSING AND REGULATION:

The Bureau of Professional Licensing (BPL) is the state regulatory agency for the Professional Surveyors profession in Michigan. The Bureau's website is www.michigan.gov/bpl. The website specifically for the professional surveyor profession is www.michigan.gov/surveyors which includes links to the professional surveyor profession's laws and administrative rules, applications, frequently asked questions, etc.

- The main page for the licensing of any occupational profession is www.michigan.gov/occupationallicense.

- Contact information:

Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Bureau of Professional Licensing
PO Box 30670, Lansing MI 48909
Telephone Number: 517-241-9288
Fax: 517-373-3179
Email: bplhelp@michigan.gov

TESTING:

- National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) www.ncees.org.
- PSI www.psiexams.com.