

Land Surveying Education Evaluation Policy 2018

This policy replaces the 2005 Land Surveying Course Acceptance Policy.

The 2018 policy seeks to achieve two objectives. First, to transition away from course and school specific acceptance to a format and content approach. Secondly, to respond to statutory changes in the education requirement in OCGA 43-15-12 and 43-15-12 by SB 425 which becomes effective July 1, 2018.

The education requirement transitions from the pre-SB425 requirements to the new requirements with a 2 year grandfathering period which expires for new applications starting July 1, 2020. This specifically affects 1) the amount of formal education required and the 2) optional hydrology course work and exam depending on the path taken. Courses will be acceptable if successfully passed at a college or university where the degree or certificate program has achieved applicable accreditation. Applicants will be asked to provide which courses in their transcript satisfy the Board's specific criteria. Applicants will also be responsible for providing any requested information such as syllabi, accreditation, course descriptions, etc. to aid the Board in evaluating courses presented. The required content may be provided in different courses, but credit will not be given for redundant material.

1) During the transition period, applicants may qualify for examination as an SI or PLS under either the prior requirements or the new. The prior requirements are set forth in 43-15-12(b) which is 15 quarter hours (9 semester hours) in land surveying and 5 quarter hours (3 semester hours) in applied hydrology and applicable prerequisites. The new requirements are set forth in 43-15-12(a)(2) and consist of 18 semester hours in surveying.

43-15-12(b) applicants are required to provide courses which meet criteria S1, S2, and S3 as set forth below, as well as HP1, HP2, and AH.

43-15-12(a)(3) applicants are required to provide courses which meet criteria S1, S2, S3, S4, and additional course work needed to satisfy the 18 semester hour requirement.

2) Beginning July 1, 2018 the hydrology examination is optional for all applicants. Professional Land Surveyors who opt to be examined in hydrology and design will be indicated on their license record as "Hydrology and Design Authorized" (see OCGA 43-15-13.1(2)). All other new licensees will be indicated simply as "current" (standard) licensure status. Applicants wishing to be examined to become a Hydrology and Design Authorized PLS are required to provide courses which meet criteria HP1, HP2, and AH as well as pass the Georgia Hydrology Exam. Courses and programs that are being accepted and recognized prior to July 1, 2018 will continue to be recognized through the 2 year period, until July 1, 2020.

Required Course Criteria

S1: Foundation in surveying. The course would cover the basics of surveying coordinate geometry, surveying calculations, traversing and leveling, topography & contours, proper field procedures, and basic cartography. Prerequisites should include trigonometry and a course in drafting, engineering graphics, CAD, cartography, or similar background. Course should include lab in surveying, measurements, etc. This course might be offered under names such as "Elementary Surveying", "Surveying 1", "Geomatics Measurements", etc.

S2: Advanced surveying course. The course would cover state plane coordinates, mapping projections, advanced field techniques, route and alignment surveys, volumetric calculations, construction staking techniques, and data collection. Appropriate lab application should be included in the course. This course might be offered under names such as "Advanced Surveying", "Route Surveying", "Surveying 2", etc.

S3: Legal Aspects course. The course would include history of land division systems, basic property rights, legal descriptions, written conveyances, unwritten conveyances, retracing the footsteps of older surveys, junior-senior rights, prescription and adverse possession, hierarchy of controlling monuments and title elements, disputes and litigation. This course might be offered under names such as "Legal Aspects of Surveying", "Boundary Law", "Property Law", etc.

S4: Professional Practice course. The course would prepare the applicant for professional practice as a Professional Land Surveyor and would include subdivision design, site layout, zoning and land use regulations, professional ethics, and business practice.

S5+: Additional courses in surveying and related applicable fields include higher level material such as GIS, geodesy, geodetic surveying, photogrammetry, advanced boundary law, remote sensing, dendrology, spatial analysis, and surveying adjustments. Partial credit may be given for some courses which contain partially applicable material.

HP1: Hydrology Prerequisite 1. This course would follow a physics sequence and cover the general engineering principles of mechanics and statics.

HP2: Hydrology Prerequisite 2: This course would follow the mechanics/statics course and concentrate in fluid mechanics, pressurized flow, and hydraulics.

AH: Applied Hydrology: This course covers watershed analysis and the design of culverts, multi-structure systems, retention ponds, and open channel flow.