

Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Exam Frequently Asked Questions

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Why should I take the FE exam?

Professional Engineer (PE) licensure is the engineering profession's highest standard of competence, a symbol of achievement and assurance of quality. Taking and passing the FE exam is an important step towards PE licensure.

What if I do not plan to get my PE license?

While not all engineering graduates will go on to get their PE license, passing the FE exam is provides an important message to potential employers that, in addition to your degree, that you have achieved the basic competencies associated with your degree area and on a nationally standardized test. And, your future career track may end up being far different than your current vision. Having passed the FE exam can open employment doors that might otherwise be closed.

When should I take the FE exam?

A general recommendation is for you take the FE exam by the end of the semester prior to your final semester and graduation. This will allow you to complete your core engineering classes while also giving you an extra semester to retake the exam in case you don't pass. It is also much easier to take and pass the FE exam while you are still in college.

Where do I take the FE exam?

The FE exam is only available through NCEES-approved Pearson VUE test centers. Test centers are available in locations across the country including Kansas City, Topeka, and Wichita. K-State has an approved test center located at 2323 Anderson Avenue, Suite 102 (<http://www.k-state.edu/testing/>). Applicants must register for the exam via the NCEES website (www.ncees.org).

The Kansas State Board of Technical Professions does not require examinees to submit an application or an additional fee prior to registering with NCEES and scheduling an exam. Learn more about the exam, exam registration, content, practice tests and more on the NCEES website (www.ncees.org).

When can I make an appointment to take the FE exam?

The FE exam is a computer-based exam administered year-round in testing windows at NCEES-approved Pearson VUE test centers. Appointments with the K-State test center (<http://www.k-state.edu/testing/>) are available Monday through Friday, by appointment. You should check with the KSU testing center (testing@ksu.edu) on available dates and times.

There are certain restrictions on taking the exam multiple times within a 12-month period. Please see the NCEES website for more information on this topic.

What is the format of the FE exam?

The FE is entirely computer based and contains 110 multiple-choice questions. The exam appointment time is 6 hours long, which includes a nondisclosure agreement, tutorial (8 minutes), the exam (5 hours and 20 minutes), and a scheduled break (25 minutes). Learn more at the NCEES website.

Which FE exam should I take?

The FE exam is offered in seven disciplines: Chemical, Civil, Electrical and Computer, Environmental, Industrial, Mechanical, and Other Disciplines. For some disciplines, this is a clear decision. However, if your discipline is not listed, like ARE or BSE, you may want to look at the exam question categories for Other Disciplines or one of the others. The exam question categories for each exam are available on the NCEES website.

How much does it cost?

An exam fee of \$225 is payable directly to NCEES during the registration process. You may cancel your exam as long as you do so more than 48 hours in advance of your scheduled appointment. Cancellations will be eligible for a refund of the NCEES registration fee less a \$50 administrative fee.

What reference materials are allowed during the exam?

The NCEES FE Reference Handbook (<http://ncees.org/exams/study-materials/download-fe-supplied-reference-handbook/>) is the only reference material that can be used during the exam. It is provided onscreen electronically during the exam. It is also available for purchase as a hard copy and for free download electronically on the NCEES website. However, you cannot take a physical copy of the Reference Handbook into the exam.

What other resources are available to study for the exam?

Preparation well in advance of the exam is highly encouraged. In particular, you should be very familiar with the NCEES Reference Handbook and how to find things.

NCEES offers computer-based practice exams that contain questions and solutions from past exams. They also simulate the real format, style, and level of difficulty. Learn more about NCEES computer-based practice exams on the NCEES website.

The College of Engineering also has a web page with FE exam information: (<http://www.engg.ksu.edu/current-students/fe-exam/>). The site has links to FE Review Videos: <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/current-students/fe-exam/review-videos/>. While the format of the FE exam has changed, the basic content of most of the subject matter areas has not changed and the videos are still relevant.