GEOSCIENTISTS NOVA SCOTIA

Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia
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2027 National Professional Practice Examination (NPPE) Application Form

Introduction to the NPPE

Successful completion of the NPPE is required by most professional geoscience associations in Canada, including the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia (APGNS), as a prerequisite for professional registration and licensure. Successful completion of the NPPE is also required for transfer of professional registration in most jurisdictions.

The NPPE is a computer-based exam, set for APGNS candidates, and consists of 110 multiple choice questions with two- and one-half hours allotted for completion.

General Information

All applicants for registration by APGNS are required to write and pass the professional practice exam prior to registration. The exam is also available to current members on request. It is anticipated that applicants for a License to Practice (LTP) will have successfully completed the exam as offered by their home association.

The NPPE is prepared under the supervision of the National Professional Practice Exam Advisory Committee (NPPEAC). The exam is administered by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists Alberta (APEGA). The content of the exam has been developed by the NPPEAC, which includes representatives appointed by APGNS.

Candidates may apply to write the NPPE by completing the APGNS application form in this document or available on the Association website, www.geoscientistsns.ca.

Exam registration fees are non-refundable and cannot be carried over to the next exam session. The fee to request a deferral to the next exam session submitted after the Registration Deadline date is $55 +HST.

The application form **must** be accompanied by proof of payment of the required fee (payments must be made online at www.geoscientistsns.ca). Submit applications and proof of payment to:

Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia
2 Ralston Avenue, Suite 100
Dartmouth, NS
B3B 1H7 CANADA
registrar@geoscientistsns.ca *electronic submissions preferred

Exam Preparation

Eligibility & Time Limitations

All new applicants for registration as a member of the Association are required to successfully complete the NPPE within one year of their acceptance, and prior to professional registration. A registered

Member-in-Training (MIT), with at least two years of acceptable geoscience work experience may, with approval of the Registrar be eligible to apply to write the NPPE.

You may choose the which session at which to write the examination. If you do not attempt to write the exam within a one-year period (5 exam sessions) following notification of your application assessment, your application will be terminated.

Study Preparation & Resources

Information about the scope, including the exam syllabus and sample questions, are available online at www.geoscientistsns.ca and www.nppexam.ca. Engineers Nova Scotia offers a one-day workshop to help prepare candidates to write the NPPE. The workshop covers topics which are applicable to engineering and/or geoscience, including law, professional practice, business and professional ethics, and tested in the NPPE. Workshop information is available online at www.engineersnovascotia.ca.

Reference Texts (available directly from the publishers)
Canadian Professional Engineering and Geoscience: Practice & Ethics, Sixth Edition (2014 Gordon C. Andrews; Nelson Education, ISBN 13: 978-0-17-650990-3).

Practical Law of Architecture, Engineering, and Geoscience, Second Canadian Edition (2011 Samuels & Sanders; ISBN 13: 978-0-13-700408-9).

Government of Canada Resources (online):
A Guide to Copyright: https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/canadian-intellectual-property-office/en/guide-copyright

A Guide to Industrial Designs: https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/canadian-intellectual-property-office/en/industrial-designs/industrial-designs-guide

A Guide to Patents: https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/canadian-intellectual-property-office/en

A Guide to Trademarks: https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/canadian-intellectual-property-office/en/trademarks/trademarks-guide

Scope and Syllabus

The NPPE is a computer-based exam comprised of 110 multiple-choice questions. It is a “closed book” exam and two- and one-half hours in duration. The exam subject areas and the questions are common to the professions of engineering and geoscience.

Candidates are advised to answer all the exam questions. The examination is graded as a "pass" or "fail" with a detailed mastery report, including the grade, available **only** to candidates who fail. The pass mark is 65% and the grade, as issued, is final. The pass mark may be slightly adjusted for individual sessions based on valid psychometric factors which are designed to ensure that over time, and among groups of candidates, the pass-fail decisions are made on a consistent basis.

Exam Subject Areas

1. Professionalism (10%)
    - Definition and interpretation of professional status
    - The role and responsibilities of a professional in society
    - The role and responsibilities of a professional to management
    - Professional conduct, ethical standards and codes
    - Safety and loss management - the professional’s duties
    - Environmental responsibilities

2. Ethics (20%)
    - The role of ethics in society
    - Classical and modern ethical theories and principles
    - Codes of ethics of professional engineers and geoscientists in Canada
    - Ethical standards and codes and their relationship to the conduct of a professional
    - Common ethical issues and dilemmas; making ethical decisions

3. Professional Practice (27%)
    - Professional accountability, workplace issues, responsibilities, practice standards
    - Relations with other professionals and non-professionals; business practices
    - Statutory and non-statutory standards and codes of practice
    - Insurance and risk management and quality management; due diligence
    - Environmental responsibilities and sustainable development
    - Use of software, computers and internet-based tools; liability for software errors
    - Documentation authentication and control
    - Duty to inform; “whistleblowing”

4. Communication (1%)
    - Legal, ethical and practical aspects of communication
    - The Professional relationship
    - Communication skills

5. Law for professional practice (23%)
    - Canadian legal system and international considerations, basics of business organizations
    - Contract Law - elements, principles, types, discharge, breach, interpretation etc.
    - Tort Law - Elements, application of principles, interpretation, liabilities of various kinds
    - Civil code in Quebec and common law in the rest of Canada

- Business employment and labour law
- Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- Intellectual Property - patents, trademarks, software issues, copyright
- Expert Witness
- Construction liens
- International law
- Environmental law
- Workers' compensation and occupational health & safety
- Human rights & privacy legislation

6. Professional law (8%)
    - The Acts, Regulations & by-laws, Provincial and Territorial Acts
    - Codes of ethics; conflicts of interest
    - Admission to the professions
    - Illegal practice; enforcement against unlicensed practice & misuse of title
    - Professional Associations & Technical Societies

7. Regulation & Discipline processes (11%)
    - Discipline & enforcement procedures
    - Professional inspection; practice reviews of individuals
    - Response to complaints
    - Licensing corporations & practice review of firms
    - Response to unethical or incompetent practice; consequences of unethical practice
    - Canadian & international mobility
    - Continuing professional development (CPD)
    - Use of seals and stamps

Sample Questions

1. According to most Provincial and Territorial Acts, which activity by a professional member would be considered UNETHICAL?

    A. Not charging a fee for presenting a speech
    B. Signing plans prepared by an unknown person without thoroughly reviewing those plans
    C. Reviewing the work of another member with that member's consent
    D. Providing professional services as a consultant

    B. is correct. Most Provincial and Territorial Acts stipulate that before professionals sign plans that were not prepared by themselves or under their direct supervision, they must first thoroughly review those plans. Failing to do so means that the professional failed to comply with the Act and, therefore, was in violation of the Code of Ethics.

2. Which of the following is an example of a fraudulent, contractual misrepresentation?

    A. A party is coerced into signing a contract by means of intimidation
    B. A party knowingly makes false statements to induce another party into a contract
    C. A party induces his son-in-law to sign an unfair contract
    D. A party unknowingly provides false information about a portion of a contract

B. is correct. Knowingly providing false information to induce a contract is considered fraudulent and misrepresentation.

3. Contractual disputes of a technical nature may be most expeditiously and effectively solved through:

A. A lawsuit
B. Court appeals
C. Contract renegotiations
D. Arbitration

D. is correct. Arbitration provides an effective, expeditious resolution to technical disputes.

4. Which type of original work below is automatically protected by copyright upon creation?

A. Paintings
B. Inventions
C. Clothing designs
D. Signatures

A. is correct. Of the works listed above, only a painting is protected by copyright law.

5. For compensation to be awarded to a plaintiff in a tort liability case, the defendant must have:

A. Caused injury to the plaintiff
B. Been willfully negligent
C. Signed a contract of performance
D. Performed under supervision

A. is correct. Injury is one of three criteria that must be met for compensation to be awarded in a tort liability case.

6. Which of the following is the most common job activity of top-level managers?

A. Writing and reading corporate financial reports
B. Developing and testing new products
C. Designing and implementing production systems
D. Directing and interacting with people

D. is correct. Most top-level managers spend most of their time interacting with other people.

7. The professional's standard of care and skill establishes the point at which a professional:

A. May or may not charge a fee for services
B. Has the duty to apply "reasonable care"
C. May be judged negligent in the performance of services
D. Has met the minimum requirements for registration

C. is correct. The standard of care is used to judge whether a professional has been negligent in the performance of services.

Application to Write the National Professional Practice Exam

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Prov/State: _____ Postal Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Daytime Telephone: (_____) _____

Date of Birth: _____

Have you applied for membership in APGNS? ___ Yes ___ No Member # _____

I would like to write the NPPE on (date): _____

I would like to write the NPPE at (location): _____

2027 NPPE Dates & Deadlines

Exam Date	Registration Deadline
January 11-13	November 27, 2026
March 22-24	February 12
June 7-9	April 23
August 23-25	July 2
November 1-3	September 24

Exam Fees

	Fee	HST	Payable (Cdn.)
Written in Nova Scotia	$325	$48.75	$373.75
Written within Canada	$450	$67.50	$517.50
Written within USA	$510	$76.50	$586.50
Written Overseas	$570	$85.50	$655.50
Exam Deferra	$55	$8.25	$63.25

Application Submissions

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