

PLS Educational Criteria Guidelines

These Guidelines are to assist the Board's LLR support staff and applicants in determining the acceptability of a particular four-year college degree and the required semester hours of surveying coursework for a surveyor-in-training or a professional surveyor license applicant.

S.C. Code Ann. § 40-22-225 requires that an applicant have graduated "from a school or college of four or more years with a board-approved degree or an ABET commission accredited curriculum in a related field, including not less than twelve semester hours or the equivalent in quarter hours of discipline-specific courses satisfactory to the board."

All education must be evaluated by the board-approved education consultant upon application to the Board. Coursework must be from an accredited (i.e., Association of Colleges and Schools) institution.

Degrees:

A four-year ABET-accredited degree in surveying, surveying technology, surveying engineering, surveying engineering technology, geomatics, and geomatics engineering typically meets the education requirements in the statute.

A four-year ABET-accredited degree in a survey-related field such as applied earth science, engineering, geological engineering, civil engineering technology, or geosystems engineering and hydrology typically meets the education requirements in the statute **IF the 12 hours of surveying specific content is evidenced.**

A four-year non-engineering or non-surveying Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts degree from an Association of Colleges and Schools Accredited Institution can meet the education requirements in the statute **IF the degree has a mathematics and science core curriculum content AND the 12 hours of surveying specific content is evidenced.**

A foreign degree must be evaluated by the board-approved education consultant to determine if it meets the education requirements in the statute.

Surveying specific courses:

Surveying – recommend a minimum of six semester hours of surveying instruction, typically in two 3-hour courses, both with a practical hand-on component.

Computer Aided Design – recommend three semester hours, to include use of industry standard tools, such as AutoCAD to produce technical drawings.

Specialized Content – recommend a minimum of three semester hours in related coursework, to include Advanced Surveying, Highway Design, Photogrammetry, or Global Information Systems

+ Other surveying, mapping or engineering-related curricula beneficial to the practice of surveying will be considered.

++ Tier B licensure will require an additional three hours of Hydraulics, bringing the surveying specific total to fifteen semester hours.

Mathematics and Science Core Curriculum Content:

Following are examples of Mathematics and Science core content acceptable to the Board. Other mathematics and science curricula will be considered by the Board. Higher level mathematics, such as a 4-semester hour Calculus I and Analytic Geometry course, and higher-level science courses, such as University or calculus-based Physics I, meet core requirements.

- Mathematics: 3 semester hours each of College Algebra and College Trigonometry, or a 4-semester hour course of College Algebra and Trigonometry, often called Pre-Calculus.
- Science: 4 semester hours of College Physics I (typically 3 lecture/1 lab), or 4 semester hours of Geology/Earth Science (typically 3 lecture/1 lab), or 4 semester hours of GIS and Mapping Sciences.