

Chapter A-E 6

LAND SURVEYOR REGISTRATION

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**A-E 6.01 Authority and purpose.** The rules in this chapter are adopted under authority in ss. 15.08 (5) (b), 227.11, 443.01 (4) and 443.06, Stats. The purpose of rules in this chapter is to interpret basic education, experience and examination requirements for registration as a land surveyor as specified in s. 443.06, Stats.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1987, No. 374, eff. 3-1-87.

**A-E 6.02 Application.** An application for registration as a land surveyor is available upon request to the board office located at 1400 East Washington Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53702. Any applicant who files an application but who does not comply with a request for information related to the application within one year from the date of the request shall file a new application.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1987, No. 374, eff. 3-1-87.

**A-E 6.03 Land surveying experience.** (1) To qualify as "practice in land surveying work of a satisfactory character which indicates that the applicant is competent to be placed in responsible charge of such work" under s. 443.06, stats., the experience of an applicant shall be in areas of land surveying practice designated under pars. (a) and (b), or other areas which, in the opinion of the board, provide the applicant with knowledge of practice of land surveying at least equivalent to that which is generally acquired by experience in the areas listed. An applicant need not have experience in all areas listed below. However, all applicants shall have experience in the areas listed in par. (a) 1 and 2. Academic coursework which provides the applicant with knowledge and skills in some areas of practice listed in pars. (a) and (b) may be claimed as equivalent to experience.

(a) At least two-thirds of an applicant's experience shall be acquired in:

1. Locating land boundaries and land boundary corners including the following services:

- a. Researching public and private records;
- b. Relocating lost and obliterated corners;
- c. Establishing, reestablishing or perpetuating survey monuments;
- d. Subdividing sections;
- e. Establishing or retracing property lines to determine length and bearing;
- f. Reestablishing obliterated property lines;

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g. Preparing descriptions of real property from data acquired by field measurements;

h. Conducting resurveys; and,

i. Writing and interpreting land descriptions.

2. Preparing maps including:

a. Maps of sections or portions of sections or townships as established by the original public land survey and subdivisions of those sections in accordance with the manuals of surveying instructions by the federal government and the state of Wisconsin;

b. Subdivision plats prepared in accordance with the Wisconsin Statutes or local ordinances;

c. Certified survey maps prepared in accordance with the Wisconsin Statutes or local ordinances;

d. Maps showing other divisions of land not controlled by statute or ordinance.

e. Official plats or maps of land in this state.

(b) Not more than one-third of an applicant's experience may be acquired in:

1. Preparing highway and railroad rights-of-way maps;

2. Construction staking for highways, roads, streets or similar projects within the boundaries of established rights of way;

3. Performing topographic surveys;

4. Developing control networks for aerial photography unless property lines are used for control; and,

5. Performing new building layout or construction surveys.

(2) Not more than one year of satisfactory experience credit may be granted for any calendar year.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1987, No. 374, eff. 3-1-87.

**A-E 6.04 Educational requirements for land surveyors.** To meet the educational requirements of s. 443.06 (2) (a), Stats., requiring "a course in land surveying of not less than 2 years duration approved by the section" an applicant for registration as a land surveyor shall have satisfactorily completed at least 60 semester credits in a civil engineering or land surveying curriculum including no less than 12 semester credits in land surveying which shall be in the following categories of study:

(1) No less than 8 of the 12 credits may be in courses concentrating on the legal principles of land surveying and the technical aspects of land surveying. These courses shall include areas of study such as research of public and private records, principles of evidence and the interpretation of written documents used in boundary determination, the study of the legal elements of land surveying including those involving resurveys, boundary disputes, defective descriptions, riparian rights and adverse possession, the study of the professional and judicial functions of a land surveyor, the study of surveying methods for measuring distance and

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angular values, note keeping, computation and writing descriptions and the study of the Wisconsin Statutes and local ordinances relating to the preparation of subdivision maps and plats.

(2) No more than 4 credits may be in courses related to land surveying such as "Engineering Surveying", "Municipal Surveying", "Route Surveying", "Highway Surveying", "Topographic Surveying", "Geodetic Surveying", "Photogrammetry", "Cartography", "Construction Surveying", "Air Photo Interpretation" and "Artillery Surveying".

History: Cr. Register, February, 1987, No. 374, eff. 3-1-87.

**A-E 6.05 Examination.** (1) **LAND SURVEYOR EXAMINATION REQUIRED.** Applicants for registration as a land surveyor other than applicants under s. 443.06 (2) (c), Stats., shall take and pass an examination. The examination parts are the 8 hour fundamentals of surveying examination and the 8-hour principles and practice examination. The principles and practice examination is divided into 2 sections, a "national" and a "state" section which last up to 4 hours each and are scored separately.

(2) **SCOPE OF WRITTEN EXAMINATION.** (a) The fundamentals of land surveying examination requires an understanding of mathematics, physics, surveying methods for measuring horizontal, vertical and angular values, topographic and photogrammetric mapping, notekeeping, property surveys, computations, descriptions and plats.

(b) The principles and practice examination requires an ability to apply principles and judgment to problems involving the U.S. system of public land surveys, Wisconsin plane coordinate surveys, the relocation of lost and obliterated corners, the legal essentials of resurveys, disputed boundaries, defective deed descriptions, riparian rights, adverse possession, the Wisconsin statutes relating to land surveying including the preparation and filing of plats, the writing and interpreting of land descriptions, the technical essentials of land surveying and subdivision of lands including practical problems requiring a knowledge of the basic theory and fundamental concepts of field astronomy, geometry of curves, topography and photogrammetry.

(3) **REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRANCE TO EXAMINATIONS.** (a) To be eligible to take the "fundamentals of land surveying" examination, an applicant shall have complied with s. A-E 6.04, or have at least 4 years of practice in land surveying, or a combination of work and training in a course in land surveying and practice in land surveying which totals at least 4 years.

(b) To be eligible to take the "principles and practice of land surveying" examination, an applicant shall have complied with s. A-E 6.04 and have at least 2 years of approved practice in land surveying, or have at least 5 years of approved practice in land surveying, or a combination of at least 5 years of approved work and training in a course in land surveying and practice in land surveying.

(4) **APPLICATION FOR EXAMINATION.** An application for examination must be filed with the board no later than 2 months before the scheduled date for the examination.

(5) **TIME, DATE AND SITE OF EXAMINATIONS.** The examinations shall be held at the time, date and site designated by the board.

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(6) **EXAMINATION AND REFUND FEES.** The fee for land surveyor examinations and requirements for refund of fees are specified in s. 440.05 and ch. RL 4.

(7) **EXAMINATION GRADING.** (a) Experience rating may not be weighed as part of the examination grade.

(b) A scaled score of 70 is passing.

(8) **REEXAMINATION PROCEDURE.** An applicant for a land surveyor examination who fails an examination or any part of an examination may retake any part of the examination failed at a regularly-scheduled administration of the examination. If an applicant fails to pass on reexamination of the parts failed, or the current examination parts equivalent to the parts failed, within 4 years from the date of receipt of the results of the first failure of the examination or any part of the examination, the applicant is required to take and pass the entire examination. If the applicant retakes the entire examination, the applicant shall pay the original examination fee under ch. RL 4. The board shall determine which parts of a current examination are equivalent to the examination parts failed by an applicant.

(9) **EXAMINATION REVIEW.** (a) *One-year limitation.* Any applicant for a land surveyor examination may only review questions on any part of an examination failed by the applicant within one year from the date of the examination, as specified in s. 443.09 (6), Stats.

(b) **REVIEW PROCEDURE.** An applicant shall contact the board office, located at 1400 East Washington Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53702, to schedule an appointment to review the appropriate examination parts. The applicant may take notes on the examination questions reviewed. No notes may be retained by the applicant following the review. All notes taken during the review shall be placed in the applicant's file. The review may not take place within 30 days prior to a scheduled examination.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1987, No. 374, eff. 3-1-87.

**A-E 6.06 Application contents.** An application for registration shall include:

(a) Transcripts verifying the applicant's education;

(b) References from at least 5 individuals, 3 of whom have personal knowledge of the applicant's experience in land surveying;

(c) A chronological history of the applicant's employment; and,

(d) Any additional data, exhibits or references indicating the extent and quality of the applicant's experience which the land surveyor section may require.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1987, No. 374, eff. 3-1-87.