



Continuing Education Requirements for the Professional Engineer

A summary of state and territory rules

The data in this document is current as of April 2020.



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Introduction

Continuing professional development is a vital component of the engineering licensure process. As set forth in [NSPE Position Statement 10-122 -- Continuing Professional Competency](#), continuing professional development should be a condition precedent for licensure and for periodic renewal of the license to practice engineering.

- Forty-two states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico require continuing professional development as a condition for licensure and renewal of the license to practice engineering.
 - New York requires 36 hours of continuing education per licensing period.
 - Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming require at least 30 hours of continuing education per licensing period.
 - Alaska, Delaware, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee require 24 hours of continuing education per licensing period.
 - Washington, DC requires 20 hours of continuing education per licensing period
 - Florida requires 18 hours of continuing education per licensing period.
 - Maryland and Virginia requires 16 hours of continuing education per licensing period.
 - Mississippi, North Carolina, and Texas require 15 hours of continuing education per licensing period.

Introduction

- Delaware, Washington, D.C., Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Texas, Vermont, and Wisconsin require professional engineers to take a class on ethics per licensing period.

NSPE is providing this resource so that NSPE members, state societies, professional engineers, and the public can better understand the continuing education requirements for the professional engineer. This assessment is intended to provide useful information that NSPE and its state societies can share with legislators and policymakers in their work to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

For the most complete and precise information, please refer to the specific state/territorial statutes or regulations found at www.nspe.org/resources/licensure/licensing-boards.

State	Hours Required	Pre-Approval	Renewal	Self-Study	Accepts non-technical content for PDHs?	Additional Notes
Alabama	30	No	12/31 of odd years	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	Technical, ethical, or managerial content relevant to the practice of engineering is accepted.
Alaska	24	n/a	12/31 of odd years	All 24 hours can be taken online.	Yes	Courses must be relevant to the engineer's field of practice and may include content of a technical, ethical, or managerial nature. Subject matter must address the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
Arizona	0	No	Triennial; based on original date of licensure	None	n/a	Arizona does not currently have a continuing education requirement for professional engineers.
Arkansas	30	No	12/31; biennial	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	Technical, ethical, or managerial content relevant to the practice of engineering is accepted.
California	0	No	Biennial, based on assigned renewal date	None	n/a	California does not currently have a continuing education requirement for professional engineers.
Colorado	0	No	10/31 of odd years	None	n/a	Colorado does not currently have a continuing education requirement for professional engineers.
Connecticut	0	No	1/31; annual	None	n/a	Connecticut does not currently have a continuing professional education requirement for professional engineers.

State	Hours Required	Pre-Approval	Renewal	Self-Study	Accepts non-technical content for PDHs?	Additional Notes
Delaware	24	No	6/30 of even years	All 24 hours can be taken online.	Yes	Of the 24 PDHs earned during the biennial renewal period, no less than three PDHs and no more than 6 PDHs shall be related to professional ethics, and no more than nine PDHs shall be related to business or project management. The remaining balance shall be related to the licensee's area of technical practice.
District of Columbia	20	No	8/31 of even years	All 20 hours can be taken online.	No	In each renewal cycle, one hour must pertain to engineering ethics.
Florida	18	Florida pre-approves providers/ sponsors of continuing education activities, but not specific courses/ activities.	2/28 of odd years	None	Yes	Of the 18 hours, one hour must be related to the Florida laws and rules of professional engineers, one hour must be related to Florida professional ethics, and four hours must relate to area of practice. The remaining 12 hours may be related to any topic pertinent to the practice of engineering.
Georgia	30	No	12/31 of even years	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	Technical, professional, ethical, and managerial content is accepted, although there are no specific restrictions on other types of content. In general, the course must have a "clear purpose and objective which will maintain, improve, or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to the licensee's field of practice."

State	Hours Required	Pre-Approval	Renewal	Self-Study	Accepts non-technical content for PDHs?	Additional Notes
Guam	0	No	Annual	None	n/a	Guam does not currently have a continuing education requirement for licensed professional engineers.
Hawaii	0	No	4/30 of even years	None	n/a	Hawaii does not currently have a continuing education requirement for licensed professional engineers.
Idaho	30	No	Licensees born on even years renew by last day of birth month on even years. Licensees born on odd years renew by last day of birth month on odd years	A maximum of 29 hours can be taken online.	n/a	None
Illinois	30	No	11/30 of odd years	All 30 hours can be taken online.	n/a	None
Indiana	30	Yes	7/31 of even years	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	At least one hour must be taken on the topic of ethics. At least one hour must be taken on the topic of laws and rules.

State	Hours Required	Pre-Approval	Renewal	Self-Study	Accepts non-technical content for PDHs?	Additional Notes
Iowa	30	No	12/31; biennial	A maximum of 10 hours can be taken online.	No	None
Kansas	30	No	Biennial; two dates depending on the beginning letter of one's last name	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	At least 30 hours must be taken on the topic of health, safety, and welfare.
Kentucky	30	No	Biennial; two dates depending on the beginning letter of one's last name	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	None
Louisiana	30	No	3/31 or 9/30; biennial, based on the year of initial licensure	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	At least one PDH per calendar shall be in professional ethics; a minimum of four PDHs per year shall be learned in Life Safety Code, building codes, and/or Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines by every professional engineer who designs buildings and/or building systems.
Maine	30	No	12/31 of odd years	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	Technical, ethical, or managerial content relevant to the practice of engineering is accepted.

State	Hours Required	Pre-Approval	Renewal	Self-Study	Accepts non-technical content for PDHs?	Additional Notes
Maryland	16	No	Biennial; based on date of initial licensure	All 16 hours can be taken online.	No	A minimum of one PDH unit in each biennial term must be earned in a program with content areas related to the following: 1. Awareness of ethical concerns and conflicts related to the practice of engineering, 2. An enhanced familiarity with the Code of Conduct for professional engineers, 3. An understanding of standards of practice or care related to the practice of engineering, 4. Laws and regulations applicable to the practice of engineering in Maryland.
Massachusetts	0	No	6/30 of even years	None	n/a	Massachusetts does not currently have a continuing education requirement for licensed professional engineers.
Michigan	30	No	10/31; biennial	All 30 hours can be taken online.	No	None
Minnesota	24	No	6/30 of even years	All 24 hours can be taken online.	Yes	Two PDHs must be dedicated to professional ethics per biennial renewal except for the carryover permitted. The ethics hours must have been earned during the biennium to which they are applied and shall not be used toward carryover.
Mississippi	15	No	12/31; annual	All 15 hours can be taken online	Yes	Every licensee shall be required to obtain one PDH of ethics training every two years. Any excess ethics PDHs may not be carried forward.

State	Hours Required	Pre-Approval	Renewal	Self-Study	Accepts non-technical content for PDHs?	Additional Notes
Missouri	30	No	12/31; biennial based on original licensure year	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	None
Montana	30	No	6/30 of even years	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	None
Nebraska	30	No	Biennial; two dates depending on the beginning letter of one's last name	A maximum of eight hours can be taken online.	No	At least one PDH hour of the biennial continuing education requirements must be directly related to ethical issues of professional practice.
Nevada	30	No	Biennial; four dates depending on the beginning letter of one's last name	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	None
New Hampshire	30	No	Biennial; last day of birth month	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	Continuing education activities shall by relevant to the practice of engineering or no credit shall be awarded. Such continuing education activities may include technical, ethical, or managerial content.

State	Hours Required	Pre-Approval	Renewal	Self-Study	Accepts non-technical content for PDHs?	Additional Notes
New Jersey	24	No	4/30 of even years	All 24 hours can be taken online.	Yes	At least two, but no more than eight, CPC credits shall be in professional ethics.
New Mexico	30	No	12/31; Even licensure numbers renew in even years, odd licensure numbers renew in odd years	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	At least two, and up to four, PDHs must be in ethics.
New York	36	Yes	Triennial; based on birth date	A maximum of 18 hours can be taken online.	No	At least 18 hours shall be in courses of learning, no more than 18 hours shall be in other educational activities as prescribed in paragraph (3) of the subdivision, and at least one hour of such continuing education shall be in professional ethics.
North Carolina	15	Yes	12/31; annual	All 15 hours can be taken online.	Yes	Any course or activity with a purpose and objective which will maintain, improve, or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to the licensee's field of practice.

State	Hours Required	Pre-Approval	Renewal	Self-Study	Accepts non-technical content for PDHs?	Additional Notes
North Dakota	30	No	12/31 of even years	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	At least 20 PDHs must be in technical subjects that directly safeguard the public's health, safety, and welfare, including technical professional management subjects such as total quality process or technical engineering software training. A maximum of 10 PDHs may be in nontechnical professional management subjects, such as ethics-oriented or administration-oriented computer classes.
Ohio	30	No	12/31 of odd years	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	Two hours of the 30 biennial continuing professional development requirement must be in professional ethics or rules relevant to the practices of engineering or surveying.
Oklahoma	30	No	Biennial; renew by date of licensure	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	All such PDH unites earned in activities must be related to the practice of engineering and/or land surveying as applicable and may include technical, ethical, or managerial content.
Oregon	30	No	Biennial; four dates depending on the beginning letter of one's last name	All 30 hours can be taken online.	No	None

State	Hours Required	Pre-Approval	Renewal	Self-Study	Accepts non-technical content for PDHs?	Additional Notes
Pennsylvania	24	No	9/30 of odd years	All 24 hours can be taken online.	Yes	Continuing professional competency obtained by a licensee should maintain, improve, or expand skills and knowledge obtained prior to initial licensure, including laws and ethics applicable to the profession or develop new and relevant skills and knowledge. No credit shall be given for a course in practice building or office management.
Puerto Rico	50	No	Every five years for residents	All 50 hours can be taken online.	n/a	Effective on February 27, 2018 and until February 26, 2023, it is necessary to present evidence of having taken at least 50 HC as a requirement for the renewal of the EIT certificate or the PE license. A professional who submits his/her renewal will have to satisfy not only 50 HC but also 15% of additional HC, which represents a total of 50 HC.
Rhode Island	0	No	6/30 of odd years	None	n/a	Rhode Island does not currently have a continuing education requirement for licensed professional engineers.
South Carolina	30	No	6/30 of even years	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	None

State	Hours Required	Pre-Approval	Renewal	Self-Study	Accepts non-technical content for PDHs?	Additional Notes
South Dakota	30	No	Biennial; renew by original licensure date	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	A minimum of 20 PDHs must be in technical subjects that lead to further professional development in the licensee's field of practice. A maximum of 10 PDH's may be in professional management subjects such as total quality, management, professional business practice, or ethics.
Tennessee	24	No	Biennial; renew by original licensure date	All 24 hours can be taken online.	Yes	Thirteen of the 24 PDHs must address health, safety, and welfare issues and technical competency.
Texas	15	No	Annual; four renewal dates depending on date of original	All 15 hours can be taken online.	Yes	At least one hour must be on the topic of ethics.
US Virgin Islands	0	No	Annual; based on date of original licensure	No	n/a	US Virgin Islands does not currently have a continuing education requirement for licensed professional engineers.
Utah	30	No	3/31 of odd years	All 30 hours can be taken online.	n/a	None

State	Hours Required	Pre-Approval	Renewal	Self-Study	Accepts non-technical content for PDHs?	Additional Notes
Vermont	30	None	7/31 of even years	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	Requires that licensees take courses in the following areas: technical topics directly related to the practice of engineering, awareness of professional practice ethical concerns and conflicts, an understanding of standards of practice or care, or engineering management.
Virginia	16	No	Biennial; based on date of original licensure	All 16 hours can be taken online.	Yes	Continuing education activities must be related to the practice of the profession of the license being renewed, have a clear purpose and objective that will maintain, improve, or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to the licensee's area of practice.
Washington	0	No	Biennial; based on date of birth	No	n/a	Washington does not currently have a continuing education requirement for licensed professional engineers.
West Virginia	30	No	12/31 of even years	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	None

State	Hours Required	Pre-Approval	Renewal	Self-Study	Accepts non-technical content for PDHs?	Additional Notes
Wisconsin	30	No	7/31 of even years	A maximum of 17 hours can be taken online.	Yes	During each biennial registration period, the registrant shall complete a minimum of two PDHs in the area of professional conduct and ethics, and a minimum of 13 PDHs shall be obtained via courses where the registrant interacts in real time in a traditional classroom setting, computer conferencing, or interactive video conference where participants are present in the same room or logged in at the same time and can communicate directly with each other and ask questions of the instructor.
Wyoming	30	No	Biennial; based on year of original license	All 30 hours can be taken online.	Yes	All activities must be relevant to the practice of engineering and may include technical, ethical, or managerial content.