 

**Application for**

**BOARD-CERTIFIED GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER (BC.GE)**

**Board Certification**

REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:

* Current P.E. License or International Equivalent.\*
* Education

- ABET-accredited bachelor’s degree.\*\*\*

- Minimum of 30-post graduate credit hours or higher in geotechnical\*\*

 engineering or other relevant fields.

- Alternatively, this requirement may be satisfied by additional applicable work experience.

* Minimum of 10 years of professional experience (including 8 years in geotechnical engineering) or 15 years of professional experience (13 in geotechnical engineering) without post-graduate education.
* Attainment of the [Geotechnical Engineering Body of Knowledge](https://www.asce.org/career-growth/civil-engineering-certification/geotechnical-engineering) *(scroll down to BOK for Geotechnical Engineering on page)*
* Adherence to the [ASCE Code of Ethics](https://www.asce.org/career-growth/ethics/code-of-ethics)

For detailed eligibility information, visit [Civil Engineering Certification](https://www.asce.org/career-growth/civil-engineering-certification) and navigate to the Eligibility section at the bottom of the page.

Questions? Contact us at cec@asce.org

# \*\*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR BOARD-CERTIFIED GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER (BC.GE) CERTIFICATION\*\*\*

The Academy of Geo-Professionals (AGP) thanks you for applying for the Board-Certified Geotechnical Engineer (BC.GE) certification. We are pleased that you understand, and share with those who have pursued this certification, the importance and value our profession places on the BC.GE certification. The enclosed application is designed to help the Application Committee determine if you qualify for the BC.GE certification. Please note the minimum requirements listed on the cover page and in detail on the CEC website. Applications from individuals not meeting these minimum requirements will be returned without review. **As an advisory, those practicing in California and Oregon must also have the additional Geotechnical Engineering license before they can represent themselves as a Geotechnical Engineer.**

The details provided in your application will help the Application Committee determine if an oral exam is required to grant certification. Particular attention should be paid to your responses to the requirements regarding progressive responsible charge after earning your P.E., as well as information about the type of geotechnical engineering work that you have completed. Please be advised that exams will not be waived for individuals with less than 15 years of total experience.

If required, an oral exam will be conducted by a three-person panel comprised of current BC.GEs. All exams are confidential and will consist of three parts: a summary of your experience and current responsibilities; a 20 to 30-minute presentation of one or two projects on which you were lead engineer and which demonstrates advanced understanding of at least one area of geotechnical engineering; and a question-and-answer period with the panelists. The panel exam interview should take approximately 90 minutes, depending on specifics of your presentation, and length of the question-and-answer period.

\*Applicant must possess a valid license to practice professional engineering recognized by a State, District or Territory of the U.S. Foreign licenses will be also considered, but applicant must provide documentation demonstrating equivalency.

\*\*Post-graduate hours or master’s degree must either be in geotechnical engineering, or in civil engineering with a focus in geotechnical engineering.

\*\*\*Copies of diplomas or transcripts must be provided to confirm degrees. If degrees are not from an ABET-accredited, US university, transcripts for degrees may be required.

## Personal Information:

Name: Organization: Position: Address: Phone:

E-mail Address:

Supervisor:

## How did you hear about the geotechnical engineering board certification?

## Education: \*(Please list name of school, city, state/province, country, degree received, college/school/program of degree, and month/year of degree)

Bachelors\*: Masters\*: Doctoral\*:

List Post Graduate Coursework on a separate page (or send transcripts).

* 1. **Licensure Information OR Foreign Equivalent Registration or Licensure –** Attach additional pages as necessary:

State(s):

License numbers:

If non-U.S. license, Country(s):

 **Have there ever been or are there currently any actions against your P.E. license?** (If yes, please describe and attach additional pages as necessary)

 Yes

 No

**Professional Experience** – Please provide in summary your complete work history, including a clear demonstration of at least eight years of progressive responsible charge after earning your P.E. license. Your work history should describe your years and types of employment since completing your bachelor’s degree and post-undergraduate degrees. Also, provide at least five project descriptions that summarize the type of project, the nature of geotechnical engineering work that was accomplished, **your role in the project, and the advanced expertise you**

**provided**. The descriptions should show that you have participated in the **planning, design, analysis, operation, management, regulation, research, or teaching of geotechnical engineering**. Although teaching and research can count as part of the required experience, research, and teaching by themselves do not qualify solely for the “professional practice of geotechnical engineering” as described herein, and the applicant must document their professional practice of applied geotechnical engineering.

**The applicant shall be actively engaged in the professional practice of geotechnical engineering**. “Professional practice of geotechnical engineering” is defined as applied professional geotechnical engineering services, such as consultation, investigation, testing, evaluation, planning, design, or review of civil works. Professional practice activities involve work that in most jurisdictions results in signed and sealed reports and/or contract documents documenting engineering.

In the case of teaching, the work experience must be at a college or university of an engineering program accredited by ABET, Inc., or deemed acceptable to AGP.

Please provide project examples from within the past 10 years and each project description should be no more than one to two paragraphs, with a suggested 250 max word count for each project. Note: **Your resume or C.V. should include your complete employment history**.

Teaching and University research experience **are not considered engagement in the professional practice of geotechnical engineering**.

A candidate engaged in university teaching/research, must demonstrate a clear involvement and responsible charge of activities associated with the “professional practice of geotechnical engineering.” Such a candidate may demonstrate completion of commercial engineering activities such as:

1. Development of programs for geotechnical investigations.

2. Performance of geotechnical field and laboratory programs.

3. Analysis of geotechnical data and performing engineering computations.

4. Performance of engineering evaluation of/consultation for construction, post-construction, and site monitoring.

5. Preparation of reports that present geotechnical evaluation, findings, conclusions, recommendations, and guidelines/specifications for achieving the intent of the recommendations.

**References** – Please provide three professional references (must be licensed engineers)

* No more than one reference from any one organizational entity.
* Reference must not be from a direct report to the applicant.
* All references must have direct knowledge of the applicant’s work as a practicing professional geotechnical engineer.

**Honors/Awards** – Attach additional pages as necessary: 1.

2.

3.

**Publications** – Attach additional pages as necessary: 1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

 **Mastery of Body of Knowledge Criteria**

You must have developed mastery in at least **one of the following four elements of the**

**Body of Knowledge** related to geotechnical engineering and show progressive responsible charge. Please address the element(s) to the best of your knowledge.

1 - **Specialized area related to geotechnical engineering**. Professional Engineer, through a combination of education, experience, and corresponding accomplishments, has demonstrated a high level of skill in a specialized area of geotechnical engineering. You must demonstrate you’ve achieved expertise in at least one (no more than three) of the technical specialty areas within the geotechnical engineering listed below.

Please summarize your specific geotechnical engineering work that you have been performing for your projects within the last ten years. We want to know the type of geotechnical engineering

that was done on the project – from field investigations through engineering calculations. This information will help us assess the level of geotechnical work that you have been doing relative

to what is required in the Geotechnical Engineering Body of Knowledge.

**PLEASE SELECT NO MORE THAN 3 AREAS OF EXPERTISE:**

o Site Characterization

o Laboratory/Field Testing and Analysis

o Foundations

o Slope Stability

o Excavations and Retaining Structures

o Structures Tunnels and Underground Construction

o Embankments, Dams, and Levees

o Geosynthetics

o Ground Improvement

o Soil and Rock Dynamics

o Geoenvironmental Engineering

o Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering

o Engineering Pavements

o Other (self-designated)

2 - **Project management, construction, and asset management**. Professional Engineer, through education, experience, and corresponding accomplishments, has demonstrated a high level of skill in the management of complex geotechnical engineering projects.

3 - **Business, public policy and public administration**. Professional Engineer, through education, experience, and corresponding accomplishments, has demonstrated a high level of skill in the evaluation of business plans, public policy recommendations, and a system of public administration in support of geotechnical engineering projects.

4 - **Leadership principles and attitudes**. Professional Engineer, through education, experience, and accomplishments, has demonstrated a high level of skill in providing leadership with respect to complex geotechnical engineering projects. AGP encourages participation and/or leadership in professional societies, board of registration, and national review panels, etc.

## PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

[**American Society of Civil Engineers Code of Ethics**](https://www.asce.org/career-growth/ethics/code-of-ethics)

**PREAMBLE**

BC.GEs of The Academy of Geo-Professionals shall conduct themselves with integrity and professionalism, and above all else protect and advance the health, safety, and welfare of the public through the practice of civil engineering.

Engineers govern their professional careers on the following fundamental principles:

• create safe, resilient, and sustainable infrastructure.

• treat all persons with respect, dignity, and fairness in a manner that fosters equitable participation without regard to personal identity.

• consider the current and anticipated needs of society; and

• utilize their knowledge and skills to enhance the quality of life for humanity.

BC.GEs of the Academy of Geo-Professionals shall commit to the following ethical responsibilities. In the case of a conflict between ethical responsibilities, the five stakeholders are listed in the order of priority. There is no priority of responsibilities within a given stakeholder group with the exception that 1a. takes precedence over all other responsibilities. 1

**CODE OF ETHICS**

1. SOCIETY

BC.GEs:

a. first and foremost, shall protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public;

b. enhance the quality of life for humanity;

c. express professional opinions truthfully and only when founded on adequate knowledge and honest conviction;

d. have zero tolerance for bribery, fraud, and corruption in all forms, and report violations to the proper authorities;

e. endeavor to be of service in civic affairs;

f. treat all persons with respect, dignity, and fairness, and reject all forms of discrimination and harassment;

g. acknowledge the diverse historical, social, and cultural needs of the community, and incorporate these considerations in their work;

h. consider the capabilities, limitations, and implications of current and emerging technologies when part of their work; and

i. report misconduct to the appropriate authorities where necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

1. NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BC.GEs:

a. adhere to the principles of sustainable development;

b. consider and balance societal, environmental, and economic impacts, along with opportunities for improvement, in their work;

c. mitigate adverse societal, environmental, and economic effects; and

d. use resources wisely while minimizing resource depletion.

1. PROFESSION

BC.GEs:

a. shall uphold the honor, integrity, and dignity of the profession;

b. practice engineering in compliance with all legal requirements in the jurisdiction of practice;

c. represent their professional qualifications and experience truthfully;

d. reject practices of unfair competition;

e. promote mentorship and knowledge-sharing equitably with current and future engineers;

f. educate the public on the role of civil engineering in society; and

g. continue professional development to enhance their technical and non-technical competencies.

1. CLIENTS AND EMPLOYERS

BC.GEs:

a. shall act as faithful agents of their clients and employers with integrity and professionalism;

b. make clear to clients and employers any real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest;

c. communicate in a timely manner to clients and employers any risks and limitations related to their work;

d. present clearly and promptly the consequences to clients and employers if their engineering judgment is overruled where health, safety, and welfare of the public may be endangered;

e. keep clients’ and employers’ proprietary information confidential;

f. perform services only in areas of their competence; and

g. approve, sign, or seal only work products that have been prepared or reviewed by them or under their responsible charge.

1. PEERS

BC.GEs:

a. shall only take credit for professional work they have personally completed;

b. provide attribution for the work of others;

c. foster health and safety in the workplace;

d. promote and exhibit inclusive, equitable, and ethical behavior in all engagements with colleagues;

e. act with honesty and fairness on collaborative work efforts;

f. encourage and enable the education and development of other engineers and prospective members of the profession;

g. supervise equitably and respectfully;

h. comment only in a professional manner on the work, professional reputation, and personal character of other engineers; and

i. report violations of the Code of Ethics to the Academy of Geo-Professionals.

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1This Code does not establish a standard of care, nor should it be interpreted as such.

**I attest that I have read, understand, and accept the ASCE Code of Ethics and agree to adhere to it. I further understand and agree that violation of the ASCE Code of Ethics is grounds for expulsion from the Academy of Geo-Professionals and revocation of the Board-Certified Geotechnical Engineer (BC.GE) credential.**

Signature Date

**APPLICANT AGREEMENT FORM**

1. I agree to conduct myself in accordance with AGP policies and requirements, including the ASCE Code of Ethics and the Continuing Certification Requirements.
2. I agree not to discuss, debrief, or disclose, in any manner, the specific content of the certification oral assessment questions and answers to any individual.
3. I agree that any failure to provide true, timely and complete responses to questions in this application or renewal form may result in rejection or loss of certification.
4. I certify that I currently hold a professional engineers license in the United States jurisdiction indicated on my application or have provided AGP with sufficient documentation to demonstrate my license equivalency from a foreign jurisdiction.
5. I will report to the AGP within 60 days, any action by the licensing board against my professional license by any jurisdiction in which I have a professional engineer license.
6. I agree to notify the AGP in a timely manner of changes concerning the information I have provided, including my current professional engineer license, mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address.
7. I agree that the AGP has the right to confirm the information in this application or any supporting documents.
8. I agree that information related to my participation in the AGP certification process can only be used in an anonymous manner by AGP and its affiliates.
9. I understand and agree that any decision concerning my qualifications for certification rest within the sole and exclusive discretion of the AGP.
10. I agree that certification as Board-Certified Geotechnical Engineer does not imply licensure, registration or government authorization to practice professional engineering.
11. I agree to release AGP from all liability and claims that may arise out of, or be related to, my professional engineering work and related activities.

## I hereby attest to my agreement with the foregoing statements. I further understand and agree that violation of the ASCE Code of Ethics or non-compliance with any of the foregoing may be grounds for revocation of certification of Board-Certified Geotechnical Engineer by the Academy of Geo-Professionals.

 Signature Date

**ORAL ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

AGP encourages all qualified applicants to take the Board-Certified Geotechnical Engineer (BC.GE) oral assessment and works to address all reasonable disability related accommodations disclosed with this application. **Please note, AGP conducts oral assessments virtually through Microsoft Teams online meeting platform**.

Please check one of the two options:

1. I DO NOT have a disability (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or other applicable state or local law/regulation) that requires reasonable accommodation during the oral assessment.

2. I HAVE a disability (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act or other applicable state or local law/regulation) that requires reasonable accommodation during the oral assessment.

If you checked item 2 and indicated that you have (YES) a disability that requires reasonable accommodation during the oral assessment, please provide:

(1) documentation on your disability (please attach letter or other disability documentation from qualified expert such as treating physician)

(2) a brief explanation of how this disability impacts your ability to take the oral assessment,

and

(3) your requested reasonable accommodation.

The Academy retains the right to verify the claimed disability and provide reasonable accommodation of its choosing to enable equal access to the BC.GE oral assessment.

By signing this page, the applicant agrees and attests that no reasonable accommodations are required beyond those outlined above.

Signature Date

## PAYMENT INFORMATION($350 ASCE or G-I Member / $450 Non-members)

**Please note, the application fee is part of a multi-step application process and is non-refundable. Please confirm you meet the eligibility requirements before paying your application fee.**

Application steps for board certification:

1. Submit the **completed application** and your **resume or C.V.**

2. Pay the [**application fee**](https://sp360.asce.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Merchandise/Product-Details/productId/186186338).

3. Send the [**reference form**](https://www.asce.org/-/media/asce-images-and-files/career-and-growth/cec/documents/agp-reference-form-sept-2023.docx) to a minimum of three references (must be licensed professional engineers).\*

*\*If only 3 references are submitted, each reference must be from separate organizations.*

Once all application documents are received, the application will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee. A status of application will be provided to you after full review by the Admissions Committee.

**Ready to Submit your Application Fee?**

\_\_ Pay for application [**fee online now**](https://sp360.asce.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Merchandise/Product-Details/productId/186186338)

**IMPORTANT**: Please submit your completed application form, resume, and confirmation of payment to AGP by email: cec@asce.org to move forward with your submission.