

FE, FS EXAMS BEGIN TRANSITION TO COMPUTER-BASED TESTING

At the August 2010 NCEES annual meeting, the state licensing boards that make up NCEES voted to begin converting the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) and Fundamentals of Surveying (FS) exams to a computer-based format. The decision followed a prolonged study by a task force convened to research the issue. This transition will allow greater scheduling flexibility for examinees, more uniformity in testing conditions, and enhanced security for exam content.

The exams will be delivered through Pearson VUE's owned-and-operated network of Pearson Professional Centers and other select locations as determined by NCEES. Pearson VUE is a global leader in computer-based testing, with the world's most comprehensive and secure network of testing centers across 165 countries. It provides testing services for academic, government, and professional testing programs, including licensure exams for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, as well as the GMAT. Pearson VUE is part of Pearson plc, the largest commercial testing company and education publisher in the world.

The NCEES Computer-Based Testing Task Force is developing a comprehensive plan and timetable for the conversion. Currently, the plan is for the FE and FS exams to be offered in a paper-and-pencil format for the last time in October 2013. The computer-based exams will then begin being offered in early 2014. The PE and PS exams, which engineering and surveying candidates are required to take after completing work experience requirements, will continue to be paper-and-pencil exams for the foreseeable future.

Timeline for implementation of computer-based administration of FE and FS exams

June to August 2011

- The FE and FS content reviews will begin; this is the process by which NCEES develops the exam specifications.
- NCEES will review test center locations.

August 2011 to August 2012

- The FE and FS content reviews will be completed.
- The exam item banks will be assessed, and item-writing sessions will be held.
- State licensure boards will review legislative rules and statutes for compliance with computer-based testing.
- New computer-based testing policies will be presented for adoption at the 2012 NCEES annual meeting.

August 2012 to August 2013

- Pools of questions will be developed for the initial administration of the exams in this format.

October 2013

- Paper-and-pencil FE and FS exams will be offered for the last time.

January 2014

- The FE and FS exams will be administered electronically for the first time.