



KENTUCKY BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS

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Andy Beshear
Governor

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the benefits of registration?

KRS 322A.090 directs that “it is unlawful for any person other than a registered geologist or a subordinate under the direction of a registered geologist to prepare any geologic reports or documents that are required by statute or administrative regulation.” No person other than a registered geologist shall engage in the public practice of geology or offer to publicly practice geology unless the person has been duly registered. In large part, the “public practice of geology” means the “performance of service to the public in connection with the geological description, location, or evaluation of earth materials, liquids, and gases and the natural processes acting on them.” KRS 322A.010(3).

Who is exempt from the requirement for registration as a Professional Geologist?

According to KRS 322A.080, the following persons are exempt from the requirements of registration:

- Officers and employees of the United States, state, or local governments while engaged in providing geological services for their employees;
- Persons engaged solely in geologic research or the instruction of geology;
- Professional engineers registered in this Commonwealth under KRS Chapter 322 who apply geology to the practice of engineering; or
- Persons not engaged in the public practice of geology.

What are the requirements to become a registered Professional Geologist?

For registration as a Professional Geologist (“PG”) in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, all of the current requirements under KRS 322A.040 must be met. Specifically:

- (a) Successful completion of a minimum of 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of course work in geology, culminating in a baccalaureate or advanced degree in geology, geophysics, geochemistry, or geological/geotechnical engineering from an accredited college or university. At the discretion of the Board, courses dealing with applied geological science that are given under the auspices of an academic department other than geology may be considered toward fulfillment of this requirement.
- (b) Five years of experience in professional geological work. Professional geologic work may include the instruction of geology at the college or university level, the geological research of persons at the college or university level, or geological work performed while in the employment of the United States, state, or local governments. In counting years of experience, the Board may give one year of credit each for a master’s degree or doctoral degree in geology, geophysics, geochemistry, or geological/geotechnical engineering; and

- (c) A passing score on an examination required by the Board that has been designed to demonstrate that the applicant has the necessary knowledge and skill to exercise the responsibilities of the public practice of geology.

How do I apply to become a registered Professional Geologist?

To apply, the applicant must submit the following:

- A completed application - Visit the board's website, <http://bpg.ky.gov>, click on "Forms and Documents", and then click on "[Application for Registration – Professional Geologist](#)".
- A \$150 application fee (must be a check or money order written out to Kentucky State Treasurer and mailed with your application). 201 KAR 31:010.
- A copy of the transcript(s) from your college or university reflecting successful completion of a minimum of thirty (30) semester hours or forty-five (45) quarter hours of course work in geology, culminating in a baccalaureate or advanced degree in geology, geophysics, geochemistry, or geological/geotechnical engineering from an accredited college or university. *See* KRS 322A.040.
- Employment references.
- Proof of 5 years of professional work experience.
- Proof of passing the Fundamentals of Geology and Practice of Geology portions of the ASBOG® examination (official scores must be provided from the National Association of State Boards of Geology).
- Letter of intent for PG examination date.
- Your application and fees must be mailed to:
Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists
PO Box 1360
Frankfort, KY 40602
- All other documents may be mailed or submitted electronically to RPG@ky.gov.

What is a Geologist-in-Training (GIT)?

After passing the Fundamentals of Geology examination, persons can be certified as a Geologist-in-Training while they gain the 5 years of professional experience necessary to take the Practice of Geology examination to become a registered Professional Geologist. Pursuant to KRS 322A.010(6), a GIT is defined as an "individual who has met the academic qualifications established by the board, who has successfully passed a written examination approved by the board demonstrating knowledge of the fundamentals of geology, and who has been enrolled by the board as a geologist-in-training." GITs are qualified to prepare geological reports, documents, or conduct any geological work only while in the employment of and under the supervision of a registered geologist.

How do I apply to become a Geologist-in-Training?

To apply, the applicant must submit the following:

- A completed application - Visit the board's website, <http://bpg.ky.gov>, click on "Forms and Documents", and then click on "[Application for Registration – Geologist in Training](#)". 201 KAR 31:080.
- A \$150 application fee (must be a check or money order written out to Kentucky State Treasurer and mailed with your application). 201 KAR 31:010.

- A copy of the transcript(s) from your college or university reflecting successful completion of a minimum of thirty (30) semester hours or forty-five (45) quarter hours of course work in geology, culminating in a baccalaureate or advanced degree in geology, geophysics, geochemistry, or geological/geotechnical engineering from an accredited college or university. *See* KRS 322A.045(1).
- Proof of passing the Fundamentals of Geology portion of the ASBOG® examination (official scores must be provided from the National Association of State Boards of Geology).
- Letter of intent for examination date.
- Your application and fees must be mailed to:
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Frankfort, KY 40602
- All other documents may be mailed or submitted electronically to RPG@ky.gov.

If I am registered in another state, can I apply for registration in Kentucky through Reciprocity/Endorsement?

Kentucky has no reciprocity with other states. That is, if a geologist is registered in another state, they cannot become automatically registered in Kentucky; however, Kentucky does grant registration based on comity. If a geologist is registered in another state which has registration requirements that equal or exceed those of Kentucky, that geologist may become registered in Kentucky.

How do I apply for registration as a Professional Geologist if I am registered in another state?

To apply, the applicant must submit the following:

- A completed application - Visit the board's website, <http://bpg.ky.gov>, click on "Forms and Documents", and then click on "[Application for Registration – Professional Geologist](#)".
- A \$150 application fee (must be a check or money order written out to Kentucky State Treasurer and mailed with your application). 201 KAR 31:010.
- A copy of the transcript(s) from your college or university reflecting successful completion of a minimum of thirty (30) semester hours or forty-five (45) quarter hours of course work in geology, culminating in a baccalaureate or advanced degree in geology, geophysics, geochemistry, or geological/geotechnical engineering from an accredited college or university. *See* KRS 322A.040.
- Proof of passing Fundamentals of Geology and Practice of Geology portions of the ASBOG® examination (official scores must be provided from the National Association of State Boards of Geology).
- An official license verification from every state in which you are licensed (must show disciplinary status).

How can I find more information about examinations?

The ASBOG® examination is a standardized test developed by the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG). Currently, it consists of two multiple choice sections, each four hours in length: Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and Practice of Geology (PG).

Examinations are held twice a year. The current examination schedule and more information can be found on the board's website, <http://bpg.ky.gov>, by clicking on "ASBOG Examination". You can also find more information on the ASBOG website, <https://www.asbog.org/>.

How can I renew my registration?

Your registration renews every odd year (biennial) by September 30. The renewal fee is \$175. A grace period extends from October 1 to December 29 each renewal year in which registrants may still renew with a late fee of \$50 dollars for a total of \$225. Registration that is not renewed before December 29 shall be suspended.

Renewals must be completed on the [eServices](#) portal by clicking on "License Renewal/License Extension".

How can I choose an inactive status?

You may choose an inactive status during your renewal period by selecting the inactive selection in the drop down menu. The inactive fee is \$100 and the biennial renewal is \$100 and must be completed through the [eServices](#) portal.

Where do I obtain a registration seal?

Registrants are responsible for ordering and purchasing their own seal. Seals must have your name, registration number, and the legend "Registered Professional Geologist". The below graphic can be taken to your local office supply store for use in creating a seal:



How do I update my contact information with the Board?

Login to your [eServices](#) portal and select "Record Correction".

How do I verify that a geologist is registered with the Board?

You can verify a person's registration using our online [license verification tool](#).

How do I file a complaint concerning a registered Professional Geologist?

If you have a complaint concerning the public practice of geology by a registered Professional Geologist, or if you are aware of someone engaged in the public practice of geology who is not registered, you may file a complaint with the Board using its Complaint Form. Disputes over fees will not be investigated unless there are indications of negligence, incompetence, or fraud. Anonymous complaints are not accepted.

You may access the [Complaint Form](#) on the board's website, <http://bpg.ky.gov>, by clicking on "File a Complaint" under "How Do I?".