

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are the benefits of registration?**

According to the statute (KRS 322A.090), 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. "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.

### **Is anyone 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.

### **If I am registered in another state, can I become automatically registered in Kentucky?**

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 may grant registration based on endorsement. That is, if a geologist is currently registered in another state which has registration requirements that equal or exceed those of Kentucky that geologist may become registered in Kentucky by submitting an application, fifty(50) dollars as an application fee, verification of their license from any other state past or present that shows the disciplinary status of that license and proof of passing both the FG and PG ABSOG examination or other Board accepted exam. Approval is subject to review by the Board.

## **How can I obtain an application for registration as a Professional Geologist in the Commonwealth of Kentucky?**

Application materials with instructions are provided on the Board's website [BPG.ky.gov](http://BPG.ky.gov). An application expires after one year from the date it is submitted. Additional questions regarding the application or application process may be directed to:

P.O. Box 1360  
Frankfort KY 40602  
Phone: (502) 892-4261  
Fax (502)564-4818  
Email [RPG@ky.gov](mailto:RPG@ky.gov)

## **What are the requirements to become registered as a Professional Geologist?**

For registration as a Professional Geologist in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, all of the current requirements under the statute (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 of Registration, 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 geologic 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, 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.

To apply for registration as a Professional Geologist, the applicant must submit a completed application form; fifty (50) dollars as an application fee; official transcripts; proof of five years of professional geological experience with two letters of recommendation and proof of passing both the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and Practice of Geology (PG) ASBOG examinations or an examination approved by the Board. If neither a Board approved exam nor the FG and PG ASBOG examinations have

been taken and passed, both the FG and PG ASBOG exams may be registered for and taken by those who submit their Professional Geologist application. Professional Geologist Registration cannot be obtained until both exams are passed. The deadline and testing dates are located on the Board's website. The FG and PG examinations are each two hundred and twenty five (225) dollars and are administered by the Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists.

### **What is a Geologist-in-Training?**

After passing the Fundamentals of Geology examination persons can be certified as Geologist in-Training while they gain the 5 years of professional experience necessary to become registered as a Professional Geologist. G-I-Ts are qualified to prepare geologic reports, documents, or conduct any geological work only while in the employment of and under the supervision of a registered Professional Geologist.

### **How can I apply to become a Geologist-in-Training?**

To apply to be a Geologist-In -Training, the applicant must submit a completed application form which is available on the Board's website, fifty (50) dollars as an application fee; official college transcripts showing a degree in the Geological sciences, and proof of passing the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) ASBOG examination. If the FG ASBOG examination has not yet been taken and passed, the FG ASBOG exam may be registered for by those who submit their GIT application and then may be taken according to the deadline and testing dates located on the Board's website. The cost of the FG ASBOG examination is two hundred and twenty five (225) dollars and is administered by the Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists.

### **How can I find out more about the examinations?**

The 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). The ASBOG website is [ASBOG.org](http://ASBOG.org).

### **How do I pay my examination fee?**

Examination fees and application fees may be paid by check or money order made out to the Kentucky State Treasurer and are due at the time of application.

### **When are examinations administered?**

The ASBOG examinations are usually scheduled for October and March of each year. Usually the examinations are administered in Frankfort, KY. Exam dates and deadlines are posted on the Board's Website.

### **How can I renew my registration?**

Renewal of both the Professional Geologist and Geologist-In-Training registrations are due September 30<sup>th</sup> of every odd year. Renewal is done via each licensee's individual E-Services account which can be reached by going to the Board's website at [bpg.ky.gov](http://bpg.ky.gov), located under the online services tab. The renewal fee is currently \$100 if paid on time.

### **Does Kentucky require continuing education for Geologists?**

The Board of Registration does not require continuing education at this time.

### **I did not renew my registration and it expired. Does the Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists have a reinstatement option?**

The Board currently allows reinstatement up to two years following the expiration of your registration. The form for reinstatement is located on the Board's website.

### **Where do I get a registration seal?**

Registrants are responsible for ordering and purchasing their own seals. The graphic for the seal is obtained by contacting the Board Administrator, who will then send an electronic copy to you. This graphic can be taken to your local office supply store for use in creating a seal. Seals must have your name and registration number on them if you choose to use one. However, Professional Geologists are not required by the Kentucky Board to use a seal.

### **How can I update my address or other information in the roster?**

Updating of address and other information is done via each licensee's individual E-Services account which can be reached by going to the Board's website at [bpg.ky.gov](http://bpg.ky.gov), located under the online services tab. This is the same account used to renew a registration. Updating your account will update the roster.

### **How can I verify that a geologist is registered with the Board?**

The link to the online verification system is: [https://oop.ky.gov/lic\\_search.aspx](https://oop.ky.gov/lic_search.aspx) and should be used for licensure inquiries. The verification system is also accessible from the Board's website.

### **How can I obtain the Roster of Professional Geologists registered in Kentucky?**

You may obtain an electronic copy (via email) by submitting a mailing list request which is available on the Board's website. Personal contact information is not released in this mailing list. Business contact information will be included only if the registered geologist chose this option with their registration. There is a fee charged for this service.

### **How can 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. Disputes over fees will not be investigated by the Board unless there are indications of negligence, incompetence, or fraud.

To ensure that the Board can conduct a thorough review of your complaint, please use the Complaint Form, which can be obtained from the Board's website. Upon receipt of the complaint, the Board will follow their complaint procedure which is available for review in their statutes and regulations on the Board's website at [bpg.ky.gov](http://bpg.ky.gov).