Building Your Career:
The California Professional Geology License

California State University Long Beach
Department of Geological Sciences

September 8, 2016

Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (BPELSG)
Laurie Racca, PG - Senior Registrar, Geology & Geophysics
Agenda

Part I
- What is Licensure?
- Purpose of the Board
- Laws and Regs
- Why get your GIT?
- Changes that will affect your Future

Part II
- Careers and Licensing

Laurie Racca, PG
Laurie.Racca@dca.ca.gov
916-263-2406
What is Licensure?

Licensing is the formal permission from a governmental authority to do something.

Why is it important?

- Required by law to Practice Geology for protection of the public

What’s in it for you?

- Credibility
- Increased Career Opportunities
- Financial Incentives
Purpose of the Board (BPELSG)

- **Protection** of the Public
  - License qualified individuals
  - Enforce laws and regulations
  - Establish regulations
  - Promote professional conduct
  - Provide information to the public
  - Anticipate changes in the professions
Protection of the Public
Sections 6710.1, 7810.1, and 8710.1 of the Business and Professions Code

- Protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount.
Board Composition?

- **15 Board Members:**
  - 8 Public Members
    - 6 appointed by Governor
    - 1 by Senate Rules Committee
    - 1 by Speaker of the Assembly
  - 7 Practitioners (Engineers, Land Surveyor, and Geologist or Geophysicist)
    - All appointed by Governor
Geologist and Geophysicist Act (Law)

Business and Professions Code §§ 7800 -7887
Chapter 12.5 Geologists and Geophysicists

Things to focus on as you start your career:

- §7802 & 7803: Definitions of Geology, Geophysics, Geologist, Geophysicist,
- §7805 & 7806: Responsible Charge of Work, subordinate defined
- §7836, 7837, & 7838: Exemptions
- §7839: Prohibition against offering or practicing Civil Engineering (see §6731 of the Engineers Act)
- §7841, 7842 & 7843: Qualifications for Geologist, Geophysicist, Geologist-In-Training, and for specialty certificates
Think about becoming licensed:

- 3003: Definitions
  - (c) “Responsible Position”
  - (d) and (e) “Professional Geological Work” “Professional Geophysical Work”
  - (f) “Practice of Geology or Geophysics”
- 3021: Applicant Fingerprint Submittal and Review
- 3023: Date of Education and Experience
- 3031: Examination Required
- 3065: Professional Standards and Code of Conduct
Steps to Licensure as a PG

1. **Education**
   a. FG/GIT (optional, but jumpstarts your career)

2. **Experience under a licensed geologist**

3. **Pass FG, PG and CSE exams**
How to get your Geologist-in-Training (GIT) certificate

- Complete your degree OR
  - (as of 1/1/17), 30 semester hours of geology courses, 24 of which must be upper division
- Pass the FG
- Get your GIT certificate
Most Common Question About the Application

- 3021.1 – Fingerprinting for Applicants
  - Once submitted, BPELSG will always receive criminal history record check.
  - Applying for FG exam/GIT certificate
  - Applying for PG
  - PG applying for CEG or CHG
So Why Bother with the GIT?
Because Your Future Begins Today

A GIT certificate shows that you have the qualities an employer wants:

- Technical competence
- Understand the laws/regs
- Know what it takes to advance in your chosen profession
- Proactive
Go to the BPELSG website for Information and Forms
http://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/pubs/forms/geology_application.pdf

APPLICATION FOR PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST AND GEOPHYSICIST EXAMINATIONS

Application: $250 (Non-refundable)

- Geologist-in-Training Applicant (GIT) (taking the ASBOG FG Examination): $150
- ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG): $150
- ASBOG Practice of Geology (PG): $250
- California Specific Examination (CSE): $150
- Certified Engineering Geologist (CEG): $100
- Certified Hydrogeologist (CHG): $100
- Professional Geophysicist (PGp): $100

Live Scan Form included OR Fingerprint Cards Included (add $49)

For more information on applicable fees, go to the Board’s website at:
http://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/applicants/fee.shtml

MAKE ONE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS (DCA)

Exam Cycle: Choose One Year

Section 1
General Information

Please Note: The names and addresses of Board licensees are public records and are published in both electronic and print media, as well as disclosed to the public upon request. You may use a home address, a post office box, a business address, or an alternate address where you can receive mail.

1. Last Name | First Name | Middle Name | 2. Social Security No. or ITIN
3. Address of Record: | City | State | Zip Code | Country
Figure 17 - ASBOG® Task Analysis 2015
Mean Values for All Task Statements

ASBOG® States vs. Non-ASBOG® States

Correlation = +0.99
Preparing for the FG (GIT) Test

- Standardized National Exam
- Developed by ASBOG
- Lots of resources on their website www.asbog.org
Why Get my GIT right away?

- ASBOG statistics show that the pass rates decline over time
- 1\textsuperscript{st} time candidates have a 65% pass rate. The majority of 1\textsuperscript{st} time candidates are taking the FG to get their GIT.
- The pass rate for candidates on their 2\textsuperscript{nd} attempt drops to 39%
- \textbf{Starting in 2017}, you can get your GIT certificate before you graduate if you’ve completed the required 30 units.
Changes That Will Affect Your Future

The Board intends to define the minimum curriculum for a qualifying geological sciences degree for licensure as a Professional Geologist.

- 2015 conducted research:
  - academic papers
  - contacted experts
  - university degree requirements
  - other license or certification models
- 2016 advanced necessary legislation
- Conducted public workshops in February 2016 to gather stakeholder input.  https://youtu.be/7IZ8PRXeG7w
So what did we learn?

- The **fundamental core skills** required to be a competent geologist have remained remarkably unchanged over the last 50 years.
- Basic geologic skills **apply across industries and through time**, even as specific job tasks have changed, and as technologies/tools have evolved.
- A lot of the confusion is due to thinking that “core skills” are the same as “industry job tasks” or “technology/tools”

**Core Geology Skills ≠ Industry Job Tasks**
**Core Geology Skills ≠ Technology/Tools**
So what did we learn?

- Coursework should demonstrate the ability
  - to use the scientific method
  - to measure, map, evaluate and communicate geologic data
  - to develop appropriate conclusions based on that data, including the evaluation of data quality
- Stakeholders have a dominant preference for a list of classes that includes an explanation or statement of the skills and competencies expected out of each course.
- Applicants want a specific objective standard that is easy to understand.
Major Elements of the Proposed Regulation

The following requirements are being considered for inclusion in the draft regulations language:

- Institution accredited by a regional accrediting commission recognized by the US Department of Education
- No “Life Experience Degrees”
- Applicant’s burden to demonstrate that coursework meets requirements
- List of core and applied coursework
- Applied geoscience courses taught in departments other than geology accepted at Board’s discretion
Next Steps

- Proposed Amendments to §3031 of the regulations were presented at the April 2016 Board meeting
  - included a list of classes with a description of skills expected
- No action was taken in order to give the Board more time to study the proposed language.
- An update on the issue will be presented at the September 26, 2016 Geology and Geophysics Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).
- The TAC will review the proposed amendments and give input to the Board.
- 2017 formal rulemaking (regulations) process will proceed if authorized by the Board.
Stay Informed and Be Involved

- Subscribe to the Board’s e-mail list, Facebook page, or Twitter feed.
- www.bpelsg.ca.gov
- Important updates are announced via e-mail and social media.
Careers and Licensing

- I’ve got a degree, now what?
- How do I find a job?
- How do I start my career?
Keep your eye on the prize....

- What you think your career path will be
- What it will really look like

This is another reason to get your GIT and then your PG. You never know what the future brings.....wouldn’t you rather have more options?
Start Now by Getting Experience

- Any job experience is good experience, be proud of working hard
- Independent Studies/Special Projects/Senior Thesis
- Internships/Student Jobs
- Volunteer Positions
- Be creative
Getting Experience

GeoCorps™ America

ABOUT GEOCORPS

GEOCORPS MATERIALS
- GeoCorps Poster (11" x 17" PDF, one-sided)
- GeoCorps Brochure (8.5" x 11" PDF, two-sided, foldable)
- GeoCorps Flyer (8.5" x 11" PDF, two-sided)
- GeoCorps 2013 Annual Report (8.5" x 11" PDF, multi-page booklet)
- GeoCorps 2014 Annual Report (8.5" x 11" PDF, multi-page booklet)
- NPS/GSA Geoscientists-in-the-Parks (GIP)/GeoCorps Accomplishments Report, Fiscal Year 2015
- NPS/GSA Mosaics in Science Accomplishments Report, Fiscal Year 2015

GEOCORPS PHYSICAL FACTS
- GeoCorps America provides temporary geoscience opportunities at National Parks, National Forests, & BLM lands.
- Geoscientists of all levels are eligible and encouraged to apply. This includes, but is not limited to, undergraduate students, graduate students, post-docs, professionals, faculty members, teachers, and retirees.
- Positions are available in a wide variety of geoscience and geoscience-related fields.
- GeoCorps participants receive a minimum of a $2,750 living stipend for a 3-month project plus on-site housing or an additional housing allowance if housing is not provided.
- Spring/summer positions are announced every December and applications are due to GSA by February. Fall/winter positions are announced every May and applications are due to GSA by July.
- Applicants MUST be a member of GSA to apply. Not a member? Join GSA Now!
- Participants are chosen through a competitive selection process.
- Finalists are interviewed by phone and selected by the supervisor who will manage position on site.
- Position offers are made by the Park/Forest/BLM in March for spring/summer positions and in August for...
Starting the Process

- Order transcripts ahead of time
- Define your geographic search area (are you willing to move?)
- Tailor your resume or application to the job
- Consider writing a Qualifications Statement
- Beware of Social Media Pitfalls
- Get a real email address (not LadiesMan217)
Careers with the State of California

https://jobs.ca.gov/

1. Get Pre-Qualified by taking an Exam
2. Apply for a Job

Before you get started:
• Have a copy of your transcripts
• Have a resume
https://jobs.ca.gov/

How to Apply for a State Job

Step 1
Sign in to Your CalCareer Account

Step 2
Take and Pass an Examination

Search Exams and Job Vacancies

Job Title/Keyword:

- Job Title Search Only

Department:
Exams & Job Vacancies Search Results

Occupation Categories found for "geologist":

Geoscientists
Natural Sciences Managers
Architectural & Engineering Managers
Geographic Information Systems Technicians
Environmental Scientists & Specialists, Including Health

Filter Clear Filter New Search

Below is the list of current Examinations and Job Vacancies associated with the occupation categories above.

Displaying 1 - 20 of 73 records

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Exams</th>
<th>Job Vacancies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIR POLLUTION SPECIALIST</td>
<td>1 Bulletin</td>
<td>0 Vacancies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AREA MANAGER, CAL/OSHA CONSULTATION SERVICE</td>
<td>1 Bulletin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISTRICT STRUCTURAL ENGINEER</td>
<td>2 Bulletins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST</td>
<td>3 Bulletins</td>
<td>4 Vacancies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER I (MANAGERIAL)</td>
<td>1 Bulletin</td>
<td>1 Vacancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER I (SUPERVISORY)</td>
<td>1 Bulletin</td>
<td>1 Vacancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM MANAGER II</td>
<td>1 Bulletin</td>
<td>1 Vacancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST</td>
<td>2 Bulletins</td>
<td>29 Vacancies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRINCIPAL ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Vacancy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exam Bulletins

Below are examination bulletins matching your submitted criteria.

Click on the corresponding Exam ID to view the examination bulletin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam ID</th>
<th>ExamTitle</th>
<th>Exam Base</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Final Filing Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3WB11</td>
<td>ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD</td>
<td>12/31/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0PB02</td>
<td>ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES</td>
<td>12/31/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3PB47</td>
<td>ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST</td>
<td>Open</td>
<td>DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL</td>
<td>12/31/10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Job Vacancy Search Results

Below is the list of current Job Vacancies matching your submitted criteria. Click on the corresponding Job Title to view the Job Vacancy information for specific vacancy.

Showing 1 - 4 of 4 Job Postings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Approximately Salary</th>
<th>Job Type</th>
<th>Department and Location</th>
<th>Posted</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST</td>
<td>$4998.00 - $9409.00</td>
<td>Permanent Fulltime</td>
<td>Department of Water Resources Sacramento County</td>
<td>09/06/2016</td>
<td>09/20/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST</td>
<td>$4998.00 - $9409.00</td>
<td>Permanent Fulltime</td>
<td>State Water Resources Control Board Los Angeles County</td>
<td>08/24/2016</td>
<td>09/08/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST</td>
<td>$4998.00 - $9409.00</td>
<td>Permanent Fulltime</td>
<td>Department of Water Resources Sacramento County</td>
<td>08/22/2016</td>
<td>09/06/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST</td>
<td>$4998.00 - $9409.00</td>
<td>Permanent Fulltime</td>
<td>Department of Transportation Sacramento County</td>
<td>08/16/2016</td>
<td>09/16/2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Job Posting

Water Boards

State Water Resources Control Board

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT POSTING
JC-32497 - ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST
Final Filing Date: 9/8/2016

Equal Opportunity Employer

The State of California is an equal opportunity employer that actively pursues and hires a diverse workforce. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, ancestry, color, disability (mental or physical), gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, military veteran status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion or creed, sex, sexual orientation, or any other factor that is not related to the job.

It is an objective of the State of California to achieve a drug-free work place. Any applicant for state employment will be expected to behave in accordance with this objective because the use of illegal drugs is inconsistent with the law of the State, the rules governing Civil Service, and the special trust placed in public servants.

Position Details

- Job Control #: JC-32497
- Position #: 880-150-3756-024
- Classification: ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST
  - $4,998.00 - $9,409.00

Are You Eligible for This Job?

If you do not currently have eligibility for this job, you may obtain eligibility by taking an examination.

View Available Examinations

Application Methods

You can apply for this job via the following method(s):
- Electronic (through your CalCareer Account)
- By Mail

Use Your CalCareer Account

Manage your applications and update your information with ease through your CalCareer Account. If you do not have a CalCareer Account, it is easy to create one. Use the buttons below to either log in or create a new account.

Log In to My CalCareer Account
Create My CalCareer Account

Alternate Application Process

While we recommend that you utilize your CalCareer Account to take advantage of all the tools available, you may choose to apply for this job without using your account. In this case, print and complete the Job Application Package Checklist and include it if you 

Federal Careers

www.usajobs.gov

Create an account to get started — build your profile, create or upload resumes and apply for jobs.

Keyword:  
Job Title, Skills, Agency (etc)  

Location:  
City, State, ZIP Code, or Country

U.S. Citizens  Federal Employees

Search

Advanced  Map

Individuals with Disabilities  Veterans  Students and Recent Graduates  Senior Executives

DoD Veteran & Wounded Warrior Hiring Event
6th Annual DoD Veteran & Wounded Warrior Hiring Event. 1-2 June 2016, Tampa, FL - Employer Summit, Career Fair

Read More  View All Spotlights
### Interdisciplinary (Project Manager), GS-1301-1305 (DEU-PERM-DS)

- **Position Title:** Interdisciplinary (Project Manager)
- **Salary:** $84,443.00 - $129,781.00 Per Year
- **Series & Grade:** GS-0350-1305
- **Location:** Huntington, West Virginia
- **Open Period:** 8/26/2016 to 9/12/2016
- **Department:** Department of the Army
- **Agency:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- **Position Info:** Full Time - Permanent
- **Who May Apply:** United States Citizens

### Geologist (Sedimentary Basin Modeler), GS-1350-12 (DEU-PERM-DS)

- **Position Title:** Geologist (Sedimentary Basin Modeler)
- **Salary:** $57,341.00 - $99,243.00 Per Year
- **Series & Grade:** GS-1350-12
- **Location:** Lakewood, Colorado
- **Open Period:** 9/2/2016 to 9/16/2016
- **Department:** Department Of The Interior
- **Position Info:** Permanent - Full-Time
- **Who May Apply:** United States Citizens

### Interdisciplinary (Nat. Res. Spec./Mining Engineer/Geologist), GS-0401/0880/1350-12 (DE)

- **Position Title:** Interdisciplinary (Nat. Res. Spec./Mining Engineer/Geologist)
- **Salary:** $57,726.00 - $101,043.00 Per Year
- **Series & Grade:** GS-1350, 0880, 1350-12
- **Location:** Multiple Locations (2)
- **Open Period:** 9/1/2016 to 9/14/2016
- **Department:** Department Of The Interior
- **Position Info:** Full Time - Permanent
- **Who May Apply:** United States Citizens

### Interdisciplinary (Geologist/Geophysicist)

- **Position Title:** Interdisciplinary (Geologist/Geophysicist)
- **Salary:** $57,811.00 - $108,987.00 Per Year
- **Series & Grade:** GS-1350, 1329-09.12
- **Location:** Jefferson, Louisiana
- **Open Period:** 8/23/2016 to 9/6/2016
- **Department:** Department Of The Interior
- **Position Info:** Full-Time - Permanent
- **Who May Apply:** This position is open to all US Citizens.
Geologist, GS-1350-11 (PR-ICTAP)

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Salary Range
$70,333.00 to $91,433.00 / Per Year

Series & Grade
GS-1350-11/11

Promotion Potential
11

Supervisory Status
No

Who May Apply
Individuals eligible for the Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) or the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP) in the local commuting area of this advertised vacancy.

Control Number
4493445990

Job Announcement Number
SAC-2016-0453

Job Overview

Summary

Why Is It Great To Work For The USGS?
Embark on an exciting future! From the peaks of the highest mountains to the depths of the deepest seas, the U.S. Geological Survey has career opportunities that make a difference in both the lives of others and in the environment. Would you like to join the more than 10,000 scientists, technicians, and support staff of the USGS who are working in more than 400 locations throughout the United States? Apply today! As the Nation's largest water, earth, and biological science and civilian mapping agency, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific understanding about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems. The diversity of our scientific expertise enables us to carry out large-scale, multi-disciplinary investigations and provide impartial, timely, and relevant scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers related to: the health of our ecosystems and environment; natural hazards that threaten us; natural resources we rely on, and; the impact of climate and land-use changes. For more information about the USGS please visit http://www.usgs.gov.

What General Information Do I Need To Know About This Position?
Licensing and Private Sector Careers

- Search engines – try “entry level geologist” or “staff geologist”
- Career center
- Job Websites
- Professional Organizations (AEG, AWG, AIPG, GSA etc.)
- Company Websites
- Traditional Classified Ads and On-line Classifieds
- Network, network, network.....did I say NETWORK?
Interview Tips

- Dress for the job you want (no jeans) but don’t spend $500 on a suit for an entry level job
- Be early or at least on time
- You are being watched so be nice to everyone
- Remember to breathe/relax, they called you for an interview because they were interested in you
Interview Tips (cont.)

• Prepare for tough questions (search “tough interview questions” online)
• Ask your own questions
• Be ready for a writing test or problem to solve
• Be honest and be yourself (don’t try to BS them)
• Research the company/agency/job
• Say thank you (email is acceptable)