

# Geologist Licensing in Washington

And Why You Need to Know About It



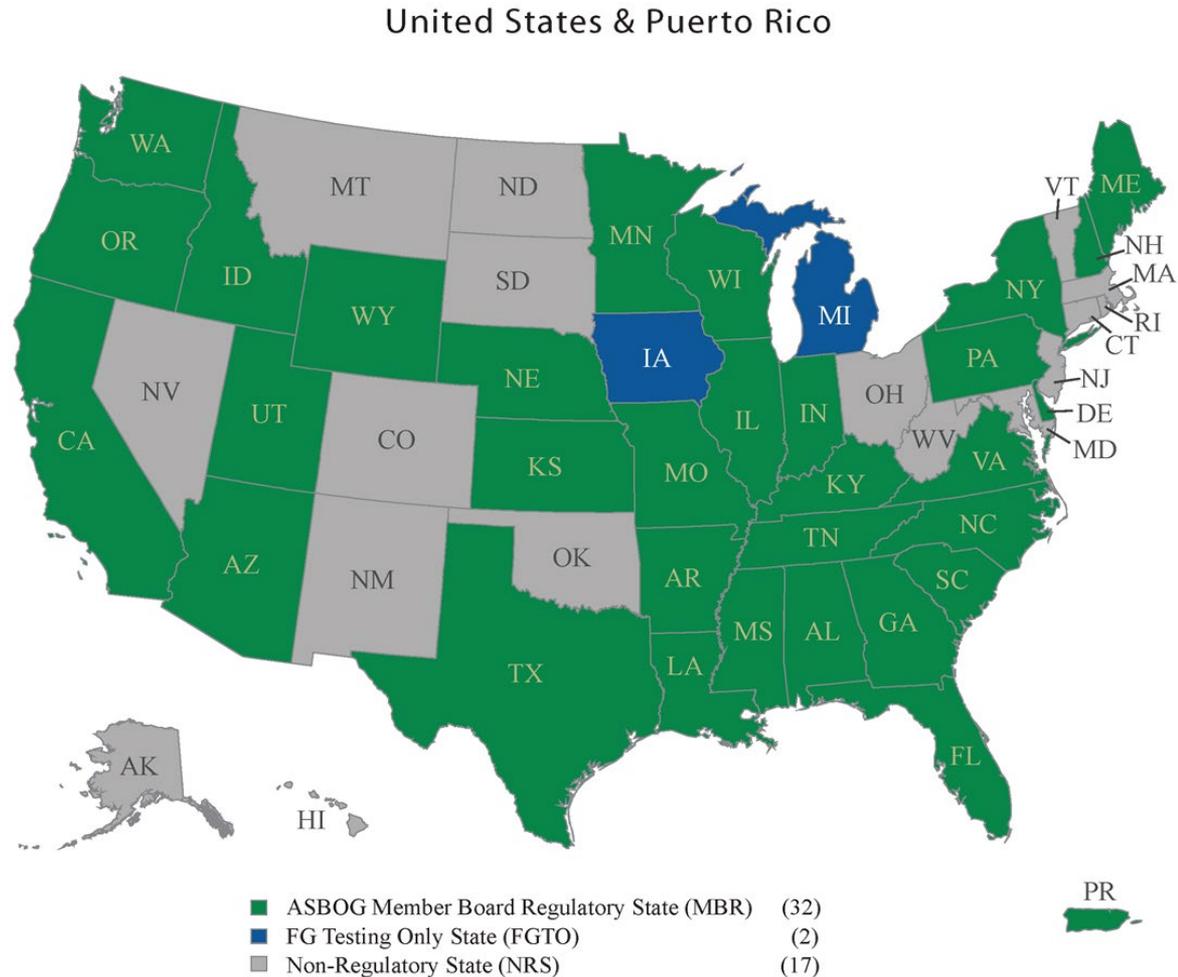
# Overview

- Why get a license
- Who needs to be licensed
- Background
- Steps to becoming a geologist
- ASBOG exams
- Reciprocity
- Specialty licenses
- Stamping
- Renewal
- Contacts
- Example questions



# Why Get a License

- Most states require a license to practice geology
- It is the law in Washington
- Protect the public
- Minimum education and experience qualifications
- More jobs and professional growth potential
- And...



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# Why Get a License

- Establishes and enforces technical and ethical standards



# Who Needs to be Licensed

Anyone who

- practices geology for the public
- claims to be a professional geologist
- represents that they can perform the work of a professional geologist



# Exemptions

Anyone who is

- working under a licensed geologist's supervision (i.e., first job)
- working as a US federal officer or employee
- conducting energy and mineral exploration
- researching or teaching geology



# Background

- Individual states regulate their licensure laws
- Washington established geologist licensure in 2001
  - Title 18.220 RCW & Chapter 308-15 WAC
- Washington Licensing Board
  - Administers exams
  - Investigates violations and can take disciplinary action
  - Recommends rules and policies to clarify licensing laws
- ASBOG - National Association of State Boards of Geology



# Steps to Become a Licensed Geologist in Washington

1. Obtain degree in geology
2. Apply to sit for the ASBOG Fundamentals exam (1<sup>st</sup> exam)
3. Sit for the ASBOG Fundamentals Exam
4. **Pass** the exam
5. Become a GIT
6. Obtain 5 years experience
7. Apply to sit for the ASBOG Practice exam (2<sup>nd</sup> exam)
8. Sit for the ASBOG Practice Exam
9. **Pass** the exam
10. Become an LG



# Step 1

- Have a degree in geological sciences or approved related field.
- Have qualifying education credit in:
  - Earth materials
  - Economic geology
  - Engineering geology
  - Geology field camp
  - Geomorphology
  - Geophysics
  - Geochemistry
  - Hydrogeology
  - Mineralogy
  - Petrology
  - Sedimentology
  - Stratigraphy
  - Structural geology

\*Qualifying credits must include:

- 36 quarter (24 semester) upper division credits
- 21 quarter (14 semester) credits



# Step 2

- Apply to Washington Licensing Board 3 months before scheduled exam
- Pay two fees
- Be approved to sit for the ASBOG “Fundamentals of Geology” Exam

dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/index.html

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING

Search

Login to License eXpress | Office Locations | Forms

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## Geologists

**How to get your license**  
Geologists by exam **with** required experience | Geologists by exam **without** required experience | Geologists, engineering geologists, or hydrogeologists by reciprocity | Engineering geologists or hydrogeologists (WA licensed)

**How to renew your license**

**How to update your license**

**Requirements**  
Education requirements | Stamp requirements

**Examinations**

**Fees**

**Forms**

**Resources and publications**

**Frequently asked questions**

**What's new**  
Geologist news | Get email updates

**Geologist Licensing Board**  
Members | Meetings and minutes | Policies

**Laws and rules**

**For consumers**  
Look up a business or professional license | File a complaint | Disciplinary actions

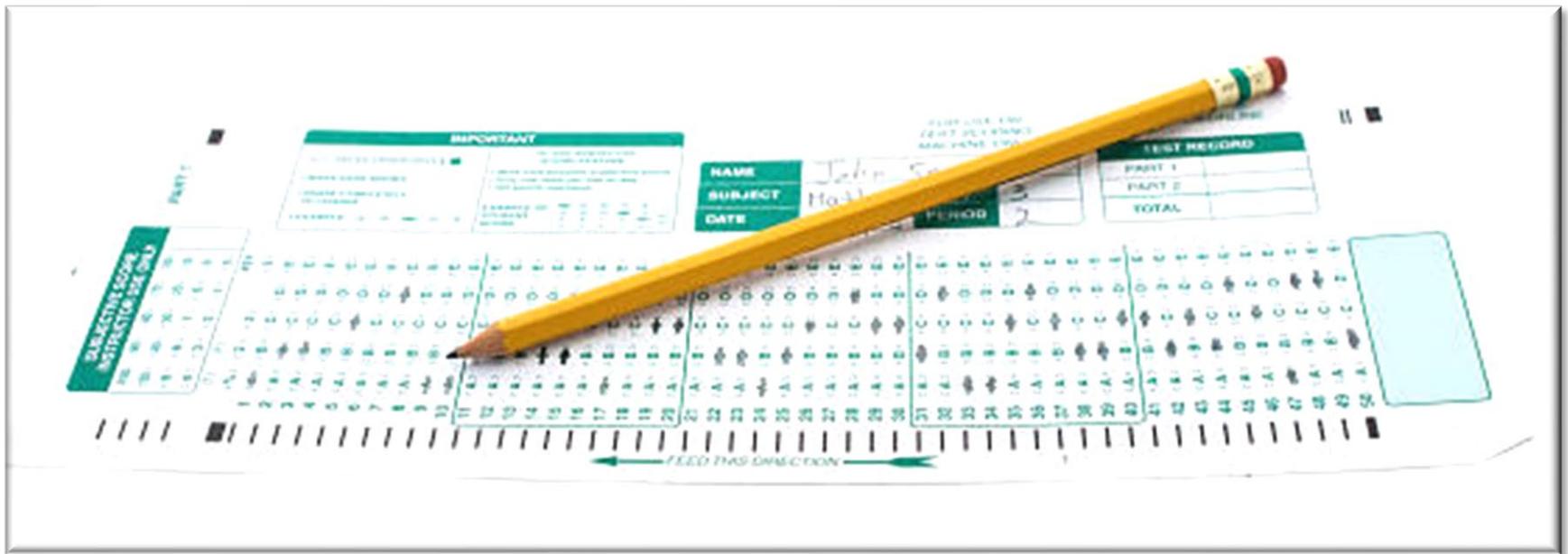
**Contact us**

**Related information**  
• Manage your professional license



# Steps 3 and 4

- Sit for and pass the ASBOG “Fundamentals of Geology” Exam
- If you have met the education requirement, try to take the exam during final term of undergrad studies



# Step 5

Congratulations!

You are now a ...

**Geologist-in-Training  
(GIT)**



# ASBOG Exam Dates

The exam is offered only in spring and fall

For dates and applications go to:

[dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/geoexams.html](http://dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/geoexams.html)

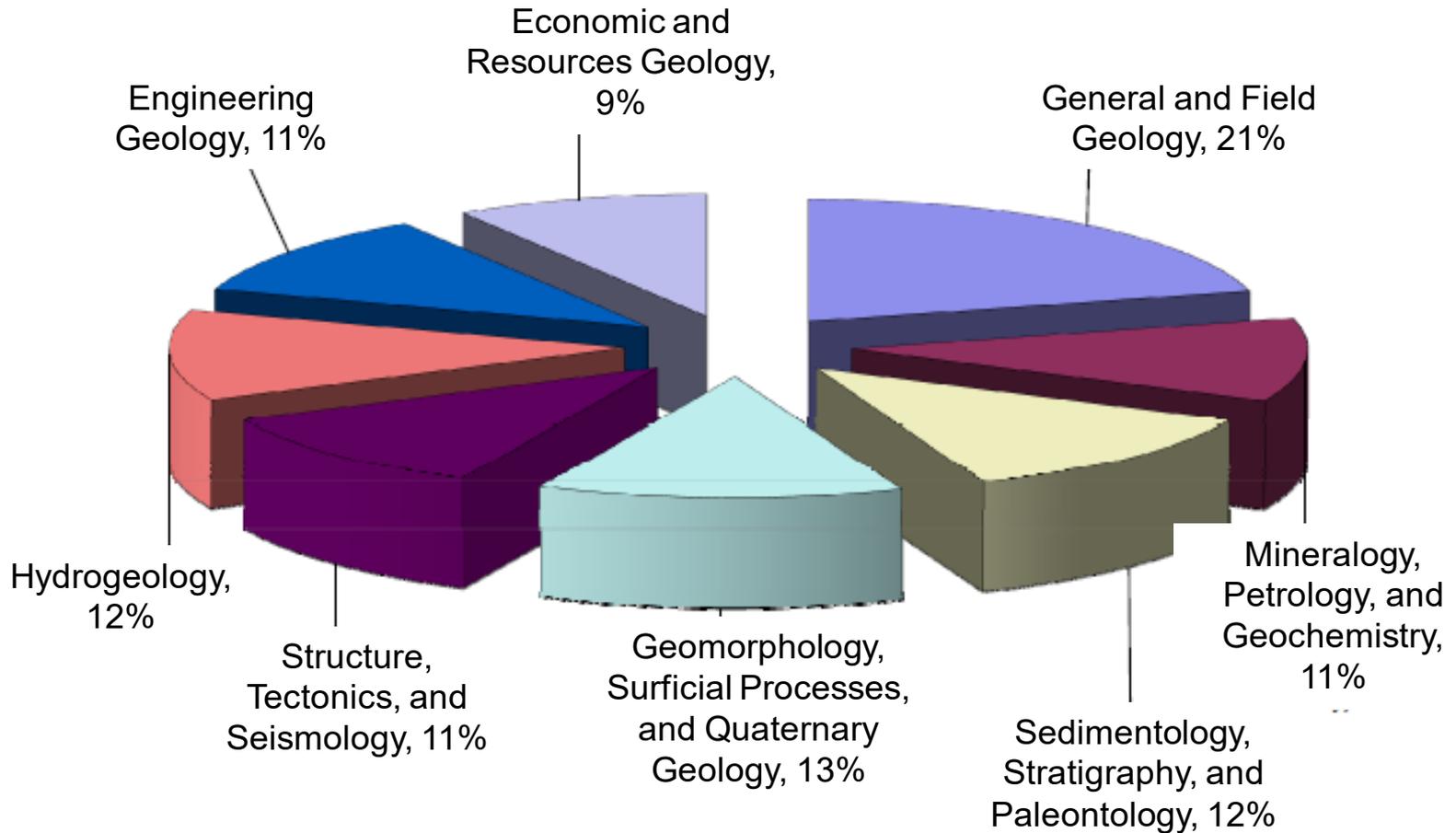


# ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology Exam

Content	FG Exam %
General Geology, Field Geology	20
Mineralogy, Petrology, Geochemistry	11
Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, Paleontology	12
Geomorphology, Surficial Processes, Quaternary Geology	13
Structure, Tectonics, Seismology	11
Hydrogeology	11
Engineering Geology	11
Economic Geology, Energy Resources	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100</b>



# Fundamentals of Geology Exam



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# Exam Practice Resources

ASBOG has practice questions on its website

National Association of State Boards of Geology  
(ASBOG®)

PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS  
CANDIDATE HANDBOOK



*ASBOG® is not affiliated with, nor does it provide information for/to, or endorse, any examination preparation course(s), study guide/manuals/aid (i.e., flash cards), or publication other than its own "Professional Geologists Candidate Handbook". This Candidate Handbook is designed to help you prepare for the ASBOG® National Geology Examinations. ASBOG® has not authorized use of its name by any commercial enterprise.*



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## GEOLOGY STUDY MANUAL

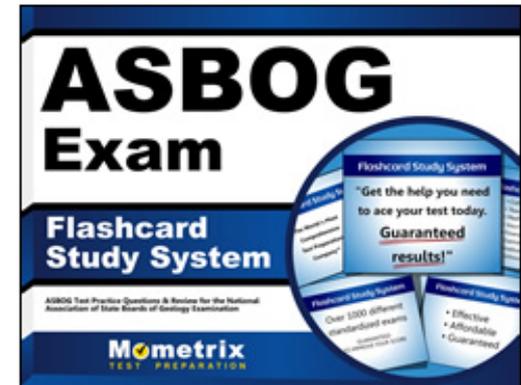
Review for  
the National (ASBOG) Geology Licensing Exam

Published by

**REG REVIEW, Inc.**

37 Rosewell Road  
Bedford, NH 03110

<http://regreview.com>



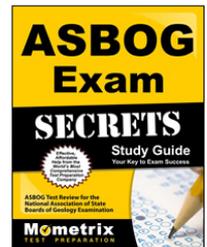
## ASBOG Exam Secrets Study Guide

**Includes ASBOG Practice Test Questions**

*How to Pass the Fundamentals of Geology (FG) and Practice of Geology (PG) Exams, using our easy step-by-step ASBOG test study guide, without weeks and months of endless studying...*

Dear Friend,

On a beautiful late spring afternoon, this past year, a young man received the devastating news. He had just gotten back his result on the ASBOG test. It was not what he had hoped for. In fact, it was not even close to the expectations he had considered his past



# Step 6

Gain 5 years of documented experience  
(post-Bachelor's degree)

- 3 years under a state-licensed geologist
- Each year of graduate study counts as 1 year of experience up to a maximum of 2 years



# Step 6, continued

Experience does **not** include

- Drafting
- Sampling
- Sample Preparation
- Routine Laboratory Work
- Core Logging



WSDOT



# Step 7

Apply and be approved to sit for  
the ASBOG “Practice of Geology” Exam

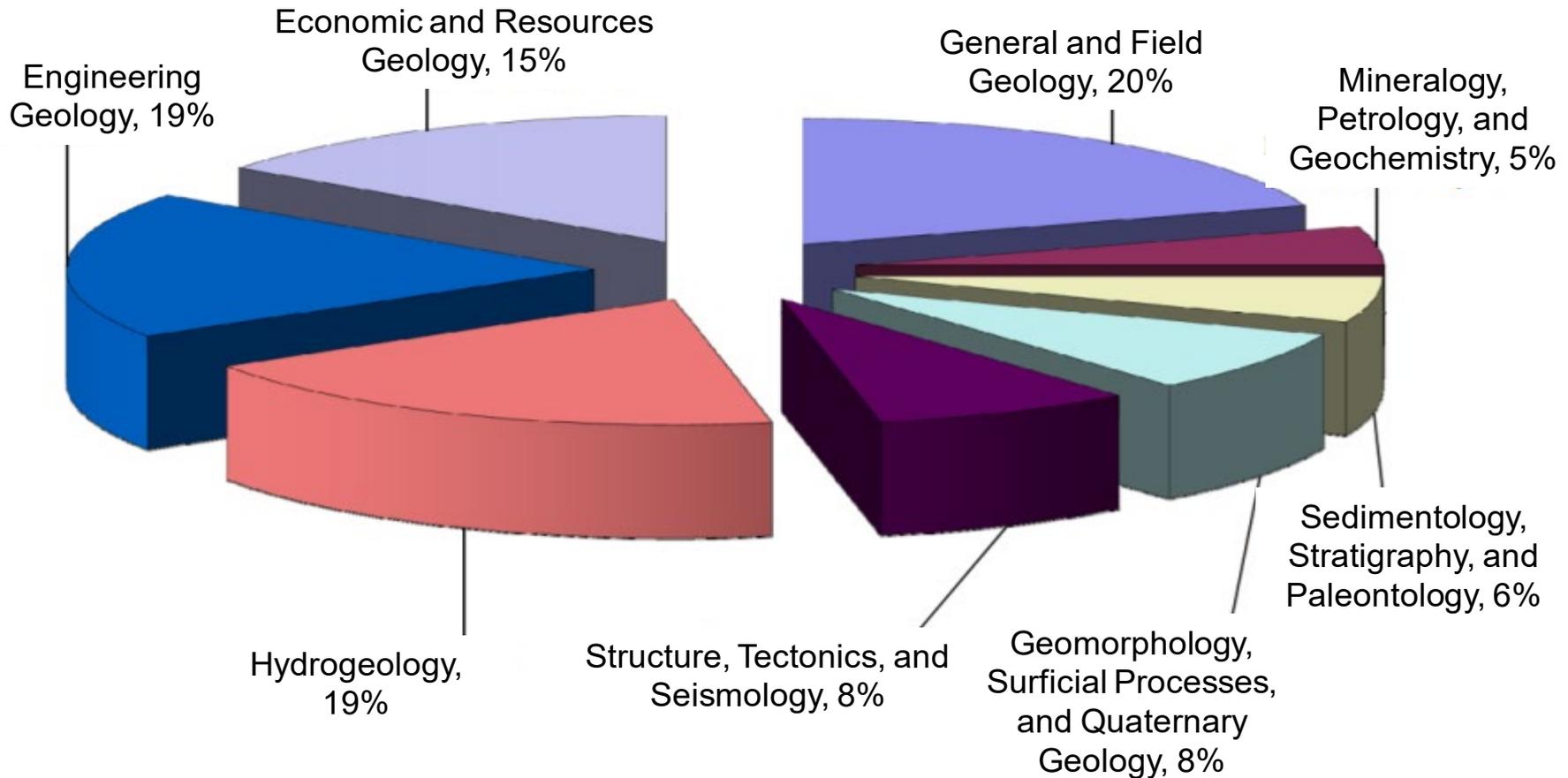


# ASBOG Practice of Geology Exam Content

Content	FG Exam %	PG Exam %
General and Field Geology	20	21
Mineralogy, Petrology, Geochemistry	11	5
Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, Paleontology	12	5
Geomorphology, Surficial Processes, Quaternary Geology	13	8
Structure, Tectonics, Seismology	11	9
Hydrogeology	11	19
Engineering Geology	11	17
Economic Geology, Energy Resources	11	16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>



# Practice of Geology Exam

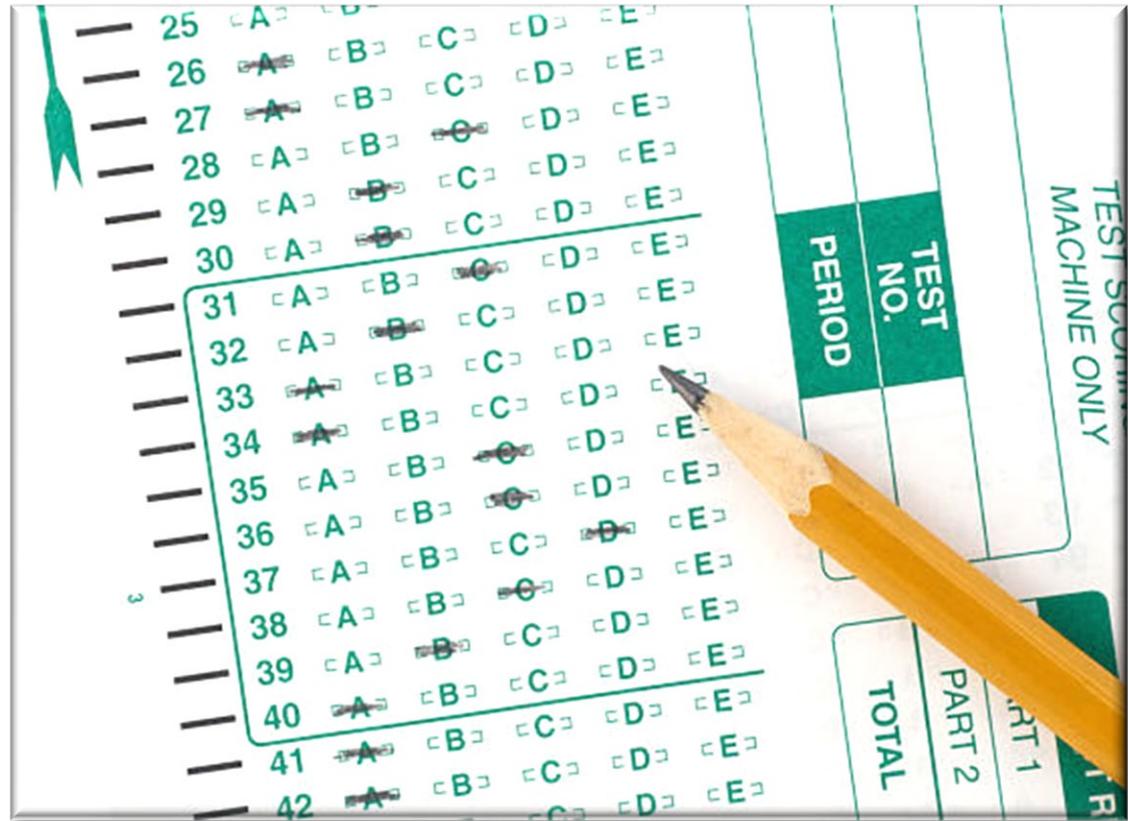


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# Steps 8 and 9

- Sit for the Practice of Geology Exam
- Pass the exam



# Step 10

**Congratulations!**

You are now a ...

**Licensed Geologist  
(LG)**



# Reciprocity

- If you are licensed in another state, the process is shortened if that state's requirements are equivalent to Washington's.
- Candidates must meet the same education, experience, and exam requirements in Washington as those applying for the first time.



# Specialty Licenses

## Engineering Geologist

- Be a current Washington LG
- Have 5 years experience, with 3 years under licensed engineering geologist
- Conducted advanced studies
- Pass the Washington engineering geology exam



# Specialty Licenses

## Hydrogeologist

- Be a current Washington LG
- Have 5 years experience, with 3 years under licensed hydrogeologist
- Conducted advanced studies
- Pass the Washington hydrogeology exam



# Stamping

- You must use a stamp on documents and plans prepared by you or under your responsible charge
- Your stamp goes on anything professional and is your geologic signature



Your Name Here

***Geologist  
stamp/seal design***



Your Name Here

***Engineering geologist  
stamp/seal design***



Your Name Here

***Hydrogeologist  
stamp/seal design***



# Renewal

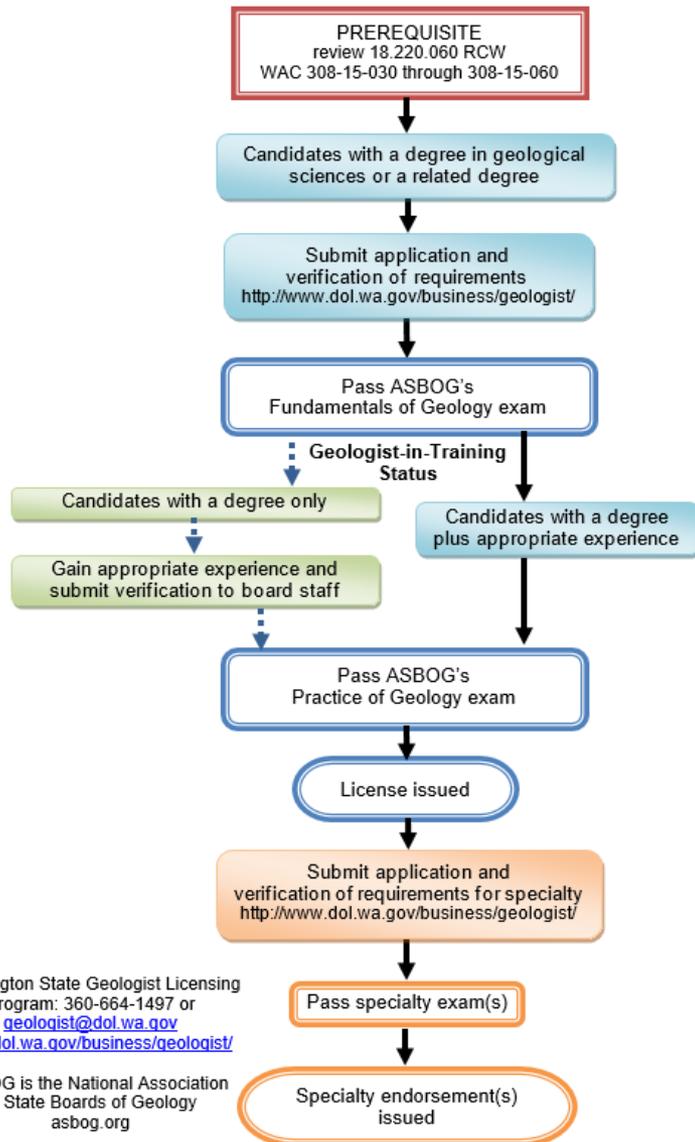
- Required annually
- Fee varies by license and year
- Some employers pay the fee
- Renewing online is fast and easy



# Washington State Geologist Licensing Board

How to become a licensed geologist in Washington State

# Summary



Meet the educational requirements and pass the ASBOG's **Fundamentals** of Geology Exam

Gain 5 years of working experience and pass ASBOG's **Practice** of Geology Exam

Pass the Practice Exam, document 5 years of working experience in a specialty, and pass the **Specialty** Exam

Washington State Geologist Licensing Program: 360-664-1497 or [geologist@dol.wa.gov](mailto:geologist@dol.wa.gov) [www.dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/](http://www.dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/)

ASBOG is the National Association of State Boards of Geology [asbog.org](http://asbog.org)



# Contact Information

## **ASBOG**

asbog.org

## Washington Department of Licensing **Geologist Licensing Program**

[geologist@dol.wa.gov](mailto:geologist@dol.wa.gov)

360-644-1497 (office)

360-570-7098 (fax)



# Resources

## **DOL**

[dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/](http://dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/)

## **Requirements**

[dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/georequirements.html](http://dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/georequirements.html)

## **Exams**

[dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/geoexams.html](http://dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/geoexams.html)

## **Application Portal**

[professions.dol.wa.gov/s/saw-help](http://professions.dol.wa.gov/s/saw-help)

## **Forms**

[dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/geoforms.html](http://dol.wa.gov/business/geologist/geoforms.html)



# **ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology example questions**



# FG Questions

Which of the following is NOT commonly a natural constituent of groundwater?

- A. Iron
- B. Carbonate
- C. Chloride
- D. Nitrate



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A. Iron

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C. Chloride

 D. Nitrate



# FG Questions

Which of the following safety factors (SF or FS) values for slope stability show that a slope is considered stable:

- A. Between zero (0) and one (1)
- B. Between zero (0) and minus one (-1)
- C. Greater than one (1)
- D. Less than minus (-1)



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# FG Questions

A stream crosses a strike-slip fault with no deviation in its course. Which of the following statements must be true?

- A. The fault is active.
- B. The stream crossed the fault since the last fault movement.
- C. Strike-slip faults do not affect stream course.
- D. Rock units are the same on both sides of the fault.



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# FG Questions

A rock described as argillaceous:

- A. contains flattened pebbles.
- B. is clay rich.
- C. displays a satin luster.
- D. is composed of coarse mica.



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