

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

College of Engineering

Taking the FE Exam

The First Step in Becoming a Professional Engineer (PE)

Earning a PE license is similar to passing the bar exam for attorneys after law school or the medical board exams after medical school for physicians. Becoming a professional engineer means that you are recognized as an individual qualified to certify design work in your engineering discipline. PEs approve plans and drawings with an official PE seal.

You must have an Engineering Intern (EI) license (aka Engineer-in-Training or EIT) and industry experience to become a PE. To qualify for an EI license in Arkansas, you must:

- Supply proof of graduation from an ABET accredited, or equivalent, engineering curriculum
- **Pass the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam**

The National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) administers the FE exam. It is a national, discipline-specific, computer-based exam administered at NCEES-approved test centers. Registration is open year-round; examinees may select the time, date, and location that works best for them. They receive their results 7 - 10 days after the exam.

The exam has 110 multiple-choice questions. It's 6 hours long, including an 8 minute tutorial, the exam (5 hours and 20 minutes), and a 25 minute break. See the [NCEES YouTube channel](#) for more details. For more information and to register for the exam, go to <http://ncees.org/exams/fe-exam/>, create an account, log in, and click the register button. Cost is \$175 to register for the exam. The state of Arkansas then charges an additional one-time cost of \$50 to [apply](#) for your EI.

Approved testing centers are listed on the NCEES website. The one on the U of A campus is at 97 N. Razorback Road. Parking is limited.

[NCEES Examinee Guide](#) - the official guide to policies and procedures for all NCEES exams.

[ME Exam Specifications](#) - exam topics.

[FE Reference Handbook](#) - the only reference material that can be used during the exam. It is provided onscreen electronically during the exam and the cost is \$20.

There are many free online resources to help you review, such as those listed at <https://www.ppehq.com/fe-exam-prep.html#free>.