National Professional Practice Examination (NPPE) Candidate Guide

NPPE participating associations:

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<tr>
<th>APEGA</th>
<th>Engineers</th>
<th>Engineers PEI</th>
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<td>New Brunswick</td>
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Draft date: June 12, 2018
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Overview

This NPPE Candidate Guide is the official guide to policies and procedures for the NPPE. All candidates are strongly encouraged to read this document before starting the exam registration process. It is your responsibility to make sure that you have the current version of this document.

The National Professional Practice Exam (NPPE) confirms knowledge of several content areas as outlined by the exam syllabus. Twelve engineering and geoscience self-regulatory organizations across Canada use the NPPE as one of their requirements for licensure.

To be eligible to take the NPPE, you must have submitted an application for professional membership (those who have not submitted an application to your provincial association for membership will not be allowed to register for the exam).

The exam is computer-based and is administered through Yardstick, a Canadian computer-based testing vendor. There are five exam administration sessions offered per year.

The exam format is 110 multiple choice questions, each with four options and only one correct answer per question. All questions are scored 0 (incorrect) or 1 (correct) with no penalty for guessing. The time to take the exam is 2.5 hours. In some jurisdictions (e.g., APEGBC and APGO) the examination contains more multiple-choice questions and an essay, therefore the exam is 3.5 hours in duration.

Exam contact information

Questions regarding the NPPE are best directed to your provincial association. For Alberta applicants to APEGA contact: nppe@apega.ca

Study materials

The exam syllabus outlining the content areas that are covered on the exam can be found on the APEGA website: https://www.apega.ca/apply/exams/national-professional-practice-exam-nppe/syllabus/

Textbooks

Two textbooks are recommended to prepare for the NPPE:

These textbooks can be purchased directly from the publishers, through online book retailers, or as part of a test preparation bundle that can be purchased from the NPPE practice test site.

Free Study Materials

Below are free study materials that can be used to help prepare for the examination.

A Guide to Copyright
A Guide to Industrial Designs
A Guide to Patents
A Guide to Trademarks
Concepts of Professionalism
Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act
Guideline for Ethical Practice
Occupational Health and Safety Act
Royal Bank of Canada article – “The Soul of Professionalism”

NPPE practice test site

Practice tests created from previously administered NPPE questions, are available for optional purchase from the official NPPE practice test site: www.nppepractice.com

The NPPE practice tests offered through the website provide candidates preparing for the NPPE test questions to become familiar with the types of questions that will be asked on the actual NPPE.

All candidates that take the NPPE practice tests receive a detailed diagnostic report showing the syllabus areas of strength and weakness as well as a question-by-question level breakdown of which questions were answered correctly or incorrectly with rationales as to why the correct answer to each question is correct.

The practice tests are administered using the same computer-based testing platform as the actual NPPE ensuring that the testing interface and features are identical to the actual NPPE. This helps familiarize candidates with the look and feel of the NPPE to help reduce test anxiety. The practice test site provides a number of practice test resources for candidates preparing for the NPPE to help prepare to take the NPPE.
Registration process

Registering for the NPPE is done through each provincial association. For more information regarding registration in your jurisdiction contact your provincial association. For Alberta APEGA applicants, registration for the NPPE is done through the member self-service centre: https://members.apega.ca

Special accommodations

Special needs can be accommodated for those candidates who are taking the NPPE. Special accommodations can include:

- extended testing time
- extra breaks
- reduced-distraction testing rooms
- larger font (available to all candidate in the stock exam interface)

To submit a request for special accommodations, contact your provincial regulator when registering for the exam. For Alberta APEGA applicants contact: nppe@apega.ca

Supporting documentation from a health care or education specialist (written within the last three years) is required outlining:

- details of the disability
- details why special accommodations are needed for a computer-based exam based on the disability
- specifically, what accommodations are required due to the disability (e.g., one hour of extra time is required due to a visual impairment)

You must submit the special accommodation request and supporting information before the registration deadline. If received after the registration deadline, your exam will be rescheduled to the next session.

Test centre locations and virtual proctoring

Computer-based test centres to take the NPPE are located across Canada in every province and territory. As part of the registration process you will be asked to provide your preferred test centre location, and date/time to take the exam. Every effort is made to accommodate your preference on a first registered first accommodated basis. In some cases, due to space limitations or other factors your preferences may not be able to be accommodated but all candidates that register to take the exam in an administration window will be able to take the exam.
In cases where candidates would like to take the examination outside of Canada or in remote locations within Canada a virtual proctoring option exists. Virtual proctoring is a process where candidates take the NPPE via a computer with a webcam and a high-speed internet connection where they are proctored (supervised) by a virtual proctor via their computer as well as a physical proctor who must be a professional member of a Canadian or US jurisdiction. Virtual proctoring is not offered in areas where a physical test centre is available. For more information on virtual proctoring contact your provincial/territorial association. For Alberta APEGA applicants contact: nppe@apega.ca

Confirmation email process

Approximately three to four weeks prior to each exam administration date, you will receive a booking confirmation email from Yardstick with information regarding the exam location and confirming the exam date and time of the exam. It is important to check your spam folder to ensure that the email is not accidently filed into your spam. Should you not receive an email with this confirmation information at least two weeks prior to the examination date you should contact Yardstick immediately and request that a booking confirmation email be resent to you: testingsupport@getyardstick.com

Rescheduling, cancellations, refunds

Prior to the exam registration deadline, the exam may be cancelled and refunded or deferred to a different session. Once the exam deadline has passed, the exam fee is non-refundable. Deferrals can be requested until four weeks prior to the first exam date, in the event of a medical emergency or illness, death in the family, court appearance, or military duty. A deferral form can be requested through your provincial association. For Alberta APEGA applicants contact: nppe@apega.ca to obtain a deferral form.

Appropriate supporting documentation such as a doctor's note must be provided.

Exam day process

On exam day it is recommended to print out a copy of your confirmation email sent by Yardstick to take with you to the exam, as well as a piece of valid (non-expired) government issued photo ID. If your ID is expired you will not be permitted to take the exam and you will need to re-pay and re-register for the next examination session. The first and last name on your confirmation email and your ID must match exactly. If it does not you may not be permitted to take the NPPE. If you know in advance that the first and last name on your ID does not match the first and last name on your confirmation email you should contact Yardstick support immediately to let them know: testingsupport@getyardstick.com
Please read the booking confirmation email from Yardstick carefully as it specifies items that will be allowed or not allowed into the test centre (For example you may bring a clear water bottle, you cannot bring in a pencil or paper). Do not arrive late to the exam or you will not be admitted into the exam room. If you require any information about parking or directions ahead of time, please contact Yardstick, their contact information will be in the confirmation email you receive from them.

Once you have been admitted to the testing room and have been seated at your assigned computer the proctor will read instructions to you regarding the exam. Once the instructions have been read you will be able to start the exam and will take the exam using the test taking interface.

The Yardstick exam testing interface for the NPPE is designed to be highly intuitive and provides tools (e.g., bookmarking questions, writing notes on questions, ability to increase or decrease the font size, etc.) to assist candidates in taking the exam. Candidates who register for the NPPE will have free access several weeks prior to the exam administration date to become familiar with the NPPE test taking interface. A screenshot of the NPPE exam interface is shown below.

![NPPE Exam Interface Screenshot]

Once you have completed the NPPE on exam day you will be prompted to complete a short survey where you will be able to provide feedback on your exam experience.

**Exam security and exam irregularities**

The following situations may prompt the consideration of invalidating or canceling exam results even though you may have had no responsibility for the event in question:

- Unanticipated cancellation or interruption of testing or deviation from required testing procedures, due to a weather event or other external cause
• Possible advance access to exam content by one or more candidates
• Other disruptions or compromises to the normal testing process

If it is concluded that corrective action is warranted in one of these situations, you may be offered the option to either retest at no additional fee or to receive a full or partial refund of your registration fee provided that you did not cause and were not involved in the conduct that resulted in corrective action. These remedies are your exclusive remedies for such disruptions in testing and potential compromises. If you choose to retest, you must retake the entire exam to produce valid exam results. If you are found to have caused or been involved in the conduct that resulted in corrective action, the matter may be treated as an exam irregularity and all available remedies may be pursued as described elsewhere in this guide.

Fraud, deceit, dishonesty, unprofessional behavior, and other irregular behavior in connection with taking the NPPE are strictly prohibited. Irregular behavior includes but is not limited to the following: failing to work independently; impersonating another individual or permitting such impersonation (surrogate testing); possessing prohibited items; communicating with other examinees or any outside parties by way of cell phone, personal computer, the Internet, or any other means during an exam; disrupting other examinees; creating safety concerns; and possessing, reproducing, or disclosing nonpublic exam questions, answers, or other information regarding the content of the exam before, during, or after the exam administration. Evidence of an exam irregularity may be based on your performance on the exam, a report from an administrator or a third party, or other information. The proctor is authorized to take appropriate action to investigate, stop, or correct any observed or suspected irregular behavior, including discharging you from the test center and confiscating any prohibited devices or materials. You must cooperate fully in any investigation of a suspected irregularity. APEGAl reserves the right to pursue all available remedies for exam irregularities, including canceling scores and pursuing administrative, civil, and/or criminal remedies. If you are involved in an exam irregularity, the following may occur: invalidation of results, notification to your provincial association, forfeiture of exam fees, and restrictions on future testing. Some violations may incur additional consequences, to be pursued at the discretion of APEGAl.

Collusion detection analysis is performed after each exam administration to statistically identify pairs of candidates that may have copied answers. Candidates that are flagged as potentially having colluded will have their examination results withheld pending an investigation into the matter.

Applicants and Professional Members are obligated to report any test security issues they are aware of, whether they occurred before, during or after the exam. Incidents can be reported anonymously to examsecurity@apega.ca.

All candidates must read and digitally sign a candidate statement of understanding prior to taking the NPPE which outlines the expectations and rules for taking the exam.
2018/2019 exam administration dates

The 2018 NPPE administration dates are listed below.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Dates</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 5-7, 2018</td>
<td>December 21, 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 9-11, 2018</td>
<td>March 2, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11-13, 2018</td>
<td>May 4, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10-12, 2018</td>
<td>July 13, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 19, 20, 22, 2018</td>
<td>October 12, 2018</td>
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The 2019 NPPE administration dates are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Dates</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 28-30, 2019</td>
<td>December 14, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 8-10, 2019</td>
<td>March 1, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 10-12, 2019</td>
<td>May 3, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 9-11, 2019</td>
<td>July 12, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 25-27, 2019</td>
<td>October 11, 2019</td>
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Exam fees

Examination fees are charged by each participating association. Contact your provincial association, or visit the association website, to find out more information on NPPE pricing in your jurisdiction. For Alberta APEGA applicants the NPPE fees are listed in the member self-service centre.

Exam scoring and results

The NPPE conforms to all standards for psychometrically defensible high stakes testing as outlined in the “Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing”.

An equated score of 65 or greater is required to pass the exam. If you passed the exam, you will not receive detailed score information, only pass/fail results. Exam results are either pass or fail based on the number of correct answers (1 point per correct answer) you achieved on the operational (scored) questions on the exam. You are not penalized for incorrect answers. Statistical equating ensures that variations in exam difficulty from each session are taken into account to ensure fairness to all applicants taking an exam. ETS, one of the largest and well respected testing organizations in the world, has published a report that explains test equating in more detail: [https://www.ets.org/Media/Research/pdf/RR-10-29.pdf](https://www.ets.org/Media/Research/pdf/RR-10-29.pdf)
Each NPPE is scored with no predetermined percentage of candidates that should pass or fail. All exams are scored the same way. First-time takers and repeat takers are graded to the same standard.

All exams include a limited number of experimental items that are not scored and will not have an impact on your results. Including experimental unscored questions on exams is common practice in high-stakes testing and allows for the evaluation of the experimental items for potential use in future exams. These items are placed within the exam and are not identifiable as experimental questions.

Exam results are usually available approximately 2-3 weeks after the exam administration date and always prior to the next registration deadline date. Results are not provided over the phone or by email. Candidates that failed the exam are sent a mastery report which outlines the content areas of the exam where the candidate did well and areas where the candidate did not do well and should focus further study. An example mastery report is shown below.
Policies on the number of attempts that candidates have to pass the NPPE may vary by association. It is recommended that you contact your association for information regarding the number of attempts allowed for the NPPE. For Alberta APEGA applicants the attempt policies are listed on the APEGA website under Exam Results: https://www.apega.ca/apply/exams/national-professional-practice-exam-nppe/