

**RULES  
OF  
TENNESSEE BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
FOR LAND SURVEYORS**

**CHAPTER 0820-01  
RULES OF TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF  
EXAMINERS FOR LAND SURVEYORS**

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**0820-01-.01 MEETINGS.**

Meetings shall be held at such locations and times as designated by the Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors (hereinafter the Board). Special meetings may be held at the call of any two (2) members of the Board; provided that adequate public notice is given.

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-105(d). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 6, 1974; effective July 6, 1974. Repeal and new rule filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Amendment filed November 20, 1991; effective January 4, 1992.

**0820-01-.02 APPLICATIONS.**

- (1) An application for registration shall be accompanied by two (2) survey plats, each with a written survey legal description, and prepared by the applicant under the individual supervision of a registered land surveyor. Such plats must be recent enough to comply with all current applicable requirements of Chapter 0820-03 Standards of Practice and must bear the seal and signature of the supervising registered land surveyor.
- (2) If two (2) or more Board members recommend examination of an applicant for the Practice of Land Surveying (PS) or of Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FS) exam, such applicant is approved for the necessary examination, so long as part 3 doesn't apply.
- (3) An applicant may be requested to appear before the Board if two (2) or more Board members declare that such applicant does not appear to meet educational and/or experience requirements.
- (4) An applicant may appear at a regular meeting of the Board to discuss his or her qualifications, provided that he or she makes timely written request to the Administrator of the Board.
- (5) Where the Board has delegated authority to outside vendors to administer an examination, the applicant shall be responsible for supplying the vendor with the materials the vendor requires for examination.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 62-18-105(d) and 62-18-106(c). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 6, 1974; effective July 6, 1974. Repeal and new rule filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Amendment filed November 20, 1991; effective January 4, 1992. Amendments filed January 13, 2017; effective April 13, 2017. Amendments filed July 27, 2017; effective October 25, 2017.

**0820-01-.03 EXAMINATIONS.**

- (1) Examinations shall be conducted at such times and locations as determined by the Board, or by entities that the Board has delegated authority to conduct examinations for eligible applicants.
- (2) The minimum passing grade on the State Exam shall be seventy percent (70%) on each of the two (2) subparts thereof.
- (3) The minimum passing grade on the examinations administered by the National Counsel of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) shall be as established by NCEES.
  - (a) Applicant must comply with NCEES policies when taking the examinations administered by NCEES.
- (4) Any applicant who fails to appear for a scheduled Tennessee State Specific examination will be deemed to have failed such examination, unless the applicant:
  - (a) Notifies the Board in writing at least thirty (30) days in advance that the applicant wishes not to take the examination; or
  - (b) Shows good cause (such as illness or emergency) satisfactory to the Board for such failure to appear.
- (5) Any applicant whose failure to appear for a scheduled examination is excused under paragraph (4) of this rule may take the next scheduled examination without paying an additional examination fee.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 62-18-105 and 62-18-111. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 6, 1974; effective July 6, 1974. Repeal and new rule filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Amendments filed January 13, 2017; effective April 13, 2017. Amendments filed July 27, 2017; effective October 25, 2017.

**0820-01-.04 SYLLABI OF THE EXAMINATIONS.**

- (1) The Tennessee State Specific examination is designed to test the applicant's knowledge of land surveying and to ascertain if his or her judgment, experience, and technical knowledge are sufficient to safeguard life, health, and property. The examination will include but not be limited to the following subjects:
  - (a) Mathematics applied to land surveying: The applicant should be able to apply the principles of algebra, plane geometry, and trigonometry to land surveying problems of regular, irregular, and curvilinear boundaries.
  - (b) Fundamentals of surveying: The applicant should have a thorough knowledge of the legal aspects of land surveying and land surveying terms; consistency of angular and linear measurements, the interrelation of errors; steel tape corrections; instrument care and adjustment, the Tennessee Coordinate System; astronomical observations for azimuth; meridian or longitude and parallel of latitude; magnetic declination; magnetic variation; and magnetic bearings, true bearings, differential leveling; profile leveling; cross sections; cut sheets; the theory and use of stadia; topographic surveying; and control surveys by triangulation and traverse, for both ground and aerial surveys.
  - (c) Surveying of areas for their correction, determination and description: The applicant should be able to plot and write property descriptions, obtain property descriptions from legal records and lay out and monument such property; he or she should know the

(Rule 0820-01-.04, continued)

relative weights legally to be given monuments, distance, bearings, angles, and areas in the redetermination of old boundaries; he or she should be able to determine the directions of lines of a traverse by the deflection angles and by azimuths; he or she should be able to compute latitudes and departures, determine missing data from descriptions, adjust a traverse for closure error, compute coordinates of traverse points, and compute areas of irregular parcels including those bounded by curvilinear courses.

- (d) Surveying of areas for the conveyancing of land and for the establishment and reestablishment of internal and external land boundaries, and the plotting of land and subdivisions thereof: The applicant should be able to divide areas into smaller tracts; determine the internal and external boundaries thereof; determine missing data from descriptions; lay out and plot roads, street and sidewalks, topography, and contours setting forth road grades, and determining drainage on the surface, reducing topographic notes; interpolate contours from elevations; prepare topographic maps using ground surveys and aerial surveys with photogrammetric methods of compiling aerial photographs; and compute horizontal curves and vertical curves.
- (2) The Examination administered by NCEES shall be determined by NCEES. Applicants should contact NCEES to obtain information regarding the syllabus of NCEES examination.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 62-18-105 and 62-18-111. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 6, 2974; effective July 6, 1974. Repeal and new rule filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Amendments filed January 13, 2017; effective April 13, 2017. Amendments filed July 27, 2017; effective October 25, 2017.

**0820-01-.05 FEES.**

- (1) The following schedule of fees is hereby established for application, registration, renewal and late penalties:
  - (a) Application fee
    - 1. Tennessee State Specific.....\$200.00
    - 2. Professional Land Surveying in Training .....\$25.00
  - (b) Certificate of Registration.....\$100.00
  - (c) Biennial Renewal.....\$280.00
  - (d) Late Renewal Penalty (per month or fraction thereof).....\$20.00
- (2) A candidate shall schedule the Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FS), and/or the practice of Land Surveying (PS) examinations directly with NCEES and pay the examination fee directly to NCEES required for taking such examination.
- (3) A candidate shall schedule the Tennessee State Specific Examination with the Board's designated testing agency and pay an examination fee that will include any fees charged by the designated testing agency. The Board shall set the examination fee through choosing a contractor from a solicitation process pursuant to Tenn. Ann. Code § 12-3-501, et seq. and the Comprehensive Rules and Regulations of the Central Procurement Office found at Tenn. Comp. R. & Reg. Chapter 0690-03-01, or any other predecessor rules and laws of the State of Tennessee regarding the procurement of such contracts.

(Rule 0820-01-.05, continued)

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 62-18-105(d), 62-18-109, 62-18-113, 62-18-114, and 62-18-125. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 6, 1974; effective July 6, 1974. Repeal and new rule filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Amendment filed November 15, 1991; effective December 30, 1991. Amendment filed September 5, 2002; effective November 19, 2002. Amendments filed July 27, 2017; effective October 25, 2017.

**0820-01-.06 CIVIL PENALTIES.**

- (1) With respect to any person required to be registered by the Board as a land surveyor, the Board may, in addition to or in lieu of any other lawful disciplinary action, assess a civil penalty against such person for each separate violation of a statute, rule or order pertaining to the Board in accordance with the following schedule:

<b>Violation</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
(a) T.C.A. § 62-18-101(b)	\$100 - \$1000
(b) T.C.A. § 62-18-116(a)(1)(A)	\$500 - \$1000
(c) (B)	\$250 - \$1000
(d) (C)	\$50 - \$1000
(e) (D)	\$50 - \$1000
(f) T.C.A. § 62-18-119(b)	\$500 - \$1000
(g) (c)	\$500 - \$1000
(h) T.C.A. § 62-18-120(a)	\$500 - \$1000
(i) (b)	\$50 - \$1000
(j) T.C.A. § 62-18-124(d)	\$50 - \$1000
(k) Violation of Board Order	\$100 - \$1000

- (2) Each day of continued violation shall constitute a separate violation.
- (3) In determining the amount of any civil penalty to be assessed pursuant to this rule, the Board may consider such factors as the following:
  - (a) Whether the amount imposed will be a substantial economic deterrent to the violator;
  - (b) The circumstances leading to the violation;
  - (c) The severity of the violation and the risk of harm to the public;
  - (d) The economic benefits gained by the violator as a result of non-compliance; and
  - (e) The interest of the public.

(Rule 0820-01-.06, continued)

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 56-1-308, 62-18-105(d), and 62-18-115. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed June 6, 1974; effective July 6, 1974. Repeal and new rule filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Amendment filed November 20, 1991; effective January 4, 1992.

**0820-01-.07 CERTIFICATION FOR MILITARY MEMBERS AND SPOUSES.**

- (1) An applicant for licensure meeting the requirements of T.C.A. § 4-3-1304(d)(1) may:
  - (a) Be issued a license upon application and payment of all fees required for issuance of a regular license of the same type if, in the opinion of the Board, the requirements for certification or licensure of such other state are substantially equivalent to the requirements in Tennessee; or
  - (b) Be issued a temporary license as described herein if the Board determines the applicant's license is not substantially equivalent, pursuant to subsection (a), but that the applicant could satisfy additional requirements, including, but not limited to, education, training, or experience ("applicant's additional requirements"). The Board may issue a temporary license upon application and payment of all fees required for issuance of a regular license of the same type which shall allow such person to perform services as if fully licensed for a set period of time that is determined to be sufficient for the applicant to complete applicant's additional requirements.
    1. After completion of an applicant's additional requirements and providing the Board with sufficient proof thereof as may be required, a full license may be issued to the applicant with the issuance date being the date of the initial issuance of the temporary license and an expiration date as though the full license had been issued at that time, provided that no compelling reason causes the Board to withhold or deny the issuance of the full license.
    2. A temporary license shall be issued for a period of no greater than the length of a renewal cycle for a full license.
    3. A temporary license shall expire upon the date set by the Board and shall not be subject to renewal except through the completion of applicant's additional requirements, as required by the Board or by an extension of time granted for good cause by the Board.
    4. Should an extension to a temporary license cause the license to be in effect longer than the renewal cycle of a permanent license then the holder of the temporary license shall file a renewal application with such documentation and fees, as are required by the Board for all other renewals of a permanent license of the same type.
- (2) Military education, training, or experience completed by a person described at T.C.A. § 4-3-1304(d)(1)(B)(ii)(a)-(c) shall be accepted toward the qualifications, in whole or in part, to receive any license issued by the Board if such military education, training, or experience is determined by the Board to be substantially equivalent to the education, training, or experience required for the issuance of such license.
- (3) Any licensee who is a member of the national guard or a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States called to active duty whose license expires during the period of activation shall be eligible to be renewed upon the licensee being released from active duty without payment of late fees or other penalties.

(Rule 0820-01-.07, continued)

- (a) The license of a person described in paragraph (3) shall be eligible for renewal pursuant to this subsection for one (1) year from the person's release from active duty.
- (b) Any person renewing under paragraph (3) shall provide the Board such supporting documentation evidencing activation as may be required by the Board prior to renewal of any license pursuant to this subsection.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-3-1304, 62-18-106, 62-18-109, and 62-18-110. **Administrative History:** New rule filed January 13, 2017; effective April 13, 2017.

**0820-01-.08 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 4-3-1304, 62-18-105, 62-18-106, 62-18-109, and 62-18-110. **Administrative History:** (For history prior to January 1986, see pg. 1). Repeal filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Rule was previously numbered 0820-01-.07, but was renumbered 0820-01-.08 with the addition of a new rule 0820-01-.07.

**0820-01-.09 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-105. **Administrative History:** (For history prior to January 1986, see pg. 1). Repeal filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Rule was previously numbered 0820-01-.08, but was renumbered 0820-01-.09 with the addition of a new rule 0820-01-.07.

**0820-01-.10 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-105. **Administrative History:** (For history prior to January 1986, see pg. 1). Repeal filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Rule was previously numbered 0820-01-.09, but was renumbered 0820-01-.10 with the addition of a new rule 0820-01-.07.

**0820-01-.11 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-105. **Administrative History:** (For history prior to January 1986, see pg. 1). Repeal filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Rule was previously numbered 0820-01-.10, but was renumbered 0820-01-.11 with the addition of a new rule 0820-01-.07.

**0820-01-.12 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-105. **Administrative History:** (For history prior to January 1986, see pg. 1). Repeal filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Rule was previously numbered 0820-01-.11, but was renumbered 0820-01-.12 with the addition of a new rule 0820-01-.07.

**0820-01-.13 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-105. **Administrative History:** (For history prior to January 1986, see pg. 1). Repeal filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Rule was previously numbered 0820-01-.12, but was renumbered 0820-01-.13 with the addition of a new rule 0820-01-.07.

**0820-01-.14 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-105. **Administrative History:** (For history prior to January 1986, see pg. 1). Repeal filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Rule was previously numbered 0820-01-.13, but was renumbered 0820-01-.14 with the addition of a new rule 0820-01-.07.

**0820-01-.15 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-105. **Administrative History:** (For history prior to January 1986, see pg. 1). Repeal filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Rule was previously numbered 0820-01-.14, but was renumbered 0820-01-.15 with the addition of a new rule 0820-01-.07.

**0820-01-.16 REPEALED.**

**Authority:** T.C.A. § 62-18-105. **Administrative History:** (For history prior to January 1986, see pg. 1). Repeal filed November 18, 1985; effective February 12, 1986. Rule was previously numbered 0820-01-.15, but was renumbered 0820-01-.16 with the addition of a new rule 0820-01-.07.