

MVNU Engineering Pre-Licensure Disclosure

To use the PE seal, engineers must complete several steps to ensure their competency.

Rule 1: Earn a four-year degree in engineering from an accredited engineering program.

*MVNU is an ABET-Accredited Institution

State licensing boards typically approve engineering programs accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. (ABET), and the Canadian Accreditation Board (CAD), but may approve others as having equal standing. State board approval of an engineering educational program is often based on ABET accreditation.

Exception: In some states like Alabama, state board has waived the requirement of an ABET-accredited degree; so the person will have to work for 6 years under a PE instead of 4 years (Rule #4).

Rule 2: Pass the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam

Exception: A few states permit individuals without degrees who have four or more years of engineering experience to take the fundamentals of engineering examination. However, the number of states permitting non-degreed individuals to take the FE examination is dwindling.

Rule 3: Complete four years of progressive engineering experience under a PE

Rule 4: Pass the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam

MVNU's engineering program is ABET accredited (Rule #1), so students who enroll in the program can sit for the FE exam. Provided the student passes (Rule #2), he/she will have to practice as an EIT (Engineer in training) under a PE for 4 years (Rule #3). Passing the PE exam (Rule #4) guarantees that the engineer is licensed.

However, if the engineer wants to practice in another state, he/she must be licensed separately in every state in which he or she practices because licensure is regulated at the state level. If the engineer's current PE license is in good standing, typically obtaining a new license in another state is as simple as filling out some paperwork and an application. This is considered licensure by comity. This just means that most states allow a licensed professional engineer in one state to become licensed in another by meeting all the application requirements. They must meet the same requirements as those that initially apply in that state. But instead of having to take the NCEES PE exam over again, the results, along with all other application components, will be accepted and processed to allow licensure in the state given that the information meets their state board requirements.

If, however, the engineer has received the license on different standards (just as in Alabama), it may be more difficult to become licensed by comity in another state. Some states (e.g. Ohio) allow reciprocity, which means a state will automatically recognize a license held in another state.

As a general rule, a professional engineer who has (1) an approved four-year engineering degree, (2) four years of qualifying engineering experience, and who successfully completes (3) the eight-hour Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Examination and (4) the eight-hour Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) Examination will be able to get licensed in virtually every state without difficulty.

(<https://www.nspe.org/resources/licensure/resources/licensure-faqs>)