

# Candidate Information Bulletin

## State of California

PROMETRIC



### Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists

**PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGIST CALIFORNIA SPECIFIC EXAM (CSE), CERTIFIED ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST (CEG), CERTIFIED HYDROGEOLOGIST (CHG), AND PROFESSIONAL GEOPHYSICIST (PGP) EXAMINATIONS**

The California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (the Board) has contracted with Prometric LLC to conduct the examinations at Prometric test centers throughout North America. This bulletin explains the process of taking the California geologic examinations at a Prometric test center.

The CSE examination is offered twice each year. The CEG, CHG, and PGp examinations are offered once a year. The next examination administration is:

Examination Titles	Examination Dates	Appointment Scheduling Deadlines
CSE	March 9, 2021	February 17, 2021

### Candidate Information Bulletin

It is recommended that you print out this bulletin and bring a copy with you to the testing center. It is important that you read and understand these instructions before the examination, as you will be required to sign a statement that certifies that you have read and will abide by these instructions. The steps below summarize the process.

#### *To Take an Examination*

- 1 Submit your application, all required documentation and fees to the Board.
- 2 Once you are approved by the Board, you will receive an Authorization to Test (ATT) letter from the Board via email and/or U.S. mail.
- 3 Schedule an appointment to take your examination. The easiest way to schedule is online at:  
<https://www.prometric.com/test-takers/BPELSG>
- 4 Present the required identification — see Page 3.

#### *To Get Answers Not Provided in this Bulletin*

##### **For Questions about Examination Scheduling:**

Prometric LLC  
7941 Corporate Drive  
Nottingham, MD 21236  
Phone: 800.864.5316

<https://www.prometric.com/test-takers/BPELSG>

##### **For Questions about Applications and Licensing:**

California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists  
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95833-2944  
Phone: 916.263.2222 / Toll-Free Phone: 866.780.5370  
Fax: 916.263.2246  
[www.bpelsg.ca.gov](http://www.bpelsg.ca.gov)

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## ***Scheduling Your Exam***

After you submit your application and fees to the Board and are approved to take an examination, the Board will send you an Authorization to Test (ATT) letter. Once you receive your ATT letter, you **must** contact Prometric to schedule an appointment to take the examination. To take the examination on the date provided in your ATT letter, you must contact Prometric to schedule an appointment to take the examination by February 17, 2021. You may schedule your examination online or by phone.

### **Online Scheduling**

Schedule your examination online at any time by accessing Prometric's Internet Registration Service at:

<https://www.prometric.com/test-takers/BPELSG>

### **Scheduling by Phone**

You may schedule your examination by calling 800.864.5316 between 5 a.m. and 6 p.m. (PST), Monday through Friday. At the end of the call, you will be provided with a number confirming your appointment. Record and keep this confirmation number for your records. You will need it to re-schedule, cancel or change your appointment.

### **Test Centers**

The examinations will be administered by computer at Prometric test centers throughout North America. A list of test centers where you may take the examination, addresses, and driving directions are located at:

<https://www.prometric.com/test-takers/BPELSG>

### **Special Test Considerations**

**ADA Accommodation.** If you require testing accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please call Prometric at 888.226.9406 to obtain an Accommodation Request form. Reasonable testing accommodations are provided to allow examinees with documented disabilities recognized under the ADA an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge.

Please submit professional documentation of your disability with your form to help us determine the necessary testing arrangements. Thirty days advance notice is required for all special testing arrangements.



**Note** You must request special testing accommodations for each examination administration cycle, even if none of the information has changed since the last request. **Do not** contact the Board to request special accommodations. You must contact Prometric.

**ESL note.** If English is your second language, please note that a language barrier is not considered a disability.

**Left Handed Mouse Request.** In order to fulfill a left handed mouse request, candidates need to contact the **Prometric Test Accommodations department by calling 800.967.1139, option 2.** Advocates are available Monday-Friday from 8am-6pm (EST). Please note that a left handed mouse request is not associated with a disability.

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## ***Taking Your Examination***

Your examination will be administered by computer at a Prometric test center using Prometric's user-friendly, Microsoft Windows®-based, computerized testing system. Testing centers are located throughout North America. Before you start the examination, you will receive a personalized tutorial to the testing system. The tutorial is not included as part of the testing time.

### **Arrival**

You should arrive at least **30 minutes** before your scheduled examination appointment in order to verify your identification and allow time for you to sign in. If you arrive late, you will not be admitted to the test center and will forfeit the application and examination fees.

### **Identification Required**

You will not be admitted without proper identification that is **current**. Identification will only be accepted if it meets **all** of the following criteria:

- Issued by a state or federal government agency including military IDs, other states in the United States, and foreign countries.
- Contains your photograph, visible signature and printed (typed) name.
- Has not expired.



**Important** Student or employee identification cards and government-issued IDs that do NOT contain a photo and visible signature will not be accepted. Failure to provide appropriate identification at the time of your examination is considered a missed appointment. You will not be admitted to the test center and will not be allowed to take the examination.

### **Examination Content**

Test plans, sample questions and reference lists that may be helpful for studying are located at <https://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/applicants/exam.shtml>.

### **Reference Materials**

You are not permitted to bring any reference materials into the testing room.

### **Testing Aids**

Examinees are allowed to bring the following approved items: engineer's ruler (scale), triangles (45 and 30/60/90 degree), a rolling ruler, ruler, and a protractor.

### **Calculator Usage**

You are limited to two (2) calculators in the exam testing area. The calculators that are allowed to be used for the Board's state-specific examinations include any handheld calculator that does not meet the exceptions listed:

The use of any calculating/computing device having a QWERTY keypad arrangement similar to a typewriter or a keyboard during the examination is strictly prohibited. The following devices are also prohibited, whether or not they have a QWERTY keypad function: Smartwatches (i.e. Apple watch and Fitbit or similar), palmtop, laptop, handheld or desktop computers, data collectors, personal data assistants (PDA), organizers, and tablet devices. Calculators with other alphanumeric keypads are acceptable. Notwithstanding the above, the Board or its designees have the right to prohibit the use of any device that, in the opinion of the Board, may pose a threat to examination security.

It is your responsibility to determine if your calculator meets the above criteria. Board staff or Prometric will not confirm whether your calculator is acceptable prior to your examination.

Please know that you could be required to clear your calculator memory upon exiting the examination. However, you will not be required to clear your calculator memory before you take the examination.

### **Scratch Paper and Pencils**

You will be provided with two (2) scratch paper booklets and pencils to use during the examination. You **may not** bring your own scratch paper to the examination. The test center administrator (TCA) will collect all scratch paper (used and unused) upon completion of the examination. Removing scratch paper from the test center is considered an act of misconduct.

The size of the workspace area at Prometric test centers is limited. The approximate desk dimensions are 48" in length and 24" in width. You may consider moving the keyboard behind the monitor to allow for a larger workspace to use your scratch paper and tools.

### **Examination Format**

You will have three (3) hours to complete the CSE, CEG, or CHG, and four (4) hours to complete the PGp. The time remaining for your examination is displayed in the upper right-hand corner of the computer screen. Once the examination has started time cannot be stopped if you choose to leave the testing area.

Exhibits will be accessible through the computerized testing system, if required.

### **Examination Security**

Failure to follow oral and written instructions and/or conduct that results in a violation of security or disrupts the administration of the examination could result in your removal from the test center, voiding of your examination results, and forfeiting your application and examination fees (See California Code of Regulations section 3035). Conduct which jeopardizes the integrity of the examination is a misdemeanor and in violation of Section 123 of the Business and Professions Code and may result in the imposition of a fine up to \$10,000.

### **Emergency Closings**

Severe weather or an emergency could require canceling the scheduled examination. If this occurs, Prometric will attempt to contact you by phone or email, however, you may check for testing site closures online at <https://www.prometric.com/closures>. If the site is closed, your examination will be rescheduled.

## Test Center Regulations

To ensure that all examinees are tested under equally favorable conditions, the following regulations and procedures will be observed at each test center.

- 1 You will be continuously monitored by video, physical walk-throughs and the observation window during your test.
- 2 **You will not** be admitted without proper identification, and it **must be current**. (See "Identification required" on Page 3).
- 3 You are required to sign out on the test center roster each time you leave the test room. You must also sign back in and show your ID to the TCA in order to be re-admitted to the test room.
- 4 You are **prohibited** from communicating, publishing, reproducing, or transmitting any part of your test, in any form or by any means, verbal or written, for any purpose.
- 5 You **must not** talk to other examinees or refer to their screens, testing materials, or written notes in the test room or on break.
- 6 You are **allowed** to bring soft earplugs or center-supplied tissues into the test room.
- 7 Any clothing or jewelry items allowed to be worn in the test room must remain on your person at all times. Removed clothing or jewelry items must be stored in your locker.
- 8 You **must not** bring any personal/ unauthorized items into the testing room. Such items include but are not limited to outerwear, hats, food, drinks, purses, briefcases, notebooks, pagers, watches, cellular telephones, recording devices, unauthorized calculating devices, and photographic equipment. Weapons are not allowed at any Prometric test center. You will be asked to empty and turn your pockets inside out prior to every entry into the test room to confirm that you have no prohibited items.
- 9 You will be scanned with a metal detector wand prior to every entry into the test room. If you refuse, you cannot test.
- 10 You **must** return all materials issued to you by the TCA at the end of your test.
- 11 You are not allowed to use any electronic devices or phones during breaks.
- 12 Repeated or lengthy departures from the test room for unscheduled breaks will be reported by the TCA to Prometric and to the Board for possible further investigation.
- 13 If you need access to an item stored in a test center locker during a break such as food or medicine, you must inform the TCA **before** you retrieve the item. You are not allowed to access any prohibited item (as defined by the Board).
- 14 You must conduct yourself in a civil manner at all times when on the premises of the test center. Exhibiting abusive behavior towards the TCA, or any other staff member of the test center, may result in criminal prosecution.
- 15 To protect the privacy of all testers, the TCA will neither confirm nor deny if any particular individual is present or scheduled at the test center.
- 16 Persons not scheduled to take a test are not permitted to wait in the test center.
- 17 You **must not** write on anything other than the designated scratch paper.
- 18 You **must not** view or copy another examinee's material and or monitor.
- 19 You **must not** share calculators or any other examination materials with other examinees during your test.
- 20 You **must not** attend this examination only to review or audit test materials.



**Important** Failure to follow any of these security procedures may result in the disqualification of your examination. Prometric reserves the right to audio and videotape any examination session.

Complete Test Center Regulations can be located at:

<https://www.prometric.com/en-us/for-test-takers/prepare-for-test-day/documents/TestCenterRegulations.pdf>

Prometric is committed to protecting the value of your credential and the intellectual property of your test sponsor. As such, during the check-in process all eyeglasses, jewelry, and other accessories must be inspected before you enter the testing room to ensure they do not violate security protocol. Jewelry outside of wedding and engagement rings is prohibited. Please do not wear other jewelry to the test center. Hair accessories are subject to inspection. Please refrain from using ornate clips, combs, barrettes, headbands, and other hair accessories as you may be prohibited from wearing them into the testing room and asked to store them in your locker. Violation of security protocol may result in confiscation of prohibited devices and filing a report with local authorities.

**If Questions Arise.** Test center administrators are not allowed to answer any questions pertaining to the examination content. Select the **best answer** of the choices provided. Try to answer every question. There is **no penalty** for an incorrect answer and every question has equal weight. If you are not sure of the correct answer but have some knowledge of the question and are able to eliminate one or more choices as wrong, your chance of getting the right answer is improved, and it will be to your advantage to answer such a question. Therefore, you should examine the answer choices given and select the answer that seems best even though it may not be completely satisfactory to you, and, if necessary, guess.

**Copyrighted Questions.** All test questions are the property of the State of California and are protected by copyright. Federal law provides severe civil and criminal penalties for the unauthorized reproduction, distribution, or exhibition of copyrighted materials.

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## ***Your Examination Results***

At the end of your examination, you will receive a notice indicating that you have completed the examination. The Board will post the release date of the examination results on their website at [www.bpelsg.ca.gov](http://www.bpelsg.ca.gov). Once the examination scoring is finalized, the Board will send your examination results.

**Do not** contact the Board for your results. Results **will not be** given over the phone.

In order for you to receive your results, your address and email address must be current (30 days) prior to the release date. All address and email address changes must be submitted directly to the Board's online address change form on their website at [www.bpelsg.ca.gov](http://www.bpelsg.ca.gov).

**Score interpretation.** The Board will set the passing score to correspond to a minimum level of knowledge deemed acceptable by those persons who will be practicing as a Professional Geologist, Certified Engineering Geologist, Certified Hydrogeologist or Professional Geophysicist.

**Pass.** If you pass, your result report will only show a passing designation. It will not show a score. All score values above passing indicate that an examinee is qualified – not *how* qualified.

**Fail.** If you fail, you will receive a diagnostic report intended to help identify areas of strength and weakness for further study prior to retaking the examination. If you fail the examination, you must retake it in its entirety. For additional information regarding the diagnostic report, visit the Board's web page at

[https://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/applicants/diagnostic\\_reports.pdf](https://www.bpelsg.ca.gov/applicants/diagnostic_reports.pdf).

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## ***Candidate Feedback***

Prometric's goal is to provide a quality exam and pleasant testing experience for every candidate. If you have comments or feedback about how Prometric can enhance or improve the candidate testing experience, Prometric would like to hear from you. Prometric provides an opportunity for general comments at the end of the examination. We will review all comments and feedback submitted in this manner, but you will not receive a direct response.