



MINNESOTA BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE ■ ENGINEERING ■ LAND SURVEYING LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ■ GEOSCIENCE ■ INTERIOR DESIGN

Revised Rules Effective December 4, 2023

A major responsibility of the Board is to write rules that ensure individuals licensed or certified by the Board are qualified by current standards to practice their professions. The rules also must allow the Board to fulfill its mission to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

Rulemaking is a formal process, with many required steps and reviews by multiple parties before adoption and implementation. For more on that process, visit the Board's rulemaking page: mn.gov/aelslagid/rulemaking.html.

The rule modifications from a package initiated in 2021 are effective as of **December 4, 2023**. The modifications make clarifications and improvements throughout *Minnesota Rules*, Chapter 1800.

This document highlights some of those changes; however, remember that it is your responsibility as a licensee or certificate holder to understand and comply with all rules and statutes governing your license/certificate. These are publicly accessible in their official version on the website of the Office of the Revisor, available via this shortened URL: <http://bit.ly/MNRules1800>. ■

HIGHLIGHTS

- All professions now have a path for acceptance of foreign degrees. See each profession for specifics.
- Fundamentals of Soil Science candidates now register direct with CSSE/SSSA to sit, rather than first applying to the Board.
- Landscape architects applicants have additional education options for their path to licensure.
- The cost of an application for licensure by comity is now the same as that for initial applicants: Reduced from \$100 to \$75.
- The late filing fee for renewals going forward is a flat \$30 (was a maximum of \$60 per period).
- The Board removed obsolete and so potentially confusing rule items throughout the chapter. These mainly involved items written as if the Board proctored examinations it no longer proctors.
- The Board made “plain language” changes to various sections, including the certifications statements on license applications and renewals.

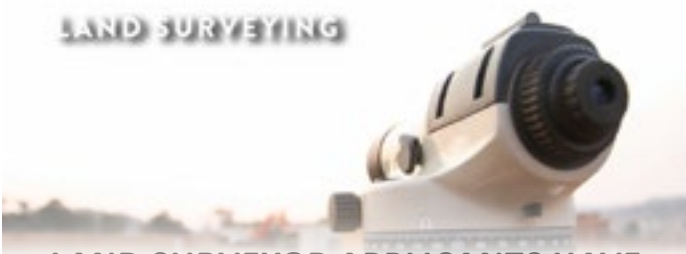




CLARIFICATIONS MADE AND OBSOLETE REFERENCES REMOVED FROM ARCHITECT INITIAL LICENSE RULES

A reference to an obsolete Minnesota experience program and other structural changes were made to parts 1800.1000-1800.1200, but no substantive changes were made to this section.

The Board is currently pursuing statutory changes to Architect comity licensure that cannot be addressed in rule. Statute supersedes rule; rule does not have the authority to contravene statute.



LAND SURVEYOR APPLICANTS HAVE FOREIGN DEGREE OPTION

Throughout parts 1800.3505-3750, plain language edits were made. Obsolete rule edits and clarifications to how examinations are administered were also made. None of these changes have any substantive affect on applicants or examinations.

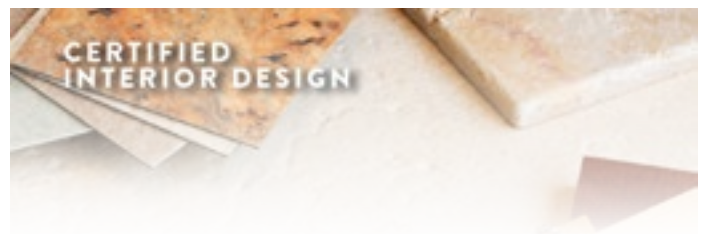
The one substantive change was the addition of a foreign degree option for applicants. An applicant holding a degree from a foreign college or university must have their education evaluated for equivalency by NCEES Credentials Evaluations and submit the evaluation with the application.



CLARIFICATIONS MADE TO EIT QUALIFICATIONS AND TO LICENSURE AND EXAM APPLICATION EXPIRATION/ VALIDITY FOR ENGINEERING RULES

Throughout parts 1800.2500-2900, the changes are fundamentally minor (no changes to requirements for licensure), and are primarily plain language updates or obsolete reference removals. However, the following will still be of interest to affected parties:

- An applicant for a Minnesota Engineer-in-Training (EIT) certificate must have sat for the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam as a Minnesota candidate. (Note: An EIT is not in itself a requirement for licensure as a professional engineer.)
- An FE exam applicant seeking an EIT certificate must provide evidence of meeting the education requirements in part 1800.2500, subpart 2a, within one year of passing the exam or the FE application will expire. To obtain the EIT, if desired, the applicant must submit an online EIT application.



CID CERTIFICATE APPLICANTS HAVE FOREIGN DEGREE OPTION

A foreign degree evaluation option was added to part 1800.2100, Subp. 2(A)(1). Otherwise, the changes are structural or housekeeping (for instance, removing a reference to the exam being “written”) and are not substantive.



NEW EDUCATION PATHS TO LICENSURE FOR INITIAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Those interested in pursuing landscape architecture as a profession as well as their mentors and supervisors are encouraged to review thoroughly the changes to part 1800.1500. In summary those include:

- Two new education “categories” beyond an LAAB- or LAAC-accredited masters [part 1800.1500, Subp. 3(A), item 1] or bachelors [part 1800.1500, Subp. 3(A), item 2] degree:
 - Item 3: Graduation from a non-LAAB or non-LAAC accredited baccalaureate curriculum in landscape architecture; an NAAB-accredited degree architecture program; or an architectural, civil, or structural engineering degree program that is EAC-ABET accredited;
 - Item 4: Graduation from any baccalaureate degree program from an accredited institution of higher education, or a two-year associates or certificate program in landscape architecture.
- Applicants with foreign degrees must have their education evaluated to determine if it is equivalent to items 3 or 4 (see part 1800.1500, Subp. 3(B)).
- The number of years of experience required for licensure vary depending upon the education earned (from items 1-4 above).
- The elements of experience comprising qualifying experience in part 1800.1500, Subp. 6, have not so much changed as been regrouped from the previous 12 to now 4 categories matching those in CLARB Model Law.



NEW DIRECT REGISTRATION PATH FOR FUNDAMENTALS OF SOIL SCIENCE; UPDATES TO SOIL SCIENCE AND GEOLOGY EXAM ADMINISTRATION AND APPLICATION VALIDITY

Responding to changes in the administration of the exams for both geoscience disciplines, the Board made significant structural revisions to parts 1800.3910-3930. No changes were made to the requirements for licensure for either profession; however, the procedure for sitting for the Fundamentals of Soil Science (FSS) exam and obtaining a Soil Scientist-in-Training (SSIT) certificate have changed:

- Applicants for the FSS exam may now register directly with CSSE/SSSA. (Note: This applies to the FSS exam only; those wanting to sit for the professional (PSS) exam and be licensed must apply to the Board first).
- To obtain an SSIT from Minnesota, the person must meet the requirements in 1800.3930, Subp. 1a:
 - Have sat for the FSS exam and passed as a Minnesota candidate (selected Minnesota as their jurisdiction when they registered with CSSE/SSSA);
 - Met the education requirement under part 1800.3910, subpart 5, item B; and
 - Applied for the SSIT using the Board’s online application. (Note: An SSIT is not in itself a requirement for licensure as a professional soil scientist.)



**MISCELLANEOUS
CHANGES TO
PARTS 1800.0050
THROUGH 1800.0900**

Numerous changes were made to the first parts of Chapter 1800, due to changes in exam administration over the past several years, including who proctors, who sends the NTS (notice to sit), and who sets exam center policies. While the changes were necessary for the rules to reflect current practice, none (except as noted in other sections of this document) have any substantiative impact or impose new requirements on examinees, applicants, or licensees/certificate holders.

**COMITY APPLICATION
FEE REDUCTION FOR A
LICENSED PROFESSIONS**

The comity application fee in part 1800.0500, Subp. 7(A), has been reduced from \$100 to \$75. This change applies to all the licensed profession regulated by the Board.

**DELAYED (LATE)
FILING FEE REDUCTION
FOR RENEWALS AND
REINSTATEMENTS**

The late filing fee in part 1800.0500, Subp. 4, has been reduced from a maximum of \$60 to a maximum of \$30.

Note this change has no impact on discipline taken for unlicensed practice. Individuals are reminded to keep their license/certificate current and avoid any late fee if they intend to practice or hold out as licensed/certified in Minnesota.

