



Ready Reference C-7 Fundamentals of Engineering Exam

What is the FE?

The Fundamentals of Engineering exam tests almost everything you have learned during college, from Calculus, to your senior level courses. This eight-hour exam includes a general morning session and an afternoon session with separate modules by engineering discipline. Examinees select the module that corresponds with their major. After passing the F.E. exam, you are known as an engineer intern. After obtaining the engineer intern status, you are well on your way to becoming a licensed professional engineer!

Why should I take the FE?

Taking the F.E. and P.E. is not a requirement to practice as an engineer. So why should you go through the hassle of taking the exam? While it may not be required for everything, obtaining your professional engineer license IS required to do things such as stamping and sealing designs, bidding for government contracts, owning a firm, consulting, offering expert witness testimony, and advertising services to the public.

Engineers who do not perform the above functions can also benefit from holding a professional license. As a P.E., you are likely to reach managerial positions more quickly and earn a higher salary than your peers. The P.E. acts as a standard that shows you have met a series of stringent professional requirements and are a member of an elite subset of engineers.

How do I sign up for the FE?

The exams usually fall in October and April. Plan on beginning the registration process 4-5 months prior to the exam date. You must first apply to the Oklahoma board for approval to sit for the exam in Oklahoma. Follow these quick steps to begin the approval process.

1. Visit <http://www.ok.gov/pels/>
2. Click on applications and forms> application forms> engineer intern application
3. Read the information and download a PDF of the form.
4. Fill out the form and follow the mailing and payment instructions provided on the form.

After the board has notified you of your approval, you will be prompted to register online with NCEES to reserve your seat for the exam. NCEES will e-mail you 2-3 weeks before the exam with a link to download and print your exam authorization notice. Read it carefully. You will be required to present this document along with a valid, government-issued photo ID upon arrival at the exam site.

How do I study for the FE?

Studying may seem like a daunting task. Here are some helpful tips!

- Think of the FE as a separate class! Set aside as much time for it as you would any other engineering course.
- Be sure to have an FE Supplied-Reference Handbook. It is the same book you will get to use during the exam. Become very familiar with it.
- Purchase an FE online Practice Exam. Found on NCEES.org for around \$32.00. This practice exam will give you a good feel for the type of questions, length of questions, and how much you actually remember from the classes you took three years ago!
- ATTEND review sessions! OSU holds free review sessions throughout the semester. They are typically held twice per week, covering a different topic each day. Any questions you may have about a particular subject can be answered here. Even if you have no questions in particular, these sessions will help to jog your memory about what certain classes may have taught you.
- Watch lecture sessions on-line at <http://de.ceat.okstate.edu/index.php/fe-reviews>. CEAT Distance Education provides notes over these lectures and contact information should you have further questions.

What are the passing rates on the FE?

Wonder what your chance of passing such a gruesome test might be? Here are the pass rates for the April 2010 F.E. exam:

| <u>Exam Module</u> | <u>First Time Takers</u> | <u>Repeat Takers</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Chemical | 86% | 46% |
| Civil | 75% | 33% |
| Electrical | 72% | 27% |
| Environmental | 82% | 38% |
| Industrial | 69% | 33% |
| Mechanical | 83% | 34% |
| Other Disciplines | 78% | 32% |

If you have heard of the F.E., you may also have heard of the P.E., or, Principles and Practice of Engineering Exam. This exam is more specialized, testing knowledge and skills learned through work experience in a particular engineering discipline.

The F.E. is usually taken in the senior year of college, and the P.E. is typically taken after at least four years of work experience.