

K-State Architectural Engineering Students

Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) Exam Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I take the FE exam?

Professional Engineer (PE) and Structural Engineer (SE) licensure are the engineering profession's highest standards of competence, a symbol of achievement and assurance of quality. Taking and passing the FE exam is an important step towards PE/SE licensure. Most K-State ARE employers expect students to have passed the FE exam before they graduate and start an entry level position.

When should I take the FE exam?

We recommend you take the FE exam by the end of the semester before you graduate. This will allow you to complete your core engineering classes while also giving you an extra semester to retake the exam in case you don't pass.

Where do I take the FE exam?

The FE exam is only available through NCEES-approved Pearson VUE test centers. Test centers are available in locations across the country including Kansas City, Topeka, and Wichita. K-State has an approved test center in Holton Hall. Applicants must register for the exam via the NCEES website (www.ncees.org).

The Kansas State Board of Technical Professions does not require examinees to submit an application or an additional fee prior to registering with NCEES and scheduling an exam. Learn more about the exam, exam registration, content, practice tests and more on the NCEES website.

When can I make an appointment to take the FE exam?

The FE exam is offered by appointment year round during testing windows in the months of January-March, April-June, July-September, and October-December. Appointments with the K-State test center are available Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm, along with a few Saturdays.

Appointments should be scheduled outside of your class times, as you will not be excused from class to take the exam. We encourage students to schedule their exam over one of the academic breaks or during the first part of a semester before their academic load becomes too intense.

There is no required lead time for scheduling an appointment – register as far in advance as possible for the best scheduling availability. Examinees will be provided one attempt per testing window and no more than three attempts in a 12-month approval period, beginning with the examinee's first attempt. Examinees who require more than three attempts or allow their 12-month approval period to expire must contact the board directly to obtain additional approvals.

What is the format of the FE exam?

The FE is entirely computer based and contains 110 multiple-choice, point and click, drag and drop and fill in the blank questions. The exam appointment time is 6 hours long, which includes a nondisclosure agreement, tutorial (8 minutes), the exam (5 hours and 20 minutes), and a scheduled break (25 minutes). Learn more at the NCEES YouTube channel:

(<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiZ0hjHNI9jzR8RW69ndkjlG8bzj0ew->)

Which FE exam should I take?

The FE is offered in seven disciplines: Chemical, Civil, Electrical and Computer, Environmental, Industrial, Mechanical, and Other Disciplines. We recommend ARE students take the Other Disciplines exam as its content matches the ARE curriculum much better than any of the other discipline options. The specifications for each exam are available on the NCEES website. The following courses from the Science and Engineering Electives lists are recommended for greater preparation for success on the Other Disciplines FE: CHEM 230 - Chemistry 2 (Sci), IMSE 530 – Engineering Economic Analysis (Engg), STAT 703 – Introduction to Statistical Methods for the Sciences (Engg), ECE 519 – Electric Circuits and Controls (Engg), ME 512 – Dynamics (Engg), and ME 571 – Fluid Mechanics (Engg).

How much does it cost?

An exam fee of \$225 is payable directly to NCEES during the registration process. You may cancel your exam as long as you do so more than 48 hours in advance of your scheduled appointment. Cancellations will be eligible for a refund of the NCEES registration fee less a \$50 administrative fee.

What reference materials are allowed during the exam?

The NCEES FE Reference Handbook (<http://ncees.org/exams/study-materials/download-fe-supplied-reference-handbook/>) is the only reference material that can be used during the exam. It is provided onscreen electronically during the exam. It is also available for purchase as a hard copy and for free download electronically on the NCEES website.

What other resources are available to study for the exam?

NCEES offers computer-based practice exams that contain questions and solutions from past exams. They also simulate the real format, style, and level of difficulty. Learn more about NCEES computer-based practice exams: (<http://ncees.org/exams/study-materials/>)

The College of Engineering has a web page with FE exam information (<http://www.engg.ksu.edu/current-students/fe-exam/>). The college also provides FE Review Videos: <http://www.engg.ksu.edu/current-students/fe-exam/review-videos/>. While the format of the FE exam has changed, the basic content of most of the subject matter areas has not changed and the videos are still relevant.

Preparation well in advance of the exam is highly encouraged. While our students have had a high pass rate, there is a significant amount of material covered over a wide variety of subject areas.