

What is the FE exam?

The Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam is the first step toward becoming a Licensed Professional Engineer (PE). The exam is designed by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) and administered at Pearson VUE test centers as a computer-based exam. After you pass the FE Exam, you will earn the Engineer in Training (EIT) certification. All architectural engineering students are strongly encouraged to take the FE Exam as the first step in obtaining their professional license. More firms and agencies are starting to require professional licensing and having the FE completed puts you on a path to the highly desirable credential of Professional Engineer. The ideal time for AE students to complete the exam is in the summer of their 3rd or 4th year.

How do you register for the FE exam?

To register to take an FE exam in Pennsylvania, [visit this webpage](#). The FE is offered in seven disciplines: FE Chemical, FE Civil, FE Electrical and Computer, FE Environmental, FE Industrial and Systems, FE Mechanical, and FE Other Disciplines. Architectural engineering students would probably be most qualified to take the Other Disciplines exam, but you can take the one of your choosing. Most Penn State AE students who have already taken the FE indicate they took the “FE Other Disciplines.”

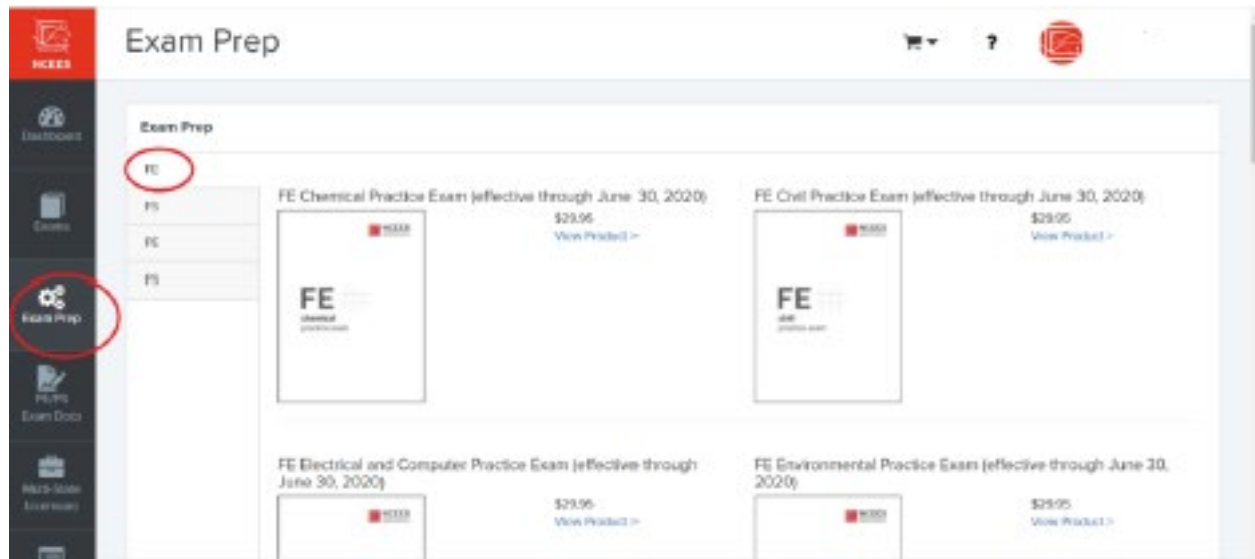
What can you take to an FE exam session?

The NCEES Examinee Guide is the official guideline to all policies and procedures for FE exams. Keep in mind the type of calculator you may use at the exam is also determined by NCEES and can be found [here](#). Make sure you always check the latest exam specifications as part of your preparation process.

The only reference material that can be used during the exam is the NCEES FE Reference Handbook. You will be provided with an electronic reference handbook during the exam. After you have registered, but prior to your exam, you may gain access to the handbook either by purchasing a hard copy or by downloading a free electronic copy of the NCEES FE Reference Handbook by logging in to your MyNCEES account: Common Tasks → Useful Documents → View reference handbooks. A screenshot of this action is provided below.

FE Exam Study Materials

Other than the NCEES FE Reference Handbook, the FE NCEES website also provides practice exams that you can purchase. To do so, log in to your account, and click on the Exam Prep icon on the left sidebar.



Other than practice exams, there are a variety of study materials out there for free or to purchase. Note that although most PSU AE students take the “FE Other Disciplines,” there are some overlaps between “FE Other Disciplines” and “FE Civil Engineering” or “FE Mechanical Engineering”. There are some sections within the civil and mechanical engineering study materials that have more generic reviews on math, science, etc. that may be helpful to you.

The Penn State Engineering Library has some resources available on reserve or as part of their reference collection. Specifically, the following study guide has been placed on a permanent hold for AE students:

FE Other Disciplines Review Manual: Rapid Preparation for the Other Disciplines Fundamentals of Engineering Exam (2018)

Author: Michael R. Lindeburg

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To access other guides and study materials, log in to your PSU My Library Account and search for “FE Exam Other Disciplines,” “FE Exam Civil,” or “FE Exam ME.”

“[Fundamentals of Engineering Exam Review](#)” is a free course with self-paced videos on Coursera covering FE topics, particularly those in Civil and Mechanical Engineering. YouTube channels “[Engineering in Training Exam](#),” “[Daily FE Exam](#),” and “[enGENIEer](#)” also offer more than 100 videos on reviewing some critical concepts of FE exams and tips on how to prepare for the FE exam. In addition, North Carolina State University’s Engineering Online Program has made “[FE Sample Questions by NCEES](#)” available for free.

Lastly, several online/print prep, review, and study materials are available on [PPI2PASS](#), a Kaplan Company, for purchase. You may find “[FE Other Disciplines Practice Problems](#)” and “[FE Other Disciplines Review](#)” items useful.

Remember that there are [no deductions for wrong answers](#). At some point during the exam, fill in every answer. Theoretically, you have a 25% chance to guess correctly, according to exam prep guidelines. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the contents of the Reference Handbook manual. It's especially important you learn how to effectively find formulas in the Handbook, as this is the only reference material you may access during the exam.

Action Item

If you intend to take the FE exam in the near future, the best course of action is to register for the exam as soon as possible. You cannot obtain scheduling information or check the availability of a test center seat without first registering. Note that the closest testing site to University Park is in Harrisburg. You may wish to take the exam during the summer months.

Good Luck!

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