

REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF LICENSING REQUIREMENT LBOPG POLICY AND PROCEDURES

INTRODUCTION: The Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists is charged with the responsibility of issuing a license to engage in the public practice of geoscience in the state of Louisiana only to those individuals who meet the qualifications for licensure, as provided by Louisiana law. It is imperative that applicants provide documentation of their abilities to provide professional work products across the breadth of the geoscience discipline to wit; education and work experience must satisfy the licensing criteria in LAC 46., LXII.

Under Title 46, Professional Occupational Standards, Part LXII. Professional Geoscientists, Chapter 7 License /Certificate Process, §707 Application Review Process, D. Application Special Circumstances, 1. With the initial filing of an application or at any time that the application remains open, an applicant may request, in writing, licensure by the waiver of one or more qualifications for licensure. Upon written request and a showing of good cause, if the board determines that the applicant is otherwise qualified for a license, the board may waive a licensure requirement except for the payment of required fees.

The Board has received requests for waivers of various requirements and has prepared this guidance to clarify the conditions that must be met to consider these requests.

GUIDANCE POLICY: The following policy was developed by the LBOPG Board and is intended to be guidance for the Application Review and License Exam Committees and the Board in consideration of a request for waiver. Recommendations from the committees must receive approval from at least a simple majority of board members.

1. A request for the substitution of experience for education requires an affirmative recommendation by the Application Committee and a simple majority vote of a quorum of the LBOPG to be approved. In addition to all other requirements for licensure, the applicant must satisfy the following requirements:
 - a. Provide a written statement of “good cause,”* as stipulated in rule §707.D;
 - b. Hold a four-year degree in a field of basic or applied science, which includes at least 15 hours in courses in geosciences from an accredited institution of higher education;
 - c. Provide a record of continuing education and workshop participation in fields of geoscience;
 - d. Provide documentation of at least 15 years of qualifying work experience (experience should encompass a majority of Task Statements as provided in the ASBOG 2015 PG Task Analysis Test Blueprint, <https://asbog.org/documents/testblueprint2015.pdf>);

- e. Pass both ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology and Practice of Geology examinations; and
- f. It is highly recommended that the applicant should appear before the committee for presentation of qualifications.

NOTE: The ASBOG licensing examinations provide an evaluation of the applicant's ability to conduct geoscientific work in all areas of the discipline. The license to practice Geoscience in Louisiana is applicable to the broad spectrum of the geoscience discipline. The license is not issued for any specific area of practice.

- 2. A request to waive the licensing examinations requires an affirmative recommendation by the Application Review *and* License Examination Committees and a simple majority vote of a quorum of the LBOPG to be approved. In addition to all other requirements, the applicant must satisfy the following requirements:
 - a. Provide a written statement of "good cause,"* as stipulated in rule §707.D;
 - b. Provide an in-depth documentation of at least 15 years of experience as substitution for the examination (experience should encompass a majority of Task Statements as provided in the ASBOG 2015 PG Task Analysis Test Blueprint, <https://asbog.org/documents/testblueprint2015.pdf>);
 - c. Provide a log of five years of continuing educational activities that satisfy the geoscience requirements; and
 - d. Provide the results of any practice exam roughly equivalent to the ASBOG Practice of Geology exam.
- 3. A request to waive the five-year waiting period for reciprocity after receiving a license from another participating state will not be considered.
- 4. A request to waive the qualifying work experience or a portion thereof will not be considered.
- 5. For a waiver request to be considered, it must be submitted with a complete application, including payment of all fees.

*Good cause should indicate why the applicant feels a waiver is needed and should provide a description of the applicant's qualifications that would persuade the board of the necessity for granting the waiver. Two specific areas should be addressed in the statement of good cause:

- 1. The reason(s) the applicant cannot fulfill the requirement for which the applicant seeks a waiver (e.g., the reason the applicant cannot take the ASBOG examination); and
- 2. Evidence that the applicant already has the knowledge and experience that would otherwise be proven by that licensing requirement.