

Professional License Degree Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Stephanie Gricius

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill modifies licensure requirements for accountants, architects, engineers, environmental health scientists, geologists, and land surveyors.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- amends certain processes and procedures related to licensing requirements for:
 - architects;
 - environmental health scientists;
 - engineers;
 - land surveyors;
 - accountants; and
 - geologists; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

58-3a-302, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 415

58-20b-302, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 339

58-22-302, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapters 339, 365

58-26a-302, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 339

58-76-302, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 339

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **58-3a-302** is amended to read:

58-3a-302 . Qualifications for licensure.

- 32 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), each applicant for licensure as an architect shall:
- 33 (a) submit an application in a form [~~prescribed~~] approved by the division;
- 34 (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;
- 35 (c) [~~have graduated and received an earned bachelors or masters-~~] hold, at a minimum, a
- 36 bachelor's degree from an architecture program[~~-meeting criteria established by rule~~
- 37 ~~by the division in collaboration with the board~~];
- 38 (d) have successfully completed a program of diversified practical experience
- 39 established by rule by the division in collaboration with the board;
- 40 (e) have successfully passed examinations established by rule by the division in
- 41 collaboration with the board; and
- 42 (f) meet with the board or representative of the division upon request for the purpose of
- 43 evaluating the applicant's qualifications for license.

- 44 (2) Each applicant for licensure as an architect by endorsement shall:
- 45 (a) submit an application in a form [~~prescribed~~] approved by the division;
- 46 (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;
- 47 (c) submit satisfactory evidence of:
- 48 (i)(A) current licensure in good standing in a jurisdiction recognized by rule by
- 49 the division in collaboration with the board; and
- 50 (B) current certification from the National Council of Architectural Registration
- 51 Boards; or
- 52 (ii)(A) current license in good standing in a jurisdiction recognized by rule by the
- 53 division in collaboration with the board; and
- 54 (B) full-time employment as a licensed architect as a principal for at least five of
- 55 the last seven years immediately preceding the date of the application;
- 56 (d) have successfully passed an examination established by rule by the division in
- 57 collaboration with the board; and
- 58 (e) meet with the board or representative of the division upon request for the purpose of
- 59 evaluating the applicant's qualifications for license.

60 Section 2. Section **58-20b-302** is amended to read:

61 **58-20b-302 . Qualifications for licensure.**

- 62 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), an applicant for licensure as an environmental
- 63 health scientist shall:
- 64 (a) submit an application in a form [~~prescribed~~] approved by the division;
- 65 (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;

66 (c) hold, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree~~[from an accredited program in a university~~
 67 ~~or college, which degree includes completion of specific course work as defined by~~
 68 ~~rule]~~;

69 (d) pass an examination as determined by division rule in collaboration with the board;
 70 and

71 (e) pass the Utah Law and Rules Examination for Environmental Health Scientists
 72 administered by the division.

73 (2) An applicant for licensure as an environmental health scientist-in-training shall:

74 (a) submit an application in a form ~~[prescribed]~~ approved by the division;

75 (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;

76 (c) hold, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree~~[from an accredited program in a university~~
 77 ~~or college, which degree includes completion of specific course work as defined by~~
 78 ~~rule]~~;

79 (d) pass the Utah Law and Rules Examination for Environmental Health Scientists
 80 administered by the division; and

81 (e) present evidence acceptable to the division and the board that the applicant, when
 82 licensed under this Subsection (2), will practice as an environmental health
 83 scientist-in-training only under the general supervision of a supervising
 84 environmental health scientist licensed under this chapter.

85 Section 3. Section **58-22-302** is amended to read:

86 **58-22-302 . Qualifications for licensure.**

87 (1) Each applicant for licensure as a professional engineer shall:

88 (a) submit an application in a form ~~[prescribed]~~ approved by the division;

89 (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;

90 (c)(i) ~~[have graduated and received a bachelors or masters]~~ hold, at a minimum, a
 91 bachelor's degree from an engineering program~~[meeting criteria established by~~
 92 ~~rule by the division in collaboration with the board]~~; or

93 (ii) have completed the Transportation Engineering Technology and Fundamental
 94 Engineering College Program before July 1, 1998, under the direction of the Utah
 95 Department of Transportation and as certified by the Utah Department of
 96 Transportation;

97 (d) have successfully completed a program of qualifying experience established by rule
 98 by the division in collaboration with the board;

99 (e) have successfully passed examinations established by rule by the division in

- 100 collaboration with the board; and
- 101 (f) meet with the board or representative of the division upon request for the purpose of
102 evaluating the applicant's qualification for licensure.
- 103 (2) Each applicant for licensure as a professional structural engineer shall:
- 104 (a) submit an application in a form [~~prescribed~~] approved by the division;
- 105 (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;
- 106 (c) [~~have graduated and received an earned bachelors or masters~~] hold, at a minimum, a
107 bachelor's degree from an engineering program[~~meeting criteria established by rule~~
108 ~~by the division in collaboration with the board~~];
- 109 (d) have successfully completed three years of licensed professional engineering
110 experience established by rule by the division in collaboration with the board[~~, except~~
111 ~~that prior to January 1, 2009, an applicant for licensure may submit a signed affidavit~~
112 ~~in a form prescribed by the division stating that the applicant is currently engaged~~
113 ~~in the practice of structural engineering;~~];
- 114 (e) have successfully passed examinations established by rule by the division in
115 collaboration with the board[~~, except that prior to January 1, 2009, an applicant for~~
116 ~~licensure may submit a signed affidavit in a form prescribed by the division stating~~
117 ~~that the applicant is currently engaged in the practice of structural engineering~~]; and
- 118 (f) meet with the board or representative of the division upon request for the purpose of
119 evaluating the applicant's qualification for licensure.
- 120 (3) Each applicant for licensure as a professional land surveyor shall:
- 121 (a) submit an application in a form [~~prescribed~~] approved by the division;
- 122 (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;
- 123 (c)(i) [~~have graduated and received~~] hold, at a minimum, an associates[~~, bachelors,~~
124 ~~or masters~~] degree from a land surveying program, or an equivalent land
125 surveying program, such as a program offered by a technical college described in
126 Section 53B-2a-105, [~~as approved by the Utah Board of Higher Education,~~]
127 established by rule by the division in collaboration with the board, and have
128 successfully completed a program of qualifying experience in land surveying
129 established by rule by the division in collaboration with the board; or
- 130 (ii) have successfully completed a program of qualifying experience in land
131 surveying prior to January 1, 2007, in accordance with rules established by the
132 division in collaboration with the board;
- 133 (d) have successfully passed examinations established by rule by the division in

- 134 collaboration with the board; and
- 135 (e) meet with the board or representative of the division upon request for the purpose of
- 136 evaluating the applicant's qualification for licensure.
- 137 (4) Each applicant for licensure by endorsement shall:
- 138 (a) submit an application in a form [~~prescribed~~] approved by the division;
- 139 (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;
- 140 (c) submit satisfactory evidence of:
- 141 (i) current licensure in good standing in a jurisdiction recognized by rule by the
- 142 division in collaboration with the board;
- 143 (ii) having successfully passed an examination established by rule by the division in
- 144 collaboration with the board; and
- 145 (iii) full-time employment as a principal for at least five of the last seven years
- 146 immediately preceding the date of the application as a:
- 147 (A) licensed professional engineer for licensure as a professional engineer;
- 148 (B) licensed professional structural engineer for licensure as a structural engineer;
- 149 or
- 150 (C) licensed professional land surveyor for licensure as a professional land
- 151 surveyor; and
- 152 (d) meet with the board or representative of the division upon request for the purpose of
- 153 evaluating the applicant's qualifications for license.
- 154 (5) The rules made to implement this section shall be in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter
- 155 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.
- 156 Section 4. Section **58-26a-302** is amended to read:
- 157 **58-26a-302 . Qualifications for licensure and registration -- Licensure by**
- 158 **endorsement.**
- 159 (1) Each applicant for licensure under this chapter as a certified public accountant shall:
- 160 (a) submit an application in a form [~~prescribed~~] approved by the division;
- 161 (b) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;
- 162 (c) submit a certified transcript of credits [~~from an accredited institution acceptable to~~
- 163 ~~the board~~] showing:
- 164 (i) successful completion of a total of 150 semester hours or 225 quarter hours of
- 165 collegiate level education with a concentration in accounting, auditing, and
- 166 business;
- 167 (ii) a [~~baccalaureate~~] bachelor's degree or its equivalent [~~at a college or university~~

- 168 ~~approved by the board~~]; and
- 169 (iii) compliance with any other education requirements established by rule by the
- 170 division in collaboration with the board in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3,
- 171 Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act;
- 172 (d) submit evidence of one year of accounting experience in a form [~~prescribed~~] approved
- 173 by the division;
- 174 (e) submit evidence of having successfully completed the qualifying examinations in
- 175 accordance with Section 58-26a-306; and
- 176 (f) submit to an interview by the board, if requested, for the purpose of examining the
- 177 applicant's competence and qualifications for licensure.
- 178 (2)(a) The division may issue a license under this chapter to [~~a person~~] an individual
- 179 who holds a license as a certified public accountant issued by any other state of the
- 180 United States of America if the [~~applicant~~] individual for licensure by endorsement:
- 181 (i) submits an application in a form [~~prescribed~~] approved by the division;
- 182 (ii) pays a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;
- 183 (iii) submits to an interview by the board, if requested, for the purpose of examining
- 184 the applicant's competence and qualifications for licensure; and
- 185 (iv)(A)(I) shows evidence of having passed the qualifying examinations; and
- 186 (II)(Aa) meets the requirements for licensure which were applicable in this
- 187 state at the time of the issuance of the applicant's license by the state
- 188 from which the original licensure by satisfactorily passing the AICPA
- 189 Uniform CPA Examination was issued; or
- 190 (Bb) had four years of professional experience after passing the AICPA
- 191 Uniform CPA Examination upon which the original license was based,
- 192 within the 10 years immediately preceding the application for licensure
- 193 by endorsement; or
- 194 (B) shows evidence that the applicant's education, examination record, and
- 195 experience are substantially equivalent to the requirements of Subsection (1),
- 196 as provided by rule.
- 197 (b) This Subsection (2) applies only to [~~a person~~] an individual seeking to obtain a
- 198 license issued by this state and does not apply to [~~a person~~] an individual practicing as
- 199 a certified public accountant in the state under Subsection 58-26a-305(1).
- 200 (3)(a) Each applicant for registration as a Certified Public Accountant firm shall:
- 201 (i) submit an application in a form [~~prescribed~~] approved by the division;

- 202 (ii) pay a fee determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;
- 203 (iii) have, notwithstanding any other provision of law, a simple majority of the
- 204 ownership of the Certified Public Accountant firm, in terms of financial interests
- 205 and voting rights of all partners, officers, shareholders, members, or managers,
- 206 held by individuals who are certified public accountants, licensed under this
- 207 chapter or another state of the United States of America, and the partners, officers,
- 208 shareholders, members, or managers, whose principal place of business is in this
- 209 state, and who perform professional services in this state hold a valid license
- 210 issued under Subsection 58-26a-301(2) or the corresponding provisions of prior
- 211 law; and
- 212 (iv) meet any other requirements established by rule by the division in collaboration
- 213 with the board in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
- 214 Rulemaking Act.
- 215 (b) Each separate location of a qualified business entity within the state seeking
- 216 registration as a Certified Public Accountant firm shall register separately.
- 217 (c) A Certified Public Accountant firm may include owners who are not licensed under
- 218 this chapter as outlined in Subsection (3)(a)(iii), provided that:
- 219 (i) the firm designates a licensee of this state who is responsible for the proper
- 220 registration of the Certified Public Accountant firm and identifies that individual
- 221 to the division; and
- 222 (ii) all nonlicensed owners are active individual participants in the CPA firm.

223 Section 5. Section **58-76-302** is amended to read:

224 **58-76-302 . Qualifications for licensure.**

225 Each applicant for licensure as a professional geologist shall:

- 226 (1) submit an application in a form as [~~prescribed~~] approved by the division;
- 227 (2) pay a fee as determined by the department under Section 63J-1-504;
- 228 (3) provide satisfactory evidence of:
- 229 (a) [~~a bachelors or graduate-~~] at a minimum, a bachelor's degree in the geosciences [
- 230 granted through an institution of higher education that is accredited by a regional or
- 231 national accrediting agency]with a minimum of 30 semester or 45 quarter hours of
- 232 course work in the geosciences; or
- 233 (b) completion of other equivalent educational requirements as determined by the
- 234 division in collaboration with the board;
- 235 (4) provide satisfactory evidence of:

- 236 (a) with a [~~bachelors~~] bachelor's degree, a specific record of five years of active
237 professional practice in geological work of a character satisfactory to the division,
238 indicating the applicant is competent to be placed in a responsible charge of the work;
- 239 (b) with a masters degree, a specific record of three years of active professional practice
240 in geological work of a character satisfactory to the division, indicating the applicant
241 is competent to be placed in a responsible charge of the work; or
- 242 (c) with a doctorate degree, a specific record of one year of active professional practice
243 in geological work of a character satisfactory to the division, indicating the applicant
244 is competent to be placed in a responsible charge of the work; and
- 245 (5) [~~after January 1, 2004, meet~~] meet the examination requirement established by rule by
246 the division in collaboration with the board.

247 **Section 6. Effective date.**

248 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.