
Virginia

Registration Status: Title Regulation

Effective Date: 1981

Exemptions: Voluntary certification, therefore, no registration/certification requirements.

ASBOG Membership: Member Board

Update: **Universal Licensing Recognition (ULR) Program; Effective July 1, 2023:** The ULR program is an option for out of state individuals practicing within the profession to become certified in Virginia. There are two options for the ULR program. Option A of the ULR program requires an applicant to hold an out of state license/certificate within the scope of practice for the profession for three years. The out of state board must have required the individual to pass an exam and meet certain requirements within education, training, or experience. The individual must not have any pending investigations or unresolved complaints and the individual must be in good standing with the other state. The individual must not have a disqualifying criminal record and no other state board should have imposed discipline. Option B of the ULR program requires the applicant to have worked within the profession in another state that does not regulate the profession for at least three years. The individual must pass any exam required by the Board of applicants for licensure/certification. The individual must not have any pending investigations or unresolved complaints and the individual must be in good standing with the other state. The individual must not have a disqualifying criminal record and no other state board should have imposed discipline.

2024 Executive Order #39: Promoting Transparency and Efficiency in Permitting and Licensing builds upon Commonwealth-wide efforts to streamline regulatory, permitting, and licensing processes.

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-39---Promoting-Transparency-and-Efficiency-in-Permitting-and-Licensing.pdf>

HB1835 a licensure bill for geologists has passed the Senate and the House and was enrolled effective 2/19/25 [LIS](#).

State Contact:

Name: Kate Nosbisch

Title: Executive Director

Address: Virginia Board for Professional Soil Scientists,
Wetland Professionals and Geologists
Perimeter Center, Suite 400
9960 Mayland Drive
Richmond, VA 23233-1463

Phone: (804) 367-8514

Fax: (866) 465-6206

E-mail: geology@dpor.virginia.gov

Web site: www.dpor.virginia.gov/Boards/SSWPG

Board Composition: Three licensed professional soil scientists, three certified professional wetland delineators, three geologists, three citizen members and the State Geologist shall serve as an ex-officio member.

Requirements:

Education: Hold a Baccalaureate or higher degree from an accredited college or university, with a major in geology, engineering geology, geological engineering or a related geological sciences. In the absence of one of the aforementioned degrees, each applicant shall provide evidence of the satisfactory completion of 30 semester hours (or the equivalent) of geological science courses, including, but not limited to, the following subjects: stratigraphy, structural geology, mineralogy, paleontology, petrology, geomorphology, and field geology. At least 12 of the 30 semester hours must have been completed in four the seven listed subjects.

Experience: Must have at least seven years of geological work which shall include either a minimum of three years of geological work under the supervision of a qualified or certified professional geologist, or a minimum of three years of experience in responsible charge of geologic work. The adequacy of the position and the required supervision and experience shall be determined by the Board. Each year of full-time undergraduate study shall count as one-half year of experience, up to a maximum of two years, and each year of full-time graduate study shall count as one year of experience, up to a maximum of three years. Credit for undergraduate and graduate study shall in no case exceed a total of four years toward meeting the seven-year experience requirement.

Examination: ASBOG®

First ASBOG® Exam: April 1998

Continuing Education/Grandfathering: No

Cooperative Licensure - (Comity/Reciprocity): No

Registrant Count: PGs: 933

ULR: 21

GITs: 102

Information Updated: February 19, 2025
