



**THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY**  
12234

---

Division of Professional Education  
Professional Education Program Review  
Education Building  
89 Washington Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, West Wing  
Albany, NY 12234  
Tel. (518) 486-2967  
Fax (518) 473-0114

July 20, 2016

**TO:** Chief Executive Officers of Degree-granting Institutions in New York State

**FROM:** William Murphy  
Director of Professional Education

**SUBJECT:** Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to Professional Education requirements as Licensed Professional Geologists

Programs in New York State must be registered for professional purposes, i.e., be designated as licensure qualifying, to meet the education requirements for the licensure that is being sought. **This memorandum provides information on professional education requirements for a new profession, Professional Geologist, and the procedures to register a licensure-qualifying program in the new profession. Please share the following information with the appropriate administrators, faculty, and students at your institution.**

Chapter 475 of the Laws of 2014 amended Article 145 of the Education Law to establish and define the practice of the profession of geology. To ensure the timely implementation of Chapter 475, at its July 2016 meeting, the Board of Regents adopted regulations to add section 52.46 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education to establish professional education requirements for Licensed Professional Geologists. In addition, section 68.7 was renumbered and added to establish licensure/certification requirements for Licensed Professional Geologists. The Regents item can be found at <http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/716brca11.pdf>.

Section 52.46 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education require that professional geologist education programs be programs in geological sciences or a substantially equivalent science as determined by the Department leading to a bachelor's degree or higher degree, which must require the following: (1) a minimum of six semester hours in college level mathematics beyond algebra and trigonometry, such as calculus, statistics, linear algebra, differential equations or their equivalent as determined by the Department; (2) a minimum of 15 semester hours or the equivalent as determined by the Department in a combination of at least two of the following sciences: (a) physics; (b) chemistry; (c) biology; or their equivalent as determined by the Department; and (3) a minimum of 30 semester hours in geological sciences coursework or the equivalent as determined by the Department, of which 24 semester hours must

include at least one course from four of the following eight subject areas: (a) earth materials; (b) sedimentary geology; (c) engineering geology (geotechnology); (d) surficial and near-surficial geology; (e) hydrogeology; (f) geodynamics; (g) economic geology; (h) geological skills/applications; or (i) their equivalent as determined by the Department.

**Colleges and universities seeking to offer programs leading to licensure and certification in this new profession must request registration of new programs or request that existing programs be designated as “licensure qualifying” by the Department.** Please complete the “Program Proposal Application Form” in Attachment A. Related regulations are included in Attachment B. Attachment C provides guidelines on meeting the professional education requirements. I hope this information is helpful to you in preparing a request for registration of new programs or the addition of licensure designation for existing programs. We will begin to review and register programs as licensure-qualifying immediately.

Please address questions about registration of these programs to the Professional Education Program Review office, Education Building, Second Floor West, Albany, NY 12234. [Telephone: (518) 486-2967, or e-mail: [oppregs@nysed.gov](mailto:oppregs@nysed.gov)]. Questions related to licensure requirements and practice of the professions should be directed to the State Board for Engineering, Land Surveying and Geology, Education Building, Second Floor, Albany, NY 12234. [Telephone: (518) 474-3817, extension 140, or by e-mail: [enginbd@nysed.gov](mailto:enginbd@nysed.gov)].