

# SaGES 2025 CONFERENCE

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BCIT



## 2025 CONFERENCE

**Russell Olsen**

**University of Maine Graduate School**

- **“The Changing Mosaic of Professional Land Surveying Licensure Requirements in the United States and its Territories”**



# RUSSELL W. OLSEN

## University of Maine Graduate School

- » INDIANA PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR
- » ILLINOIS PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
- » WISCONSIN PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
- » TEXAS REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
- » MISSOURI PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR

Senior Professional Land Surveyor with ENGINEERING DESIGN  
SOURCE, INC.

# **“The Changing Mosaic of Professional Land Surveying Licensure Requirements in the United States and its Territories”**

The profession of Land Surveying in the United States is at yet another inflection point. There is a shortage of practicing professional land surveyors. Most jurisdictions have required a baccalaureate degree in land surveying or a related science as a prelude to obtaining professional licensure. Enrollment in university land surveying programs is not keeping pace with the current need nor the expected future demand for land surveyors. With declining enrollment, it is difficult to see where the future educators of the next generation of land surveyor will be taught. Our education opportunities must be widened to include more fully online degree programs, as many regions do not have an instate bachelor's degree available.

# **“The Changing Mosaic of Professional Land Surveying Licensure Requirements in the United States and its Territories”**

As a long-time online student and an even longer-time practicing professional land surveyor, the benefits and advantages of online programs have been apparent to the author. To grow more online degree options, we need more educators to teach the teachers of prospective surveyors. The programs at the University of Maine, both in-person and online, in surveying engineering technology go a long way in alleviating this shortage and can show the way for other institutions to follow.

# **“The Changing Mosaic of Professional Land Surveying Licensure Requirements in the United States and its Territories”**

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STATE	FIRST LICENSE	CURRENT LAW ENACTED	LAST REVISION	STATE	NCEES?	vey Program without	Increase or Decrease Req's	Comity?	CE PE?	
Alabama	1936	1975	2018	Alabama	Yes	Yes	No	Decrease	Yes	No
Alaska	1949	1978	2023	Alaska	Yes	Yes	Yes	Same	Yes	No
American Samoa				American Samoa	No	No	Yes	Unknown	Yes	No
Arizona	1921	1921	2021	Arizona	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Arkansas	1968	1967	2022	Arkansas	Yes	No	Yes	Decrease	Yes	No
California	1891 (First in nation)	1933	2023	California	Yes	Yes	Yes	Same	Yes	YES
CFedS	2006 or 2007	2006 or 2007		CFedS	NO	No	N/A	N/A	No	No
Colorado	1925	2008	2019	Colorado	Yes	No	No	Increase	Yes	No
Connecticut		1949	2018	Connecticut	Yes	No	Yes	No increase or decrease	Yes	No
Delaware		2004	2017	Delaware	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No
D.C.	1999			D.C.	Yes	No	No	Same	Yes	No
Florida	1931		2022	Florida	Yes	Yes	Yes	Decrease	Yes	No
Georgia	1937	1975	2018	Georgia	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Guam	1962	2009	2009	Guam	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Hawaii		1923	2019	Hawaii	Yes	No	No	Same	Yes	Yes (CE BS)
Idaho		1939	2018	Idaho	Yes	Yes	No	Same	Yes	No
Illinois	1937/38	1989	2023	Illinois	Yes	No	No	Same	Yes	No
Indiana			2018	Indiana	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Iowa			2019	Iowa	Yes	No	Yes	No (includes online now)	Yes	No
Kansas		1978	2020	Kansas	yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	Yes (CE BS)
Kentucky	1966		2005	Kentucky	Yes	No	No	Increase	Yes	Yes (CE BS)
Louisiana	1908	1980	2021	Louisiana	Yes	Yes	No	Same	Yes	No
Maine	1967	1984	2013	Maine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Maryland		1994	2022	Maryland	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Massachusetts			2017	Massachusetts	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	Yes (CE BS)
Michigan		1980	2023	Michigan	Yes	Yes	No	Same	Yes	No
Minnesota		1921	1995	Minnesota	Yes	No	No	Increase	Yes	No
Mississippi		2005	2017	Mississippi	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No

Missouri	1955	1983	2022	Missouri	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Montana		1947	2021	Montana	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Nebraska	1911	1957	2022	Nebraska	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Nevada		1947	2022	Nevada	Yes	No	Yes	More Options	Yes	No
New Hampshire		1981	2022	New Hampshire	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No
New Jersey		1938	2020	New Jersey	Yes	Yes	No	Same	Yes	No
New Mexico	1917/1935	1935	2023	New Mexico	Yes	Yes	No (May b	Same	Yes	No
New York	1922?	1966	1997	New York	Yes	Yes	Yes	Same	Yes	No
North Carolina	1921	1921	2020	North Carolina	Yes	Yes	Yes (added	Increase; added Internship	Yes	No
North Dakota	1957	1967	2021	North Dakota	Yes	No	Yes	Increase (added programs)	Yes	No
Northern Mariana Islands				Northern Mariana Islands	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Ohio		1933	2022	Ohio	Yes	Yes	No	Increase (added part-time)	Yes	No
Oklahoma	1968		2023	Oklahoma	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Oregon	1944	1943	2021	Oregon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Pennsylvania	1928	1945	2010	Pennsylvania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Puerto Rico	1846 (Spain)	1988	2010	Puerto Rico	Yes	Yes	No	Same	Yes	No
Rhode Island	1938	1990	2022	Rhode Island	Yes	No	Yes	(No more LSIT)	Yes	No
South Carolina	1922	1976	2021	South Carolina	Yes	No	No	Same	Yes	No
South Dakota		2003	2012	South Dakota	Yes	No	No	Increase	Yes	Yes (CE BS)
Tennessee			2018	Tennessee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Texas	1955	2019	2022	Texas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Same	Yes	No
US Virgin Islands				US Virgin Islands	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Utah	1961	1996	2017	Utah	Yes	Yes	Yes	Increase	Yes	No
Vermont		1967	2011	Vermont	Yes	No	Yes	Increase	Yes	No
Virginia		1985	2021	Virginia	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No
Washington	1935	1996	2022	Washington	Yes	No	Yes	(Experience changes)	Yes	No
West Virginia		1985	2021	West Virginia	Yes	Yes	Yes	(SIT Change)	Yes	No
Wisconsin		1987	2022	Wisconsin	Yes	No	Yes	(No longer has LSIT)(CST)	Yes	Yes (CE BS)
Wyoming	1907	1957	2021	Wyoming	Yes	No	Yes	Same	Yes	No

**APPENDIX**  
**COMPILATION OF STATE AND TERRITORY RULES, REGULATIONS AND**  
**STATUTES FOR THE LICENSING OF LAND SURVEYORS AND LAND SURVEYORS**  
**IN TRAINING UPDATED SEPTEMBER, 2023 AND FEBRUARY, 2025**

**ALABAMA**

<https://bels.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022LawandCode.pdf>

**LSI (Intern)**

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>EXPERIENCE</b>
Graduate of a 4-year land surveying curriculum with minimum of <del>30</del> <b>15</b> semester hours or <del>45</del> <b>22.5</b> quarter hours of surveying courses from school or college approved by the board FS exam	0
Graduate of a 4-year curriculum related to surveying with minimum of 15 semester hours or 22.5 quarter hours of surveying courses from school or college approved by the board FS Exam	≥ 1 years
Graduate of a 4 years of a related science curriculum; <b>graduate of an approved associate of science degree program in surveying or engineering</b> including a minimum of 15 semester hours or 22.5 quarter hours of land surveying courses FS exam	4 <b>2</b> years

## ALABAMA (Continued)

### PLS

EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE
Graduate of a 4 year land surveying curriculum with minimum of <del>30</del> <b>15</b> semester hours or <del>45</del> <b>22.5</b> quarter hours of surveying courses from school or college approved by the board FS exam and PLS exam	4 years
Graduate of a 4 years of a curriculum related to surveying with minimum of 15 semester hours or 22.5 quarter hours of surveying courses from a school or college approved by the board FS exam and PLS exam	<del>6</del> <b>5</b> years
Graduate of 4 years of a related science curriculum FS exam and PLS exam	<del>8</del> <b>6</b> years

**Effective 01-01-2025 Revisions to Rule 330 various subsections <https://bels.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2024-12-10-Proposed-Rule-Changes.pdf> “Red Tape Reduction” includes requirement that applicants with foreign degrees must also meet licensure requirements; this removed the prior statement regarding schools “located within the United States and its jurisdictions”, and redefined how applicant gains experience as being either under direct supervision or having a licensed professional land surveyor “closely observed the applicant’s work as an associate within the same company and the same location”. There is also a specific limit for 40 hours per calendar week. The passing score on the exam will be determined by NCEES and not the board. The licensee must notify the Board within 30 days of a disciplinary action by other licensing boards or conviction of any felony crime or misdemeanor related to practice.**

**IDAHO**

<https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/24/243201.pdf>

<https://dopl.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/IPLELS-Proposed-Rule.pdf> (redlined)

**LS Intern**

<b>EDUCATION</b> <b>PROPOSED RULE CHANGE September 4, 2024 IAB Vol. 24-9</b>	<b>EXPERIENCE</b>
Graduation from an approved surveying curriculum of four (4) years or more in a school or college approved by the board as being of satisfactory standing. FS exam	0
Graduation with a bachelor’s degree in a related science from a school or college approved by the board, evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant possesses knowledge and skill approximating that attained through graduation from an approved four (4) year surveying curriculum FS exam	0 years

**IDAHO PLS The Proposed Rule Change of September 4, 2024, notes the requirement of a passing score on the written ethics questionnaire. Proposed Rule change is a rewrite/clarification. See official version when published.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EDUCATION</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROPOSED RULE CHANGE September 4, 2024 IAB Vol. 24-9</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXPERIENCE</b></p>
<p>Graduation from an approved surveying curriculum of four (4) years or more in a school or college approved by the board as being of satisfactory standing, and passing the FS exam. PLS exam</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4 years (min. 2 years of boundary)</p>
<p>Graduation with a bachelor's degree in a related science from a school or college approved by the board, evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant possesses knowledge and skill approximating that attained through graduation from an approved four (4) year surveying curriculum, and passing the FS exam. PLS exam</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4 years (min. 2 years of boundary)</p>

#### IDAHO COMITY 04. Interstate Licensure/Comity. ( )

Interstate Licensure Evaluation. Each application for an Idaho professional engineer license or professional land surveyor license submitted by an applicant who is licensed in one (1) or more states, possessions or territories or the District of Columbia, will be considered by the Board on its merits, and the application evaluated for substantial compliance with respect to the requirements of the Idaho law related to experience, examination, and education. A minimum of four (4) years of progressive experience after graduation with a **bachelor's degree is required for licensure**. Comity applicants must meet the education requirements and the following:

i. Graduates of bachelor of science engineering programs accredited by the Canadian Engineering Accrediting Board, or those university bachelor's of engineering programs that are accredited by official organizations recognized by the U.K. Engineering Council, will be considered to have satisfied the educational requirement for issuance of a license as a professional engineer. The Board may require an independent evaluation of the engineering education of an applicant who has a non-EAC/ABET accredited four (4) year bachelor's degree. Such evaluation must be performed by an organization approved by the Board and at the expense of the applicant to ensure they have completed the required coursework. ( )

## IOWA

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/rule/193C.5.1.pdf>

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/iac/rule/02-05-2025.193C.5.2.pdf>

## LSIT

EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE
<p>Graduation from a course of two years or more in mathematics, physical sciences, mapping and surveying, or engineering in a school or college which, in the opinion of the board, will properly prepare the applicant for the examination in fundamental land surveying subjects. <b>Internet or on-line degrees will only be considered as qualifying degrees if the institution issuing the degree is accredited by a recognized accreditation board.</b> Experience varies for different degrees: 2-year degree, 4 years minimum experience before exam; 4-year degree, 2 years minimum; graduate degree, 1 year minimum. Add 4 years to PLS exam.</p> <p>FS exam</p>	<p>4, 2, or 1 years</p>

## PLS

EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE
<p>In addition to the above requirements in becoming an LSIT, 4 years of experience <b>minimum half must be practical field experience in boundary aspects.</b></p> <p>PLS exam</p>	<p>4 years</p>

**MINNESOTA**<https://mn.gov/aelslagid/landsurveying.html><https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/1800.3505/#rule.1800.3505.3>**LSIT (FS Exam)**

EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE
Graduate with a four-year land surveying curriculum that meets the statutory requirements in place at the time of graduation ( <del>32 semester hours</del> or <del>48 quarter hours</del> ) FS exam	0
Graduate with bachelor's curriculum that meets the statutory requirements in place at the time of graduation, under a curriculum that is approved by the board with a minimum of <del>22</del> 32 semester credits or <del>32</del> 48 quarter credits, <del>completion of minimum of 11 semester credits or 16 quarter credits from land surveying categories in subpart 4, items A to K.</del> FS exam	0

**PLS**

EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE
Graduate with a four-year land surveying curriculum that meets the statutory requirements in place at the time of graduation ( <del>Experience categories listed</del> ) PLS exam	<del>5600</del> 6000 hours (Refer to List 1)
Graduate with bachelor's curriculum that meets the statutory requirements in place at the time of graduation, under a curriculum that is approved by the board with a minimum of 22 semester credits or 32 quarter credits in land surveying. ( <del>Experience categories listed</del> ) PLS exam	<del>9920</del> 10,800 hours (Refer to List 2)

**MISSISSIPPI**<https://www.pepls.ms.gov/requirements>[https://www.pepls.ms.gov/sites/pepls/files/PEPLS 2020/Forms/Prof Surveyor/PS Application Instructions.pdf](https://www.pepls.ms.gov/sites/pepls/files/PEPLS%2020/Forms/Prof%20Surveyor/PS%20Application%20Instructions.pdf)**LSIT (Intern)****Must be a Mississippi resident.**

<b>EDUCATION</b> <b>As of July 01, 2016</b>	<b>EXPERIENCE</b>
Graduate with bachelor's degree in geomatics, surveying or surveying technology approved by the board consisting of a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) semester hours, or the equivalent, in surveying curriculum subjects. FS exam	0
Graduate with bachelor's degree in a related science curriculum defined by board rule consisting of sixty-two (62) semester hours in surveying curriculum subjects as defined by board rule. FS exam	0
Graduate with bachelor's degree in a related science curriculum defined by board rule. FS exam	0
Graduate with associate degree, or its equivalent, in a curriculum approved by the board consisting of sixty-two (62) semester hours in surveying curriculum subjects as defined by board rule. FS exam	0
Graduate with high school diploma, or its equivalent FS exam	8 years

**MISSISSIPPI PLS****Initial License available to Mississippi residents only**

<b>EDUCATION</b> <b>As of July 01, 2016</b>	<b>EXPERIENCE</b>
Graduate with bachelor's degree in geomatics, surveying or surveying technology approved by the board consisting of a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) semester hours, or the equivalent, in surveying curriculum subjects. PLS exam	4 years
Graduate with bachelor's degree in a related science curriculum defined by board rule, consisting of sixty-two (62) semester hours in surveying curriculum subjects as defined by board rule. PLS exam	5 years
Graduate with bachelor's degree in a related science curriculum defined by board rule. PLS exam	6 years
Graduate with associate degree, or its equivalent, in a curriculum approved by the board consisting of sixty-two (62) semester hours in surveying curriculum subjects as defined by board rule PLS exam	7 years
Graduate with high school diploma, or its equivalent PLS exam	12 years

**MISSOURI**

<https://pr.mo.gov/professionallandsurveyors.asp>

<https://pr.mo.gov/professionallandsurveyors-application-forms.asp#>

<https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=327.312&bid=51022&hl=>

<https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=327.314&bid=51024&hl=>

**LSIT (Beginning Jan 1, 2024, any person may apply to the board for enrollment as a land surveyor-intern who is a high school graduate, or who holds a certificate of high school equivalence (GED), and has passed any examination required by the board pursuant to section [327.331](#).)**

EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE
<del>#1 Graduate with baccalaureate degree in an approved curriculum as defined by board regulation which shall include at least twelve semester hours of approved surveying course work as defined by board regulation of which at least two semester hours shall be in the legal aspects of boundary surveying. FS exam</del>	0
<del>#2 Passed at least sixty hours of college credit which shall include credit for at least twenty semester hours of approved surveying course work as defined by board regulation of which at least two semester hours shall be in legal aspects of boundary surveying. -FS exam</del>	1 year
<del>#3 Passed at least twelve semester hours of approved surveying course work as defined by board regulation of which at least two semester hours shall be in legal aspects of land surveying. FS exam</del>	2 years

## **MISSOURI PLS**

**Beginning January 1, 2024, any person may apply to the board for licensure who presents evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant has met the requirements as provided in this subsection:**

**(1) An applicant shall be a high school graduate or hold a certificate of high school equivalence (GED), and either:**

**(a) Has graduated and received a baccalaureate degree in an approved curriculum, as defined by the board, which shall include at least fifteen semester hours of approved surveying course work, as defined by the board, of which at least six semester hours shall be in the legal aspects of boundary surveying; or**

**(b) Has passed at least sixty hours of college credit which shall include at least fifteen semester hours of approved surveying course work, as defined by the board, of which at least six semester hours shall be in legal aspects of boundary surveying; or**

**(c) Has passed at least fifteen semester hours of approved surveying coursework, as defined by the board, of which at least six semester hours shall be in legal aspects of land surveying;**

**(d) An applicant meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of this subdivision shall have acquired at least four years of satisfactory field and office experience in land surveying under the immediate personal supervision of a professional land surveyor;**

**(e) An applicant meeting the requirements of paragraph (b) of this subdivision shall have acquired at least five years of satisfactory field and office experience in land surveying under the immediate personal supervision of a professional land surveyor;**

**(f) An applicant meeting the requirements of paragraph (c) of this subdivision shall have acquired at least six years of satisfactory field and office experience in land surveying under the immediate personal supervision of a professional land surveyor. Pursuant to this provision, up to one year of postsecondary education, approved by the board, may count as equivalent work experience;**

**(2) An applicant shall pass any examinations required by the board pursuant to section 327.331;**

**(3) Any person enrolled as a land surveyor-in-training prior to January 1, 2024, shall only be required to meet the requirements in place pursuant to their enrollment.**

**MONTANA**  
**LSIT (Intern)**

[https://archive.legmt.gov/bills/mca/title\\_0370/chapter\\_0670/part\\_0030/section\\_0260/0370-0670-0030-0260.html](https://archive.legmt.gov/bills/mca/title_0370/chapter_0670/part_0030/section_0260/0370-0670-0030-0260.html)

<https://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/docs/pel/lsi-app.pdf>

37-67-326. Qualifications of applicant for examination and certification as land surveyor intern. (1) An applicant who meets any of the following sets of requirements must be admitted to the fundamentals of surveying examination:

(c) a baccalaureate degree with a minor in land surveying that meets the board-approved land surveying curriculum, passage of the fundamentals of surveying examination, and references as required by the board.

EDUCATION	EXPERIENCE
(a) a baccalaureate degree in land surveying that meets the board-approved land surveying curriculum, passage of the fundamentals of surveying examination, and references as required by the board; FS exam	0
(b) an associate degree in land surveying that meets the board-approved land surveying curriculum, passage of the fundamentals of surveying examination, and references as required by the board; FS exam	0
c) a baccalaureate degree with a minor in land surveying that meets the board-approved land surveying curriculum, passage of the fundamentals of surveying examination, and references as required by the board. FS exam	<del>0</del> 2 years
<del>No education (before October 1, 2022)</del> FS exam	6 years

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

<https://www.oplc.nh.gov/land-surveyors-education-certification-requirements>

**LSIT**

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>EXPERIENCE</b>
No education FS exam	0

**PLS**

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>EXPERIENCE</b>
No education requirement. “A year of accumulated experience for the purpose of paragraph I shall include, but not be limited to: <b>(a)</b> Any year during which the applicant was enrolled at an institution of higher learning pursuing a curriculum of surveying, engineering, forestry, or forestry technician, so long as the applicant completed at least one course in land surveying during the said enrollment; provided such education credits towards accumulated experience shall not exceed 4 years of accumulated experience; <b>(b)</b> Any year during which the applicant was actively engaged in land surveying work as a land surveyor-in-training under the supervision of a licensed land surveyor; or <b>(c)</b> Any substantial period of time, even if less than a full calendar year, during which the applicant, in the discretion of the board, was considered to be actively engaged in land surveying work.” “RSA 310-A:63” N.H. Rev. Stat. § 310-A:63  PS exam	6 years

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

<https://www.ncbels.org/applications/professional-land-surveyor/>

<https://www.ncbels.org/application/land-surveyor-intern-certification/#>

### **LSIT**

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>EXPERIENCE</b>
Graduate of a <del>4</del> -year surveying curriculum or other equivalent curriculum in surveying approved by the Board FS exam	<del>0</del> -1 year
Rightful possession of an associate degree in surveying technology approved by the Board FS exam	<del>4</del> 2 years
Graduation from high school or the completion of a high school equivalency certificate	<del>10</del> 5 years
Graduation from high school or the completion of a high school equivalency certificate and completed Land Surveyor Apprenticeship FS exam	3 years

**NORTH CAROLINA PLS**

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>EXPERIENCE</b>
Bachelor of science degree in surveying or other equivalent curricula, all approved by the Board (45 semester hours of Survey Courses) FS exam and PS exam	2 years
Associate degree in surveying technology approved by the Board (20-semester hours of Survey Courses) FS exam and PS exam	<del>4 years (before January 1, 2013)</del> <del>8 years (after January 1, 2013)</del> 5 years
Graduation from a high school or the completion of a high school equivalency certificate  Graduation from a high school or the completion of a high school equivalency certificate and completion of a Land Surveyor Apprenticeship  FS exam and PLS exam	7-9 years  16-7 years

**NORTH CAROLINA PLS**

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>EXPERIENCE</b>
Bachelor of science degree in surveying or other equivalent curricula, all approved by the Board (45 semester hours of Survey Courses) FS exam and PS exam	2 years
Associate degree in surveying technology approved by the Board (20-semester hours of Survey Courses) FS exam and PS exam	<del>4 years (before January 1, 2013)</del> <del>8 years (after January 1, 2013)</del> 5 years
Graduation from a high school or the completion of a high school equivalency certificate  Graduation from a high school or the completion of a high school equivalency certificate and completion of a Land Surveyor Apprenticeship  FS exam and PLS exam	7-9 years  16-7 years