Professional Geologist Licensure Requirements and the ASBOG National Geology License Examinations
Part 1: An Introduction to State Licensing of Geologists
Objectives for Today

The Basics (PG and GIT)

- Terminology
- Why is a license important?
- Qualification Requirements
- Geology Licensing and Careers
Important Terms

• **Registration** is the creation of a list (e.g. students in a class, members of a club).

• **Certification** is the comparison of something to an established standard (e.g. a college diploma).

• **Licensure** is the government’s permission for you to do something (e.g. drive a car).
What is a “Licensed Professional”? 

**license**

1. formal permission from a governmental or other constituted authority to do something, as to carry on some business or profession.

2. a certificate, tag, plate, etc., giving proof of such permission; official permit: *a driver's license.*

**professional**

1. Person formally certified as belonging to a specific profession by virtue of having completed a required course of studies and/or practice. And whose competence can usually be measured against an established set of standards.

2. Person who has achieved an acclaimed level of proficiency in a calling or trade. See also *professionalism.*
Purpose of Licensure

- protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. This includes:
  - helping to ensure resiliency of infrastructure,
  - a sustainable economy,
  - the responsible use of natural resources,
  - and environmental protection.
- establishing standards for minimum competency in a profession
Careers and Licensing

- Not all careers require licensure
- Required by law for many careers
- Licensure Increases Career Opportunities and Flexibility
- Credibility
- Demonstrates a commitment to Professional Responsibility
- Financial Incentives
Licensure qualifications are established by law in each jurisdiction.

Typical requirements include:

- **Education**
  - Typically bachelor’s degree or
  - minimum specified coursework (sometimes specific classes are required)

- **Experience**
  - Generally 3 to 5 years after education

- **Exams**
  - ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology
  - ASBOG Practice of Geology
  - Any applicable state specific license exam
Geology License Exams

- **ASBOG®Fundamentals of Geology (FG) Exam**
  - Knowledge Based
  - (4 hours, 140 questions)
  - National Exam-Intended to test bachelor’s level knowledge.

- **ASBOG®Practice of Geology (PG) Exam**
  - Knowledge/Experience Based
  - General – Not State Specific
  - (4 hours, 110 questions)

- **State Specific Exam**
  - Knowledge/Experience Based
  - Intended to address specific state issues/requirements.
So What About the GIT?

The ASBOG FG Exam is the **ONLY** exam you can take before you get your work experience.

- The Geologist in Training (GIT) is a certificate of achievement issued in recognition of passing the national ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology (FG) Exam.
- A GIT certificate allows you to use the protected title geologist in training.
- It **is not a license** to practice geology.
- It is not offered in all states.
- Students often qualify to apply for GIT before graduation and can put it on their resume.
So Why Get a GIT?

A GIT certificate shows that you have the qualities an employer wants:

- Technical competence
- Understand the laws/regs
- Know what it takes to advance in your chosen profession
- Proactive