

NAVIGATING THE PE CIVIL EXAM CHANGES

Effective April 2024, the PE Civil exam specifications got a refresh. Here's what you need to know.



What's New?

Reorganization of Broad Topics

The exam is no longer divided into breadth and depth questions. They are now discipline specific, so expect an increase in questions directly relevant to your field.

Updated Resources

The NCEES *PE Civil Reference Handbook* (v. 2.0) and practice exams are now aligned with the updated exam specifications. You can access these via your MyNCEES account.

Revised Standards

Many of the applicable design standards referenced in the exam specifications have changed, and credit will only be given for solutions using the updated list as of April 2024. Make sure you're familiar with the updated materials well before your exam date!



What Exams Were Affected?

- ✓ Construction
- ✓ Geotechnical
- ✓ Structural
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Water Resources & Environmental

Exam Format Overview

8

hour duration

80

total questions

70

scored questions

(10 are pretest questions that don't count toward your score)

Frequently Asked Questions

Exam Prep

Q Where can I find the details of the new exam specifications?

A NCEES has the most up-to-date specifications for the PE Civil exams at: <https://ncees.org/exams/pe-exam/civil/>

Q How many hours total should I devote to studying for the PE Civil exam?

A This depends on your knowledge level in each separate topic, but we generally recommend spending approximately 275 to 315 hours studying over a 4-month period.

Q What is the best way to prepare for the PE Civil exam?

A After applying and registering for the exam, it is important to obtain the NCEES *PE Civil Reference Handbook* and any relevant design codes and standards. To save time during the exam, familiarize yourself with the references and be able to navigate them with ease. You should also determine what study method makes the most sense for you and create a workable study schedule.

Q Is there only one NCEES *PE Civil Reference Handbook* for all 5 depth disciplines?

A Yes, there is still only one NCEES *PE Civil Reference Handbook* (v. 02) that covers all five disciplines. It was released in October 2023 and covers the topics relative to the new exam specifications.

Q Did School of PE update their PE Civil course materials to reflect the changes made to the exam specifications?

A Upon release of the new PE Civil exam specifications, we began working with our instructors to update our review courses accordingly. The restructured OnDemand and Live Online courses were released earlier in 2024, and our practice workbooks were revised as well.

Q Do the School of PE practice exams mirror real-life testing conditions, such as the split view where you can simultaneously view the question and the reference handbook or design standard?

A Our Question Bank does allow you to filter by complexity and allows you to upload the NCEES reference handbook so you can view the split screen. We are in the process of adding an on-screen calculator and a digital whiteboard. Although we do not provide the design codes and standards due to copyright, you can upload copies to your Study Hub for use during the practice exam.

The Exam Itself

Q How can I use the design codes & standards during the exam?

A You will have electronic access to the codes and standards, but you can only open one at a time. They can't be open simultaneously. NCEES has provided this [video](#) to demonstrate.

Q With the redistribution of the breadth topics, were any new topics added?

A Although the April 2024 specifications appear to have new topics, they are very closely related to topics on the previous exam specifications. Many of the depth subjects have an increased number of questions to fill the gap in the number of questions due to the removal of the breadth topics.

Q Will I still be prompted to submit answered questions midway through the exam?

A Yes, you will be prompted to review and submit your questions after working through approximately half of them.

Q Is the new exam format more difficult?

A This depends on a variety of factors, such as how many years of work experience you have and what you do on a daily basis in terms of job function. Without relevant work experience, you may find some exam questions more challenging.

We understand this is a difficult journey, and it's our job to help you get there and achieve the success you're looking for. School of PE offers numerous resources to help you prepare for the PE Civil exam with confidence. In addition to our acclaimed courses, we have a comprehensive Question Bank, digital flashcards, practice exam workbooks, and one-on-one virtual tutoring.

Still have questions about the PE Civil exam? Please feel free to contact us via email at info@schoolofpe.com, by phone at **(614) 873-7475**, or via live chat at www.schoolofpe.com.

