

OREGON STATE BOARD OF GEOLOGIST EXAMINERS

*****ASBOG Examination Standard*****

Why does the Board only accept the two-part ASBOG examination for registration?

Per ORS 672.575, the Oregon State Board of Geologist Examiners (Board) determines “the scope, form, and content of the examinations provided for under ORS 672.505 to 672.705.” However, ORS 672.595 requires that the Board maintain registration standards (i.e. education, exam, and experience minimums) for a geologist registered in another state (i.e., comity registration applicants) that are comparable to the Board’s registration requirements for any other registrant. The Board has determined by rule in OAR 809-030-0015(3)(a), 809-040-0006, and 809-050-0010(1) that to qualify for registration as a geologist in Oregon, an applicant must have passed the two-part ASBOG examination. The Board has not identified any pre-ASBOG examinations as “comparable” to the ASBOG examination.

The Board firmly believes that the ASBOG examination is the best available examination to demonstrate that an applicant has the necessary geology knowledge and skill to competently exercise the responsibilities of the public practice of geology in Oregon. The ASBOG examination is the national model, currently used in 31 states. As such, completion of the ASBOG exam also supports an individual’s ability to seek geologist registration in multiple states.

The Board lacks the necessary information about pre-ASBOG examinations to analyze them for comparability to the ASBOG examination. Even if the Board were able to obtain information on these now-obsolete state examinations that predated the two-part ASBOG examination, the Board does not have the resources to undertake analyses to verify comparability to the ASBOG examination. The Board is fully funded through registration fees and strives to spend its limited resources carefully to fulfill its mission of protecting public health, safety and welfare with regard to the public practice of geology.

In summary, the Board has determined that it must maintain the ASBOG examination standard for all registrants. This has been Board policy since 1997. The Board recognizes that having to sit for the two-part ASBOG examination can be an inconvenience for a geologist seeking comity registration in Oregon. But the Board does not view the ASBOG examination as a barrier to registration either in terms of the application process or the exam fees.