How can you get a MOE?

The MOE is intended to enhance an engineer's knowledge, not to place an undue burden. As such, a MOE can be obtained in several ways. Some possibilities are as follows:

- *Full-time, on-campus study immediately after completing the BSCE*
- *Working professionally for a year or so and then returning for full-time, on-campus study.*
- *Taking traditional master's degree courses on campus on a part-time basis while working.*
- *Taking all or most courses via distance learning, likely Web-based distance learning.*
- *Taking courses part-time via traditional and distance learning mechanisms and perhaps using the resources of two or more educational providers.*

The coursework may come from a degreed or non-degreed program. The program may be accredited or certified.

How long will it take to implement the changes?

Some states or other jurisdictions may implement the policy for civil engineer licensing in the near future, subject to grace periods, while others may not do so for a decade or more.

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ASCE POLICY STATEMENT 465
Positive. Professional. Future Focused.

SYNOPSIS

ASCE POLICY STATEMENT 465
Positive. Professional. Future Focused.

In October 1998, the ASCE Board of Direction adopted Policy Statement 465, which directed a study on "raising the bar" for the practice of civil engineering (CE) at the professional level. This study was explicitly supported in *Building ASCE's Future – Strategic Plan* adopted in 2000 by the Society. The ASCE Board formed a task committee in October 1999 and charged it with "developing a vision of full realization of ASCE Policy Statement 465…and a strategy for achieving this vision." The committee researched the education, experience, licensing, and certification requirements of other professions; studied the history and forms of CE education in the U.S. and elsewhere; and reviewed current and future challenges to and opportunities for CE. Their work resulted in a Revised Policy 465, entitled "Academic Prerequisites for Licensure and Professional Practice." The Policy states:

> *The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) supports the concept of the Master's degree or Equivalent as a prerequisite for licensure and the practice of civil engineering at a professional level.*
>
> *ASCE encourages institutions of higher education, governmental units, employers, civil engineers, and other appropriate organizations to endorse, support, and promote the concept of mandatory post-baccalaureate education for the practice of civil engineering at a professional level. The implementation of this effort should occur through establishing appropriate curricula in the formal education experience, appropriate recognition and compensation in the workplace, and congruent standards for licensure.*

In October 2001, the ASCE Board of Direction formally adopted Revised Policy 465 and established the Task Committee for Academic Prerequisites for Professional Practice (TCAP^3). The Board charged TCAP^3 with developing, organizing, and executing a detailed plan for the full realization of Policy 465. This includes working in the following three areas: (1) Curriculum; (2) Accreditation and (3) Licensure.

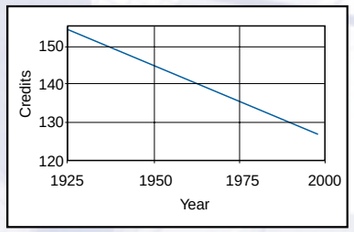
ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are we looking at this?

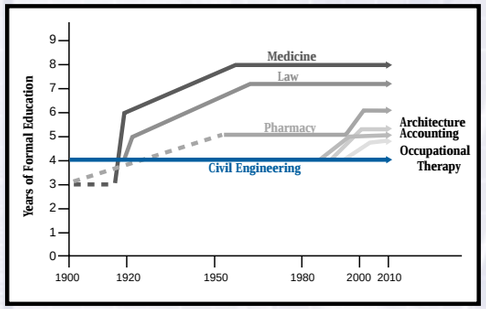
Since 1925, the BSCE degree unit requirement has decreased about 30 units along with a 20% reduction in the technical content.

Trend in Reduced Total Credit-Hours



At the turn of the 19th Century, engineering had one of the longest professional education programs at four years. Now, medicine, law, pharmacy, accounting, and architecture require formal education beyond a four-year degree. Not surprisingly, over the last ten years civil engineer salaries have lagged in comparison to these professions.

A Leader No Longer



The formal education required for civil engineers to practice at the professional level for the 21st century is increasing and a strategy must be developed to ensure that civil engineers receive fair consideration for the value and contributions that they make. What's more, most civil engineers indicate that they have obtained the level of a fifth year of formal education to practice at the professional level.

What is a MOE?

The Master's or Equivalent (MOE) represents that education beyond the baccalaureate degree required to master the fundamental specialized knowledge required for practice of civil engineering at the professional level. An underlying component of the required body of knowledge is the earning of at least one degree in civil engineering and completion of one degree from an ABET accredited engineering program. The purpose of the MOE is to encourage various BS - Master's combinations that build on individual abilities and interests and more fully meet society's increasingly complex civil engineering needs.

Master's or Equivalent (MOE)

Purpose: increase breadth and depth of formal education
Flexibility: Choice of focus, timing, and access
Quality: Maintain rigor

How will Policy 465 impact practicing engineers and current college students?

Currently, licensed Professional Engineers, regardless of their Master's or Equivalent (MOE) status, will not be affected by the MOE requirement. Some reasonable grace period, during which the MOE requirement will be waived, will be needed to ensure that those who are in the education and licensure pipeline are not set back by the MOE requirement. However, many current students will be encouraged to complete a MOE.

How will Policy 465 impact the future licensing process?

When the MOE concept takes effect, a licensed civil engineer will be required to have a body of specialized knowledge represented by a baccalaureate degree and a Master's or Equivalent, plus the applicable national licensing exams, appropriate experience, and credentials and portfolio reviews.

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Define the "OE" portion of MOE.

The "OE" part of the MOE recognizes that some Master's candidates may earn their graduate degrees in nontraditional ways, such as completing about 30 semester credits of acceptable graduate-level course work beyond that required for the baccalaureate degree, and/or earning a degree via Internet-based distance learning. The intent is to provide content flexibility and ease of access while maintaining or exceeding traditional graduate course quality.

Engineering MOEs

MEngr or MS in civil engineering
MEngr or MS in other engineering fields
PhD in civil engineering
PhD in other engineering fields

Non-Engineering MOEs

MS in science
MS in architecture
MS in city and urban planning
MASTER of business administration
MASTER of public administration
PhD in science

Non-Degree Option

30 semester credits of acceptable graduate-level course work beyond that required for the baccalaureate degree.