



Nebraska Board of Geologists

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DOCUMENTING YOUR GEOLOGIC EXPERIENCE

Nebraska Statute §81-3539(3) states candidates for licensure as a professional geologist in Nebraska must have "...a documented record of a minimum of five years of progressive experience, obtained subsequent to completion of the education requirements in geologic work of a grade and character which indicates to the board that the applicant is qualified to assume responsible charge of such work upon licensure as a geologist..."

What is Geologic Work?

Geologic work involves the analysis and representation of natural earth materials (e.g., rock, soil, sediment, water, and economic minerals), the earth processes that act on them and the history of the planet and its life forms. Training in the subjects necessary to perform such work is demonstrated by the completion of at least 5 of the following 7 core courses: physical geology, mineralogy petrology/petrography, stratigraphy/sedimentology/soils, structural geology, summer field geology, and hydrogeology; leading to a baccalaureate degree in geology or a geologic specialty.

The geologic nature of your work is demonstrated by the results you produce, including (but not limited to):

- Geologic maps showing distribution, age, and character of surface materials
- Geologic cross sections interpreting subsurface stratigraphic and/or structural relationships
- Three-dimensional interpretations (e.g., structural block diagrams, groundwater flow models)
- Technical reports summarizing geologic data and recommending a course of action to a company or client
- Drilled oil prospects (and production figures, if successful)
- Operating a mine or quarry (with production figures)
- Peer-reviewed journal articles or book chapters; or a thesis or dissertation accepted as part of a graduate degree
- Presentations at national, regional, or state-wide professional meetings, with published abstracts
- Lists of courses taught as part of a teaching assistantship held during the pursuit of a graduate degree in geology or related specialty including credit hour production and number of times taught
- Reports or publications resulting from research performed while seeking a graduate degree in geology or related specialty, and independent research resulting in a specific product
- Geologic results while in responsible charge or during technical oversight and supervision

Geologic work which may not be Professional Level:

- Multi-authored technical reports – some companies follow the practice of putting everybody's name on a report if they had anything to do with its production. Only those people who performed the geologic component of work should count these. Give the percent of the work you personally completed, and describe the geologic character of your contribution.
- Mud logging – of itself this is not "geologic" work since many companies do not require a college degree or even any training in geology for their mud loggers. However, if you are describing formations or identifying pay zones by their geologic character, you would be considered a well-site geologist. Ask your supervisor to clarify this in the letter of reference.
- Geotechnical work – like mud logging, this is not "geologic" work since a baccalaureate degree in geology is not required. Only activities requiring training in the geologic core courses listed above are considered to represent geologic work of a professional nature. Ask your supervisor to clarify this in the letter of reference.
- Teaching – teaching at the K-12 level does not qualify as professional geologic experience since it can be performed without a geology degree.
- Incidental skills – many geologists perform activities that are incidental to their geologic duties and do not require knowledge based on the geologic core courses listed above. Examples include surveying, drafting, assisting with or drilling water wells, opening water wells, or collecting water samples or well cuttings. If your work consists mainly of these types of activities then it is not professional geologic experience.
- Management – supervising geologists in of itself is not geologic experience. You should be able to demonstrate personal involvement in producing the geologic product, either as pre-management level training or as a geologic team member.