



SPE Petroleum Engineering Certification Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the requirements to apply for the certification program?

- An undergraduate engineering degree in petroleum engineering or related science.
- Experience and training in the engineering community, for a minimum of 4 years.
- Professional member in good standing with the Society of Petroleum Engineers

2. What are the advantages of SPE certification?

- Public and professional recognition of achievement of a level of knowledge considered standard by SPE for petroleum engineers.
- May result in employer recognition of achievement.
- Provides recognition of technical knowledge from a global organization that extends to anywhere you may travel or work.
- Demonstrates a continuing commitment to the profession and your individual professional growth.

3. Of what value is SPE certification to the employer?

- Provides confidence of the quality of an employee's technical knowledge.
- Encourages commitment by employees to a high standard of professionalism and ongoing professional development.
- SPE Certification will be a **global credential** of technical knowledge as demonstrated by passing a rigorous and thorough examination.

4. Are there any requirements for maintaining my SPE certification?

SPE requires that you participate in 16 hours of continued professional development and education each year. This could consist of courses, workshops, attendance at conferences, online learning, and society activities. To meet this requirement, just maintain a record or diary of continuing education experiences for possible random review for compliance.

*** It is your responsibility to maintain your SPE Petroleum Engineering Certification renewals annually. If your membership type changes from professional to student, you will need to contact certification@spe.org to renew.**

5. Why is an examination needed?

SPE certification requires demonstration of technical knowledge that can only be verified by examination. Certification, licensing, or chartering without an exam does not provide an independent third party confirmation of technical knowledge. It is important to acknowledge that SPE's Certification is an internationally recognized credential and not a license or charter.

6. Tell me more about the exam.

The exam is a 70 question, multiple choice test that is designed around three areas of technical knowledge:

- Drilling (25%)
- Production Engineering (35%)
- Reservoir (40%)

Twenty exam problems cover general breadth questions concerning petroleum. The SPE exam is not open book, however you are allowed to bring the SPE Petroleum Engineering Handbook and reference guide.

7. Do I have to retake the exam each year?

No. This is a one-time only exam. If you allow the certification to lapse, you will be required to take the exam again.

8. How can I qualify for the waiver from the exam?

The examination may be waived if the applicant has previously passed a written examination (from a regional, state, or national authority) qualifying him/her to practice in petroleum engineering as a registered, licensed, chartered, or professional engineer. **Currently, U.S. PE licenses from the 52 state/territory jurisdictions, certifications from Alberta, Canada, and certifications granted by Indonesian IATMI are approved for waiver.** You must also fulfill the application requirements for the certification exam, see question 1.

9. Does experience qualify for exemption or waiver of the SPE exam?

No. SPE certification is a credential of technical knowledge demonstrated by examination.

10. How do I renew my SPE certification?

SPE will send you a renewal notice on the anniversary of your certification, and it can be paid as a bundle with your annual renewals.

11. Is there a title I can use for my SPE certification?

Upon passing the examination, the applicant may refer to himself or herself as having achieved certification under the SPE Petroleum Engineering Certification Program. The Applicant may use the acronym of **SPEC**, (SPE Certification) on any public document or on any marketing materials, including without limitation brochures, business cards, letterhead, and advertisements.

12. I'm a reservoir engineer. Why do I need to pass exam questions on drilling and production/operations?

This is a petroleum engineering "generalist" exam. SPE assumes that you have experience the other disciplines in the course of your engineering experience. You are only expected to have depth knowledge of your specialty. Breadth knowledge of other disciplines is sufficient to pass the exam.

13. My training and degree are in a field other than petroleum, but I've worked in the industry for more than four years. Can I pass this exam?

The exam is focused on real life, practical petroleum engineering knowledge and experience. The exam will be more difficult for a geologist or other related geosciences, but not impossible to succeed.

14. Is the exam in any other language than English?

No. The exam will be in English. The examination writing committee goes to great lengths to ensure that the exam is not overly language dependent. (With exceptions in Indonesia.)

15. What reference materials are permitted in the exam session?

The SPE Certification Exam allows **ONLY** the Professional Engineering Handbook (PEH) and SPE Petroleum Engineering Certification and PE License Exam Reference Guide in the exam session, whether in a group exam or computer based testing.

- The above reference materials must be bound. Bound refers to: (1) material bound permanently (i.e.,

stitched or glued); and (2) material fastened securely in its cover by fasteners that penetrate all papers (e.g., ring binders, spiral binders, plastic snap binders, brads, or crew posts). You are allowed to write or perform calculations in the exam booklet. **Writing tablets, unbound tables, notes, or papers are NOT permitted in the examination room.**

- Candidates are not permitted to exchange materials or aids during the examination or talk during the examination.

16. Do you have an exam review course or self-study materials?

The *SPE Petroleum Engineering Certification and PE License Exam Reference Guide* is a single reference tool for members to use while taking the SPE Certification exam or the US PE Licensing exam. The guide can be purchased from the [online SPE Bookstore](#). SPE also offers a Certification Exam Review Course at annual meeting and specially scheduled venues around the world. Consult the [Certification page](#) for the schedule.

17. How many times can I take the exam?

The certification program allows for each member to sit the exam up to three times. If they fail after the 1st attempt then they must wait 12 months before their 2nd attempt. If they then fail their 2nd attempt then they must wait 24 months until their 3rd attempt. If they fail their 3rd attempt then they become ineligible in the certification program.

18. Is there an online review course?

As of August 2015, SPE offers an online review course for USD 295. [Visit](#) to register or for more information.

19. Will there be exams on site in my area?

SPE offers exam sessions based on a minimum attendance. Because this minimum requirement is often difficult to accommodate we typically host 2-3 sessions per year.

20. Tell me about Computer Based Testing (CBT)

Computer Based Testing Centers are located globally and provides the test taker with the opportunity to find a local testing center. SPE has partnered with Kryterion Global Testing Solutions to establish secure testing centers around the world, so you can take your certification exam at a facility that's convenient for you.

1. [Find a Kryterion testing location](#).
2. After you apply and complete payment, you will receive an invoice number.
3. [Contact Certification](#) with your invoice number, and you will be issued a voucher and link to schedule your exam.

21. Can I call myself an SPE certified petroleum engineer in countries that have existing legal licensing or chartering credentials?

Applicant should be aware that in some countries or states there are laws restricting the use of the title "engineer" and that it is his or her responsibility to understand the laws of the location where he or she practices. Applicant agrees to indemnify SPE for any and all claims, losses or damages arising from Applicant's use of the term "SPE Certified Petroleum Engineer" or from his/her use of the term "engineer" in violation of this Agreement or the laws of any jurisdiction. SPE Certification is a credential, and is not a license to practice as an engineer.

22. If I pass the exam, how will I be notified?

You will be contacted by SPE with a congratulatory email or letter. You'll will receive a certificate (suitable for framing) that recognizes your accomplishment. You can also request to be listed at SPE.org as a member that has been credentialed under the SPE Petroleum Engineering Certification Program.

23. How do I apply?

- Read and sign the Application Agreement, you will be asked to submit this form at the end of the application process.
- [Apply Online](#) or Fax/Mail the application packet to:

SPE Americas Office
222 Palisades Creek Drive
Richardson, Texas 75080
USA
Fax: +1.972.952.9435
Email: certification@spe.org

For Exam Sessions In the Middle East, North Africa, and India Region:

Fortune Towers, 31st Floor, Offices 3101/2, JLT Area,
P.O. Box 215959, Dubai, UAE Tel:
+971.4.457.5800
Fax: +971.4.457.3164
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