



North Carolina  
**State Board of Examiners  
 of Plumbing, Heating and  
 Fire Sprinkler Contractors**

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 Examiners of Plumbing,  
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# Exam Information

**All examinees must bring all reference materials to the examination site.**

**Click here for more information.** All materials will be checked for compliance with Board's requirements.

**The following information is available in Adobe PDF format. Click here for a free download of the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader.**

- [Book Reference List & Requirements - \(books required for exams\)](#)
- [Examination Listing and Information](#)
- [Licensing Application Forms](#)
- [Criminal History Notice](#)
- [Online Application NEW!](#)

## Application and Examination Process

- 1. Review all information contained on the Exam Information page of the website.**
- 2. If eligibility requirements are met, download and print the appropriate application.**
- 3. Complete the application, making sure that signatures are notarized where required.**
- 4. Obtain background check information from approved provider.**
- 5. Send completed application with required documents and fee to the Board's office.**
- 6. If application is denied or requires additional information, you will be**

**Notice of the issuance of application is scheduled by the exam center. You will receive notification of the date and time of the examination. You will be notified of a pass/fail at the exam center following your exam. Failing applicants may attend an exam review in Raleigh prior to retesting. These are general steps and apply to the majority of licensees.**

**Certain licenses may have slightly different procedures. Applications may be mailed to our office or delivered in person. Applicants visiting the office who wish to speak to the Exam Coordinator regarding the application may do so on Fridays only. Applicants must have an appointment to do so, and no one will be seen without an appointment. There are no reciprocity agreements with any other state. All persons desiring to obtain licensure with this Board must meet the requirements listed herein and satisfactorily complete the applicable examination(s). Current and former military personnel or spouses may receive credit for experience gained during active service. [Click here](#) for more information.**

**All applicants are required to obtain a current copy of the Board's Laws and Rules book prior to making application to the Board for any examination or license. [Click here](#) for the book order form.**

**Please Note: The following eligibility requirements are provided as a general outline, and may not be detailed or inclusive of all eligibility requirements. Please consult the examination application form and the Board's Laws and Rules book for complete eligibility requirements.**

**[Click here](#) for License Definitions (by Group and Class)**

**Plumbing and/or Heating Contractor License:** To be eligible to take the Plumbing, Heating Group No. 1, Heating Group No. 2 and/or Heating Group No. 3 Contractor examination(s), an applicant must have 2 years (4,000 hours) on-site full-time experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of plumbing or heating systems related to the category for which license is sought, whether or not license was required for the work performed. However, up to one-half (2,000 hours) (45 quarter hours or 30 semester hours) of the experience requirement may be in academic or technical training directly related to the field of endeavor for which the examination is requested.

**Plumbing, Heating & Fuel Piping Technician License:** To be eligible to take the Plumbing, Heating Group No. 1, Heating Group No. 2 and/or Heating Group No. 3 Technician examination(s), an applicant must have 18 months (3,000 hours) on-site full-time experience in the installation, maintenance, service or repair of plumbing or heating systems related to the category for which license is sought, whether or not license was required for the work performed. To be eligible to take the Fuel Piping Technician examination, an applicant must have 9 months (1,500 hours) on-site full-time experience in the installation, maintenance, service or repair of fuel piping systems.

**Plumbing and/or Heating State & Local Government Technician License:** To be eligible to take the Plumbing, Heating

**Group No. 1, Heating Group No. 2 and/or Heating Group No. 3 State & Local Government Technician examination(s), an applicant must have 18 months (3,000 hours) on-site full-time experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of plumbing or heating systems related to the category for which license is sought, whether or not license was required for the work performed. However, applicants for a license as a State & Local Government Technician who currently hold an active Class I plumbing or heating contractor license issued by this Board may qualify for the corresponding State and local government technician license without examination. [Click here for more details.](#)**

**Plumbing and/or Heating Private Educational Institution Technician License: To be eligible to take the Plumbing, Heating Group No. 1, Heating Group No. 2 and/or Heating Group No. 3 Private Educational Institution Technician examination(s), an applicant must have 18 months (3,000 hours) on-site full-time experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of plumbing or heating systems related to the category for which license is sought, whether or not license was required for the work performed. However, applicants for a license as a Private Educational Technician who currently hold an active Class I plumbing or heating contractor license issued by this Board may qualify for the corresponding Private Educational Institution technician license without examination.**

**Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor License: To be eligible to take the Restricted Limited Plumbing Contractor examination, an applicant must have 9 months (1,500 hours) of full-time experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of plumbing systems, whether or not license was required for the work performed. However, up to one-half (750 hours) of the experience requirement may be in academic or technical training directly related to the field of endeavor for which the examination is requested. Current active licensees of the North Carolina Irrigation Contractor Licensing Board, who also hold Backflow Inspector Certification from an approved municipality in the state or demonstrates 500 hours of experience in the maintenance, service or repair of components of plumbing systems may also qualify.**

**Fuel Piping Contractor License: To be eligible to take the Fuel Piping Contractor examination, an applicant must have 1 year (2,000 hours) of experience in the installation, maintenance, service, or repair of fuel piping. However, up to one-half (1,000 hours) (22 quarter hours or 15 semester hours) of the experience may be in academic or technical training directly related to fuel piping. Fuel piping privileges are included in the Plumbing and Heating Group 1, 2, and 3 licenses, and do not require a separate examination for persons applying for or currently holding one or more of these licenses.**

**Fire Sprinkler Installation and/or Inspection Contractor license: To be eligible to take the Fire Sprinkler Installation Contractor examination, an applicant must hold a current certification by NICET for "Fire Protection Engineering, Level III, Automatic Sprinkler System Layout". To be eligible to take the Fire Sprinkler Inspection Contractor examination, an applicant must hold a current certification by NICET for "Inspection and Testing of Water-Based Systems, Level III".**

**Residential Fire Sprinkler Installation Contractor license: To be eligible to take the Residential Fire Sprinkler Contractor examination, an applicant must have held an active Plumbing Contractor license issued by this Board for a minimum of 2 years, and must complete a 16 hours course approved by the Board. If you are interested in attending a future class, please contact the Board office.**

**Fire Sprinkler Inspection Technician license: To be eligible to take the Fire Sprinkler Inspection Technician examination, an applicant must have 2 years (4,000 hours) of full-time experience in the inspection and testing of previously installed fire sprinkler systems, the installation of fire sprinkler systems, or a combination of inspection, testing and installation. To obtain the license without examination, an applicant must hold a current certification by NICET for "Inspection and Testing of Water-Based Systems, Level II".**

**Fire Sprinkler Maintenance Technician**

**Limited Fire Sprinkler Maintenance Technician examination, an applicant must have 1 year (2,000 hours) of full-time experience at the place for which license is sought as a full-time maintenance employee with exposure to periodic maintenance of fire sprinkler systems.**

### **Military Experience for Experience Qualification for Licensure**

**Current or former military personnel who submit applications for license may use military experience in accordance with the experience requirements listed in our statutes and rules. Military experience shall be documented by submission of the following documents:**

- The applicant's DD214 noting the military experience that is applicable to the type of license the applicant is seeking to obtain,**
- Sworn statements from direct supervisor(s) who supervised the applicant, detailing the type and hours of experience the applicant has in the classification of license being sought**

**Current or former military spouses who submit applications for license may submit the following items as documentation of experience applicable to the type of license they wish to obtain in accordance with the experience requirements listed in our statutes and rules:**

- Copies of licensure from other state(s) along with a sworn statement from the licensing authority acknowledging that the applicant obtained the licensure by examination and detailing the**

**experience the licensing authority required from the licensee in order to obtain the license, and**

**- Sworn statements from direct supervisors who supervised the applicant, detailing the type and hours of experience the applicant has in the classification of license being sought.**

**Examination Information: Examinations are given on a daily basis at seven testing centers throughout the state (Asheville, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Raleigh, Fayetteville, Greenville, Wilmington). Upon application approval, the applicant will receive written notification which will include instructions for scheduling the examination, which must be taken within thirty (30) days of the date of the notification letter. [Click here](#) for a listing of examinations and time limits.**