



1 What is the NASCLA Accredited Electrical Examination Program?

The NASCLA Accredited Electrical Examination Program was developed to meet the needs of regulatory agencies across the country and to improve the overall quality and validity of trade licensing examinations for electricians.

The Examination Program consists of three (3) open-book electrical trade examinations: one (1) for electrical contractors (master/unlimited electricians), one (1) for journeyman electricians and one (1) for residential electrical contractors (residential electricians).

The examinations were developed by Subject Matter Experts with diversified backgrounds from around the country to ensure that each exam accurately represents the work performed in jurisdictions throughout the United States. These examinations were developed under the highest psychometric and electrical standards.

2 What are the benefits for regulatory agencies?

For regulatory agencies, the Examination Program allows states to share a common standard, so that each state can review exam results from other states with the assurance that the results meet their own standards.

The Examination Program allows regulatory agencies to pool resources with other states to continue developing consistently improved standards for electrical examinations.

These pooled resources also make possible significant cost savings for the development and administration of the examinations for each participating agency. Finally, states can more easily provide a new and improved examination infrastructure with established expertise.

3 What are the benefits for electricians?

For electricians, the Examination Program offers the potential for greater mobility—allowing electrical contractors and electricians to move quickly between participating states to provide assistance during natural disasters, or to help meet demand in states with a high need but limited supply of qualified electricians.

The shared examinations also reduce the need for electricians to spend time, money and stress traveling to different states to take multiple exams.

4 Is the NASCLA Accredited Electrical Examination Program considered a “National License”?

No. The Examination Program provides a shared standard for examinations, but it is not intended to create a “National License.” Each regulatory agency will maintain its sovereignty and will be in control of its state’s licensing requirements.

5 Who can take the examinations?

The Examination Program consists of three (3) examinations, one (1) for each of the following job types:

- **Electrical Contractors (Master/Unlimited Electricians):** One who conducts business in the installation, maintenance and repair of electrical work conforming to applicable standards and codes.
- **Journeyman Electricians:** An individual who has demonstrated capacity in the knowledge and skills needed to properly perform the installation, maintenance and repair of electrical work conforming to applicable standards and codes.
- **Residential Electrical Contractors (Residential Electricians):** One who demonstrates competency in performing electrical installations, service, repair and maintenance typically encountered in a permanent dwelling unit.

6 How was the NASCLA Accredited Electrical Examination Program developed?

NASCLA invited Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from across the country to a series of workshops to develop a job analysis for each examination. The SMEs had a broad and diverse background in the electrical field, including a variety of experience in residential, commercial, industrial, high-voltage, low-voltage, photovoltaic, electrical signs, and other specialized work.

Following the initial SME Workshops, NASCLA conducted national surveys of electricians in each examination category. Survey recipients were compiled through lists provided by state regulatory agencies along with partner associations working with NASCLA throughout this process. The survey asked respondents to review the job analysis for each category and to rate the frequency and importance of the knowledge and skills needed to perform each task. A representative sample of survey responses was received from all states to confirm whether the SMEs were on point in the creation of each job analysis. In follow up workshops, the SMEs used these responses to revise or ratify the job analyses.

Finally, the SMEs created the questions for each examination. With guidance from NASCLA's Psychometrician, the SMEs crafted, evaluated and verified over 1,000 questions, covering the knowledge and skills needed for each job type.

Regulatory agencies can review the scope of work described in the Job Analysis for each examination—as well as the Test Specifications—and make informed decisions about choosing the NASCLA Accredited Electrical Examination Program as their state standard.

7 How will the examinations be administered?

The examinations have been designed to make it easy for regulatory agencies to implement. The exams will be housed on a third-party hosted server that will allow each agency to utilize their preferred testing administrator to give the examinations. Each testing administrator will also be able to use their current scheduling system to register and schedule examinees for the examinations.

8 How are examination results stored and delivered?

Once a candidate has taken and passed a NASCLA Accredited Examination, their information is stored in the NASCLA National Examination Database (NED). Candidates can electronically send a regulatory agency their transcript through the database to alert the agency that they have passed one (1) or more of the examinations. Regulatory agencies can then pair the transcript with the candidate's license application.

9 Who created the NASCLA Accredited Electrical Examination Program?

The NASCLA Accredited Electrical Examination Program was initiated by the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) in cooperation with the following associations:

- National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)
- Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)
- National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
- International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI)
- Western Electrical Contractors Association (WECA)

10 Who is NASCLA?

The National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) was formed in 1962 for the mutual assistance of its members in striving for the better regulation of the construction industry to protect the health, welfare and safety of the general public. It has since grown to a membership of forty-one (41) contractor licensing agencies in twenty-seven (27) states, Washington, D.C., two (2) territories, and one (1) foreign country.

11 Where can I find more information?

For more information, please contact Angie Whitaker, NASCLA Executive Director, via email at angiewhitaker@nascla.org or visit the NASCLA website at www.nascla.org.