

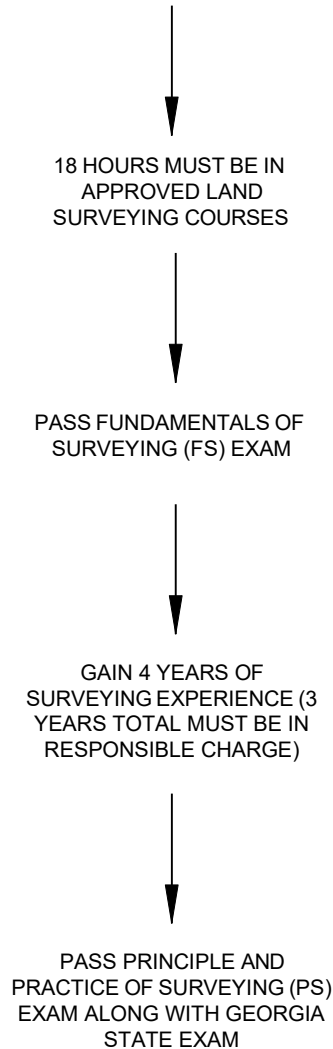
# HOW TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA



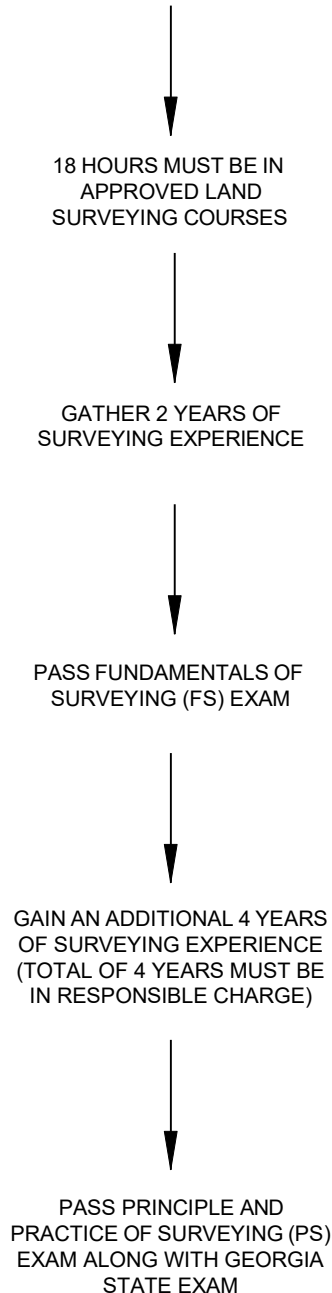
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## STEP ONE - (PICK A PATH)

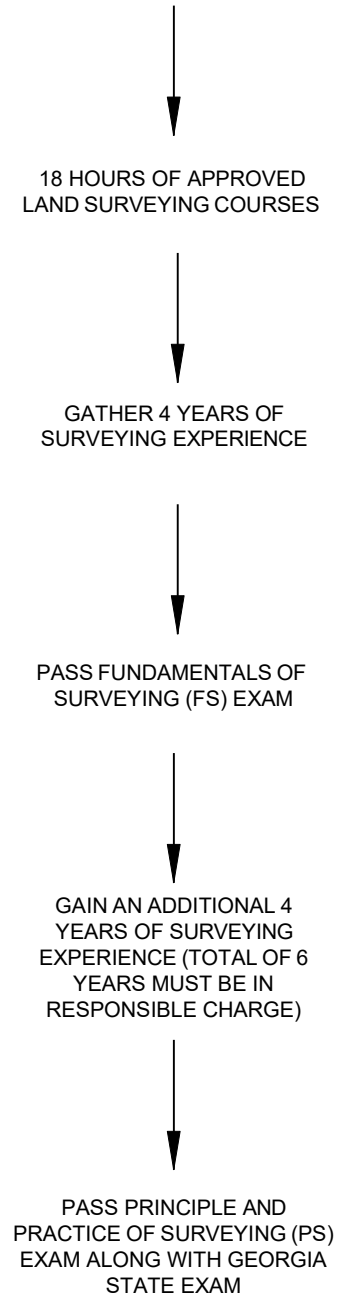
### 4-YEAR BACHELOR'S DEGREE\*



### 2-YEAR ASSOCIATES DEGREE\*\*



### HIGHSCHOOL DIPLOMA (LAND SURVEYING CERTIFICATE)



\* 4 YEAR BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN LAND SURVEYING OR CLOSELY RELATED FIELD ONLY

\*\* 2 YEAR ASSOCIATES DEGREE IN LAND SURVEYING OR A RELATED SCIENCE OR 4 YEAR BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN UNRELATED FIELD

# HOW TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA



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## STEP ONE - (PICK A PATH)

- ☐ Bachelor Degree Path - Earn a Bachelor Degree in Land Surveying, Geomatics, Geospatial Science, Civil or Construction Engineering, Geographic Information Systems, or Forestry **AS WELL** as the classes required in Step Two. (requires 0 years of experience before step 3)
- ☐ Associates Degree Path - Earn an Associate Degree, or its equivalent, in a curriculum approved by the Board, or Bachelors Degree in an unrelated field. **AS WELL** as the classes required in Step Two. (requires 2 years experience before step 3)
- ☐ Land Surveying Certificate Path - Earn a high school diploma, or its equivalent **AS WELL** as the classes required in Step Two. (requires 4 years experience before step 3)

## STEP TWO - EDUCATION

- ☐ Acquire a minimum of 18 semester hours of credit, or its equivalent, in Land Surveying subjects in a course of study approved by the Board. Below is a list of the courses.
  - S1: Foundation in Surveying.
    - The course would cover the basics of surveying coordinate geometry, surveying calculations, traversing and leveling, topography & contours, proper field procedures, and basic cartography. Prerequisites should include trigonometry and a course in drafting, engineering graphics, CAD, cartography, or similar background. Course should include lab in surveying, measurements, etc. This course might be offered under names such as "Elementary Surveying", "Surveying 1", "Geomatics Measurements", etc.
  - S2: Advanced Surveying Course
    - The course would cover state plane coordinates, mapping projections, advanced field techniques, route and alignment surveys, volumetric calculations, construction staking techniques, and data collection. Appropriate lab application should be included in the course. This course might be offered under names such as "Advanced Surveying", "Route Surveying", "Surveying 2", etc.
  - S3: Legal Aspects Course
    - The course would include history of land division systems, basic property rights, legal descriptions, written conveyances, unwritten conveyances, retracing the footsteps of older surveys, junior-senior rights, prescription and adverse possession, hierarchy of controlling monuments and title elements, disputes and litigation. This course might be offered under names such as "Legal Aspects of Surveying", "Boundary Law", "Property Law", etc.
  - S4: Professional Practice Course
    - The course would prepare the applicant for professional practice as a Professional Land Surveyor and would include subdivision design, site layout, zoning and land use regulations, professional ethics, and business practice.
  - S5+: Additional Courses
    - Additional courses in surveying and related applicable fields include higher level material such as GIS, geodesy, geodetic surveying, photogrammetry, advanced boundary law, remote sensing, dendrology, spatial analysis, and surveying adjustments. Partial credit may be given for some courses which contain partially applicable material.

**\*If you would like to be design and hydrology certified, then HP1, HP2 and AH are required\***

- HP 1: Hydrology Prerequisite 1
  - Hydrology Prerequisite 1. This course would follow a physics sequence and cover the general engineering principles of mechanics and statics.
- HP 2: Hydrology Prerequisite 2
  - This course would follow the mechanics/statics course and concentrate in fluid mechanics, pressurized flow, and hydraulics.
- AH: Applied Hydrology
  - This course covers watershed analysis and the design of culverts, multi-structure systems, retention ponds, and open channel flow.

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## STEP THREE - FUNDAMENTAL OF SURVEYING (FS) EXAM

- ☐ Gather the required Surveying Experience as mentioned in Step One depending on your education gathered.
- ☐ Subsequently pass the Board approved examination in the Fundamentals of Land Surveying (Land Surveyor Intern Examination).
- ☐ Once you have passed the FS Exam, you are now a Survey Intern (SI & formerly known as LSIT).

## STEP FOUR - PRINCIPLE AND PRACTICE OF SURVEYING (PS) EXAM

- ☐ Once you have passed the FS exam, you must acquire **ADDITIONAL** experience depending on which path was chosen during Step One before you can take the PS Exam. See below for required experience prior to taking the PS Exam.
  - Under Bachelor Degree Pathway:
    - Acquire no less than four (4) years of combined office and field experience in Land Surveying with a minimum of three years in responsible charge under the direct supervision of a Professional Land Surveyor.
  - Under Associates Degree Pathway:
    - Acquire an additional four (4) years of combined office and field experience in Land Surveying. Four (4) of the Six (6) years must be in responsible charge under the direct supervision of a Professional Land Surveyor.
  - Under Land Surveying Certificate Pathway:
    - Acquire an additional four (4) years of combined office and field experience in Land Surveying. Six (6) of the Eight (8) years must be in responsible charge under the direct supervision of a Professional Land Surveyor.

## STEP FIVE - STATE SPECIFIC EXAM

- ☐ Along with the PS Exam, you are now able to take the Georgia State Specific Exam. Once all experience is obtained and approved, and all exams have been passed, licensure will be issued.

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## SURVEYING PROGRAMS

### ☐ **Bachelor Degree Programs**

- Kennesaw State University
  - Bachelor of Science in Geospatial Sciences (Land Surveying Concentration)
- Georgia Southern University
  - Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with Surveying-Geomatics
  - Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering with Surveying-Geomatics
- University of North Georgia
  - Bachelor of Science in Environmental Spatial Analysis

### ☐ **Certificate Programs (Campus)**

- University of North Georgia
  - Land Surveying Certificate
- Kennesaw State University
  - Land Surveying Certificate
- Georgia Southern University
  - LSIT Surveying Certification

### ☐ **Certificate Programs (Online Programs)**

- Great Basin College (Nevada)
- Oklahoma State University
- North Carolina A&T
- University of Florida
- University of Maine

## HELPFUL LINKS

- ☐ FS Exam Information - <https://nces.org/surveying/fs/>
- ☐ PS Exam Information - <https://nces.org/surveying/ps/>
- ☐ Surveying and Mapping Society of Georgia (SAMSOG) - <https://www.samsog.org/>
- ☐ SAMSOG Education Foundation - <https://www.samsog.org/mpage/foundation-home>
- ☐ Young Surveyors Network - <https://youngsurveyors.org/>
- ☐ Georgia Secretary of State, How To Guide: Land Surveyor - <https://sos.ga.gov/how-to-guide/how-guide-land-surveyor>
- ☐ Georgia PLS and LSIT Education & Experience Qualifications: <https://rules.sos.ga.gov/GAC/180-4>