



ABET (formerly the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) evaluates 2-year and 4-year engineering technology and 4-year engineering programs all differently. Only the 4-year engineering program accredited by ABET is expected to prepare a student for professional licensure.

**It is GREAT that you are considering engineering as a career path!** Serving the public as a licensed Professional Engineer can be particularly rewarding. If you think you may want to pursue licensure, we encourage you to pursue a 4-year engineering degree from an ABET-accredited engineering college as a starting point. WSPE also encourages licensure for engineers who may never work directly for the public or on projects that will be used/occupied by the public.



## QUESTIONS?

Please feel free to contact the **Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers** for additional information and insight on engineering as a career, and how to best start your journey to becoming an engineer.

### WSPE Contacts:

[execdir@wspe.org](mailto:execdir@wspe.org)

*Links to additional information on the engineering profession and licensure:*

#### Licensure:

<http://www.nspe.org/Licensure/index.html>

#### What is a PE?

<http://www.nspe.org/Licensure/WhatisaPE/index.html>

#### How to Get Licensed?

<http://www.nspe.org/Licensure/HowtoGetLicensed/index.html>

#### Why Get Licensed?

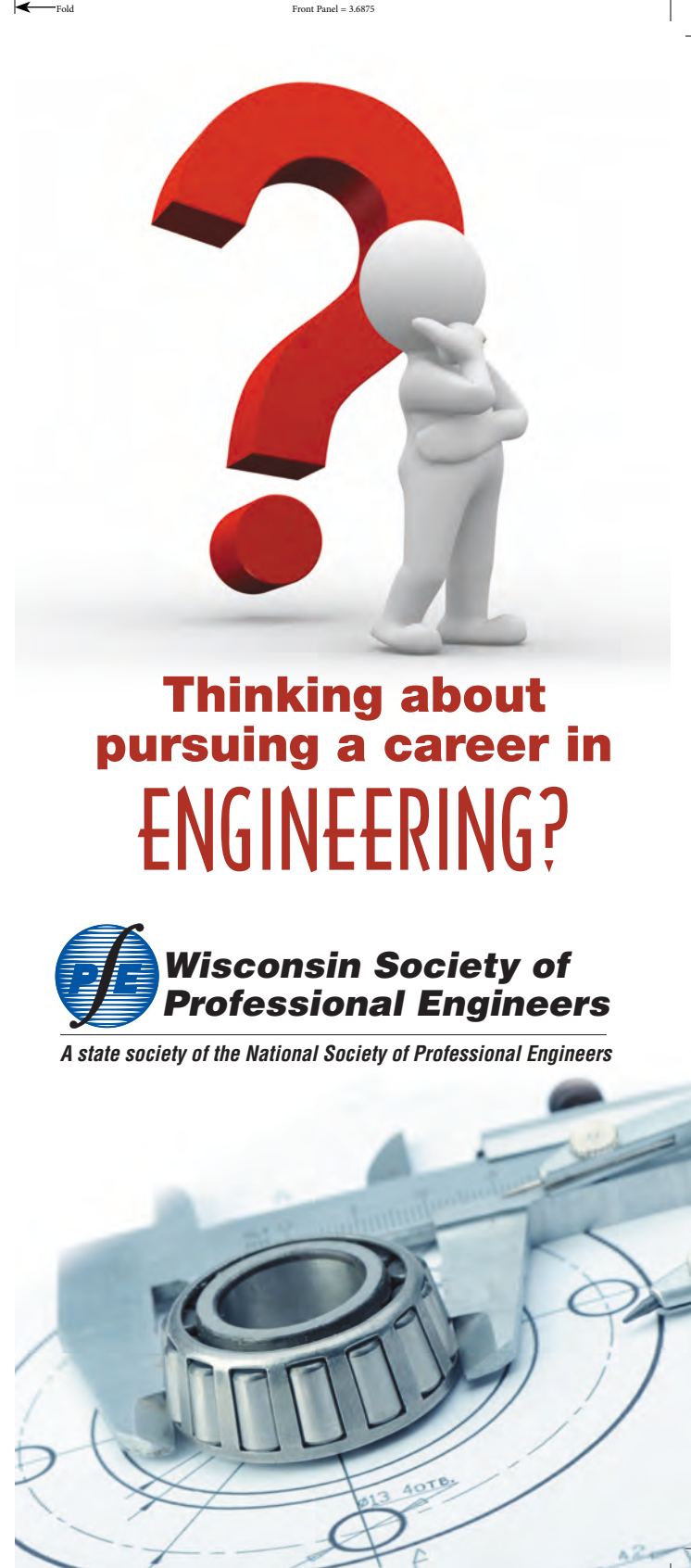
<http://www.nspe.org/Licensure/WhyGetLicensed/index.html>

#### Resources:

<http://www.nspe.org/Licensure/Resources/index.html>

<http://www.asce.org/>

<http://www.wspe.org>





**That's excellent!**  
 Engineering can be a very rewarding experience, not only as a great way to earn a living, but also as a satisfying experience of improving the everyday lives of the general public.

**What do engineers do?**

**What is a licensed Professional Engineer (PE)?**

"Engineer" is a broad term that many job descriptions may include. Position titles such as Maintenance Engineer, Boiler Engineer, Communications Engineer, and Engineer (operators of trains or other heavy equipment or engines) are examples of job titles that have developed over the years. These jobs are very important in today's workforce, but they may not embody the true definition of engineering. Many of these jobs are very important skilled trades but they normally only require a 2-year associate

degree and should be titled "technician" or "engineering technician," not "engineer." Note there are also 4-year engineering technology degrees available for becoming an "engineering technologist."

A second grouping of engineering positions does require a 4-year Baccalaureate degree in engineering, but typically does not require licensure to practice by the state in which the work is taking place. Engineers who work for private manufacturers which sell their products, rather than engineering services, to individuals and various entities are examples of engineers who often fit into this grouping. Note that engineers in this type of engineering field sometimes pursue licensure from their state, but such licensure is normally not required to perform their job duties. Note: licensure is recommended for expert witness endeavors and for giving testimony for lawsuits.

A third grouping consists of engineers who are in charge of other engineers and engineering projects and offer their services to third parties. Examples are engineers who are involved in such projects as large buildings, roadways, bridges, water purification

facilities and waste water plants. To hold paramount the health, safety and welfare of the public, engineers who offer their services to the public or are in charge of public projects are required to be licensed by the state in which the work takes place.

Requirements for licensure vary slightly from state to state, but the typical requirements are:

- A 4-year degree in engineering from an ABET-accredited engineering program
- Passage of the 6-hour Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam, followed by
- Four years of engineering work experience under the supervision of a licensed Professional Engineer, followed by
- Passage of the 8-hour Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam.



*Engineering – the application of scientific principles to practical ends in the design, construction and operation of efficient and economical structures, equipment, and systems.*

