



Nebraska Board of Geologists Strategic Plan

Approved: August 28, 2024

Mission Statement and Operating Philosophy

The Board assures geological practices in Nebraska are carried out by qualified individuals to safeguard life, health, property, and to promote the public welfare. The Mission is carried out by:

- Assuring that those who serve the public through the practice of geology have the education and experience needed to be competent in the field;
- Enforcing the Geologists Regulation Act through education and compliance oversight;
- Providing quality and responsive regulatory services; and
- Providing information to the public about the Geologists Regulation Act and the practice of geology in the state.



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Student Outreach

The purpose of conducting Student Outreach is to promote licensure awareness and the advantages of licensure as well as promote the professional growth of the students.

Goals

1. Provide presentations and be available for questions at Nebraska Geological Society (NGS) meetings
2. Board presentations at student seminars
3. Promote the FG exam as an assessment tool for Nebraska geological and/or geography programs
4. Create a "Next Steps" contact process for recent graduates and/or seniors of Nebraska programs
5. Create a presentation to use with students – Board approved 4/2020

Action Plan

1. Partner with NGS to present to and engage students
2. Create/Edit/Use a presentation approved by the Board to be used when presenting at student seminars and available venues.
3. Arrange an initial meeting with the education institutions in Nebraska to promote the use of the Curriculum Performance Assessment Tool (CPAT) as provided to the institutions by the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG).
4. Have a board presence at designated conferences and meetings through the use of an information table/exhibit
5. Explore the creation of social media accounts such as Facebook and LinkedIn
6. Contact UNL, UNO, and Chadron State for a list of incoming seniors and recent graduates, which can be used as a tool to introduce the Board and the importance of licensure.
7. Contact UNL, UNO, and Chadron State about possible speaking opportunities (where/when a good place/time to meet with students to discuss licensure)



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Professional and Public Education

The purpose of conducting professional and public education is to provide better information on the practice of geology and to more effectively enforce the Geologists Regulations Act (the Act).

Goals

1. Identify groups and agencies for possible engagement
2. Provide information at selected events
3. Publish regular news updates from the Board – Topics discussed:
 - a. Why and when should I take the FG exam?
 - b. What does the practice of geology look like in Nebraska?
 - c. Notices from other agencies that may affect geologists in Nebraska (i.e. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) notice of well driller standards being revised)
 - d. Congratulating new licensees by exam
 - e. Statue and/or Rules revisions
 - f. Meeting Minutes/Highlights

Action Plan

1. Participation at the Legislative Breakfast hosted by the Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) and the Ground Water Foundation
2. Create a committee to develop content and format of communications to be sent out to the licensees.
3. Explore posting shorter news articles on the Board's website
4. Develop a letter to senators introducing the board, it's purpose and info why regulation is important.



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Common Practice Areas and Cooperative Agreements

The purpose of defining common practice areas and pursuing cooperative agreements is to open the lines of communication between the Board and other organizations and Nebraska state agencies.

Goals

1. Enhance awareness with the identified agencies and organizations
2. Refine common practice areas which should involve professional geologists
3. Identify other organizations and Nebraska state agencies which have interaction with professional geologists

Action Plan

1. Create talking points on what the practice of geology is based on the common practice areas
 - a. The interpretation and use of boring logs used for stratigraphic correlation
 - b. Slug and pump tests
 - c. Aquifer tests
 - d. Water/Soil/Vapor/Ground Water Risk Assessments
 - e. Landfill Applications
 - f. Groundwater monitoring plans and reports
 - g. Title 118, steps 6 and 7, and Remedial action plans
 - h. Geological Investigations – Tier 1 and Tier 2 Environmental Site Assessments
 - i. NEPA environmental Statements/Soil Classifications
 - j. Geophysical studies
 - k. Salvage paleontology/Historical Review
 - l. Road design and borrow pits
 - m. Underground storage/orphan sites – Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) contractual agreements
 - n. Waste Division Professional Services – NDEE contractual agreements
 - o. Clean Water Act Applications
2. Visit with other state boards and agencies for periodic informational engagement and discuss possible crossover practice areas.
 - a. Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE)
 - b. Nebraska Department of Transportation (DOT)
 - c. Water Well Standards and Contractors' Licensing Board
 - d. Board of Engineers and Architects (NBEA) – informal relation already exists due to the sharing of staff
 - e. State Board of Landscape Architects (NSBLA) – informal relation already exists due to the sharing of staff
 - f. State Fire Marshall (SFM)
 - g. Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
 - h. Natural Resource Districts (NRDs)
 - i. NDEE– Public Water Supply
 - j. US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)



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- k. US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- l. US Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Soil Classification
- m. Restoration Activity Organizations
- n. Nebraska Oil & Gas Conservation Commission
- o. UNL School of Natural Resources Conservation and Survey Division
3. Research resources that may be used to identify companies that may be practicing geology, but do not hold a valid certificate of authorization.



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Continued Cooperation with ASBOG

The purpose of continued cooperation with ASBOG is to influence the quality of the national licensing exams and to stay up to date with current national issues and trends.

Goals

1. Regular attendance at the ASBOG Annual Meeting and COE Workshops
2. Creation of exam questions by Board members not attending the Council of Examiners (COE) Workshops
3. To ensure Nebraska has a voice on issues being addressed by ASBOG
4. Have board members become involved with ASBOG on the committee level

Action Plan

1. Encourage the preparation and submittal of draft examination questions to ASBOG from board members and licensees for review at the COE Workshops
2. Encourage board members and licensees to become involved with ASBOG at the committee level or as subject matter experts. Inform licensees of openings and application process to become a Subject Matter Experts (SME)
3. Prioritize funding to allow members and staff to attend the Annual Meeting and COE Workshops.



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Core Course Equivalency Chart Revisions

The purpose of reviewing and revising the equivalency chart is to ensure course titles included are current and relevant.

Goal

To update the list to ensure courses listed reflect current and relevant equivalent courses.

Action Plan

1. Create a committee to review and make recommendations for revisions to the chart.
2. Update The Core Course Equivalency after each ASBOG Task Analysis or as needed.
3. Update The *Rationale for the Core Courses* after each ASBOG Task Analysis or as needed.



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Geologists Regulation Act Revision Review

The purpose of the review is to identify any revisions that may be needed to update the Act.

Goal

To have revisions to the Act identified and prepared for possible introduction during the appropriate legislative session.

Action Plan

1. Find a senator to sponsor the Board approved revisions to the Act in July 2024.



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Creation of An Exam on the Act and Rules

The purpose of the exam would be to familiarize licensee applicants with the Geologists Regulation Act and the Board's Rules and Regulations (Board Rules) as a requirement for licensure. This will require a revision to Section § 81-3539.

Goal

To create and utilize the use of an exam on the Act and Board Rules as a requirement for licensure.

Action Plan

1. To be implemented after the statute and rules revisions become effective
2. Review the draft exam for relevance