

Land Surveyor

Registration Process



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Description of Occupation

Land surveyors study land, water and air space to establish or re-establish boundaries. The information they gather is used to establish the location, limits and boundaries of road and highway alignments, well sites, land subdivisions and more.

Registering in Alberta

To work in Alberta, Land Surveyors must first obtain a Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS) Certificate of Completion. The certificate tells the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association (ALSA) that you meet the basic educational requirements to become an Alberta Land Surveyor.

For information, contact:

The Registrar

Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS)

900 Dynes Road, Suite 100E

Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3L6

Canada

Phone: 613-274-7115

Fax: 613-723-5558

Website: www.cbeps-cceag.ca

E-mail: info@cbeps-cceag.ca

Once you have received a Certificate of Completion, you will be eligible to article (train) with an Alberta Land Surveyor.

When an Alberta Land Surveyor has agreed to article you, complete the Application to Article and send it, along with the appropriate fees and your Certificate of Completion, to the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association office at:

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association (ALSA)

10020-101A Avenue, Suite 1000

Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3G2

Canada

Phone: 780-429-8805

Website: www.alsa.ab.ca

E-mail: info@alsa.ab.ca

Links to Application information and other resources are at the end of this document.

After you complete your articling process, you must pay the appropriate fees (see "Payments") and take an oath before a judge of the Court of Appeal or Court of Queen's Bench. At that point you will be able to work as a registered Land Surveyor in Alberta.

Residency

There is no residency requirement to begin the registration process.

Requirements

The following process is for Land Surveyors licensed outside of Canada.

1. *Academic Credentials*

You must prove you are a licensed Land Surveyor by providing CBEPS with an application for admission along with the following:

- A summary of all your education and training
- An official transcript of your grades (must be sent directly from your educational institution to CBEPS)
- A certified copy of any diploma, degree or certificate given to you by your educational institution.
- A Credential Evaluation Report (Basic Assessment Report) from an international credential evaluation service (see: www.canalliance.org).

If you believe that you qualify for exemptions from some of the topics listed in the CBEPS handbook (see “Resources”), you can submit an exemption request after you have applied for admission. Each topic requires its own exemption request along with the following:

- An official detailed description of materials covered by the course(s) that you feel are equivalent to the topics you would like to be exempt from, which includes a breakdown of the number of hours spent on each of the materials
- The number of hours in the academic term that were reserved for classes and lab assignments
- The prerequisites for the course(s)
- Copies of examinations written during the course(s)
- Copies of lab assignments during the course(s)
- The name of the instructor(s) who taught the course(s).

The CBEPS Candidate Evaluation Committee will review the information you have provided and will let you know if you are accepted as a candidate, and what, if any, exemptions you have been awarded. This assessment process takes two to three months.

Candidates can appeal the Committee’s decision, and have the matter handed over to a third party. The appeal process takes two to three months.

Work Experience

Once you have your certificate of completion from CBEPS, you are required to article for a minimum of two (2) years in Alberta. This must include at least 18 months of field experience and six (6) months of office experience, unless the Registration Committee permits otherwise.

You must complete these requirements within five (5) years, unless other arrangements have been approved.

To maintain your progress, you must:

- Complete two (2) written professional examinations (effective April 2016), two (2) project reports (see “Reports”) and a final qualifying examination
- Submit an affidavit of service by January 15 of each year, or your articles will be terminated
- Meet with the Registration Committee once each year to discuss your progress.

Note: If you would like to transfer your articles to another principal, you must submit a Transfer of Articles form.

2. Other Requirements

Before your articles can be approved, you must submit to ALSA:

- An articling resumé
- A report outlining your program of training and experience to be completed during your period of articles (see Eligibility for Articles in the Pupil Handbook, found in the “Resources” section).
- The articling contract with your principal
- Payment of fees

Payment

Fees are listed in Canadian dollars and are subject to change. See the associations for the most up-to-date fees.

CBEPS Fees	
Application for Assessment/Admission	\$315
Application for Examination (per subject)	\$150
Application for Appeal of each examination	\$100
ALSA Fees	
Articling Application Fee	\$200
Annual Articled Pupil Fee	\$250
Professional Written Examination Fees (per exam)	\$275
Professional Qualifying Examination Fee	\$850
Registration Fee	\$800
Project Report Submission Fee	\$150
Annual Fee	\$1,000

English Language

You must be able to communicate in English, but English language testing is not required.

Examinations

1. *CBEPS Examinations*

You must pass 12 core syllabus items and at least one (1) elective syllabus item (for a total of 13 syllabus items) in order to receive a Certificate of Completion.

The 12 core syllabus items are:

- Item C1: Mathematics
- Item C2: Least-Squares Estimation and Data Analysis
- Item C3: Advanced Surveying
- Item C4: Coordinate Systems and Map Projections
- Item C5: Geospatial Information Systems
- Item C6: Geodetic Positioning
- Item C7: Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry
- Item C8: Cadastral Studies
- Item C9: Survey Law
- Item C10: Land Use Planning and Economics of Land Development
- Item C11: Business Practices and the Profession
- Item C12: Hydrographic Surveying.

The elective syllabus items, of which you must choose two (2), are:

- Item E1: Spatial Databases and Land Information Systems
- Item E2: Environmental Management
- Item E3: Advanced Remote Sensing
- Item E4: Advanced Photogrammetry.

Note:

You may be eligible for exemptions if your transcripts show you have completed similar coursework/examinations.

2. *ALSA Examinations*

You must pass two (2) written practical exams (effective April 2016).

Once you have completed the field and office time, the professional exams and the project reports, you may apply to take the final Qualifying Exam. This examination consists of general questioning on the surveying profession and practice.

Reports

You must submit two (2) project reports, which are to be four (4) to six (6) pages each. *A minimum of one project report should be submitted within two years of signing articles and one project report the year thereafter.* Projects shall be on two different topics chosen from the list below.

Approved topics are:

- Subdivision (must be a plan of survey);
- Bare land condominium;
- A stand-alone right-of-way ;
- Road survey;
- Real property report;
- Well site/pad site;
- Other (this option will require pre-approval from the Committee).

Your involvement for all project reports submitted shall be hands on in every aspect of the project; except for client contact, subdivision authority approval and drafting of the project. You must personally complete the field work for each of the project reports at the party chief or supervisory level. You shall complete each phase of the project under the supervision of an Alberta Land Surveyor.

Average Earnings

The overall average earnings for all Land Surveyors, according to the Alberta 2013 Wage and Salary survey:

Average hours worked per week	46.7
Average wage per hour	\$38.60
Average salary per year	\$93,910

Professional Surveys Canada conducted a Canada compensation survey in 2011. The survey can be viewed at:

www.alsa.ab.ca/Portals/0/PDF/Member_Resources/Reference_Material/Compensation/AB_Only_2011_PSC_Compensation_Report.pdf

Employment Options

You may work as a Technologist under an Alberta Land Surveyor while their academic credentials are being assessed. A portion of this experience may count towards the candidates' articling time.

You can also consider working in Alberta in related occupations such as Community and Park Planner, Geomatics Engineer, Geomatics Technologist, Geotechnical Engineer or Mapping Technologist.

For more information about additional employment options, go to the following website:

[Alberta Learning Information Service \(ALIS\) Occupational Profiles — Land Surveyor \(www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo\)](http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo)

Contact Information

Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS)
900 Dynes Road, Suite 100E
Ottawa, Ontario K2C 3L6
Canada
Phone: 613-274-7115
Fax: 613-723-5558
Website: www.cbeps-cceag.ca
E-mail: info@cbeps-cceag.ca

Alberta Land Surveyors' Association (ALSA)
10020-101A Avenue, Suite 1000
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3G2
Canada
Phone: 780-429-8805
Toll-Free: 800-665-2572
Fax: 1-888-459-1664
Website: www.alsa.ab.ca
E-mail: info@alsa.ab.ca

Resources

This information is an overview of the registration process. For the most current information on Land Surveyor registration, visit the Canadian Board of Examiners for Professional Surveyors (CBEPS) website at www.cbeps-cceag.ca or the Alberta Land Surveyors' Association (ALSA) website at www.alsa.ab.ca.

Application Forms and Information:

[CBEPS Candidate Application Form](#)
[CBEPS Application Policy](#)
[Alberta Land Surveyor Firms](#)
[ALSA Application to Article](#)

Academic Credentials:

[CBEPS Handbook](#)
[CBEPS Exemption Policy](#)

Other Requirements:

[Articling Resume Form](#)
[Affidavit of Service of an Articled Pupil](#)
[Pupil Handbook](#)

Examinations:

[CBEPS Exam Application Form](#)
[ALSA Application for Qualifying Exam](#)
[ALSA Syllabus](#)

Reports:

[Project Report Title Page](#)
Project report guidelines are included in the [ALSA syllabus](#).