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**Alaska Board of Registration for Architects,  
Engineers, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects**

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**PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYING EXAM  
CANDIDATE HANDBOOK**

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**2020**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Alaska Board of Registration for Architects, Engineers, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects (AELS) is responsible for developing the Alaska Land Surveying Examination (AKLS) for candidates seeking licensure as professional land surveyors. The AELS Board devotes substantial time and effort developing a state-specific examination that is a valid measure of competency related to the practice of the profession. Public protection is enhanced in that competent candidates have a greater chance of passing the exam.

The AKLS Examination is a 60 question, open-book multiple-choice exam. The examination is given at least once per year and is the result of careful preparation by a committee comprised of professional land surveyors. These land surveyors supply the content expertise essential in developing a fair and impartial examination for measuring entry level competency in the profession.

In addition, the AELS Board requires that candidates pass the Fundamentals of Land Surveying (FLS) and the Principles and Practice of Land Surveying (PLS) Examinations prepared by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES). Candidates may purchase a copy of the NCEES Professional Land Surveying Candidate Handbook for use in preparing for the FLS and PLS Examinations:

National Council of Examiners  
for Engineering and Surveying  
ATTN: Publications Dept.  
P.O. Box 1686  
Clemson, SC 29633-1686

Telephone: 1-(864) 654-6824 ext.233  
Fax: 1-(864) 654-6966  
Toll Free: 1-800-250-3196 ext. 233  
Homepage: <http://www.ncees.org>

This candidate handbook is designed to help you prepare for the AKLS Examination. We hope you find the information useful. We extend our best wishes for success on this examination and in the practice of land surveying.

## DESCRIPTION OF EXAMINATION

### Examination Schedule and Timetable

The AKLS Examination is given at least once each year, typically in April. The examination is comprised of 60 multiple-choice questions administered in a 2-hour session.

omitted questions) are scored as incorrect responses.

### Examination Validity

The content of the AKLS Examination has been determined by reviewing the statutes, rules and regulations that impact the practice of professional land surveying in Alaska. The AKLS Examination complements the knowledge and skills measured on the NCEES Examinations.

### AKLS Test Blueprint

The AKLS Test Blueprint (page 5) specifies the content areas/domains for the examination. Each question on the examination is designed to test for knowledge of subject matter within one or more of these content domains. More weight is assigned to content domains that are most directly related to public protection issues. The content and format of the questions have been carefully reviewed to ensure the accuracy of the questions. Sample questions for the AKLS Examination are presented on page 6.

The sample questions do not make up a complete examination. However, they do illustrate the general content areas and format and should be helpful in your preparation for the examination.

### Scoring Procedures

Scores are calculated based on the number of correct responses within an examination. Credit is given for correct responses while no points are received for incorrect responses. Consequently, candidates should answer each question because there is no penalty for guessing. Note that only one response should be marked for each question because questions that contain two or more marked responses or all blank responses (i.e.,

## TAKING THE EXAMINATION

### Distribution of Test Booklets

Proctors will distribute test booklets and answer sheets. Read all instructions carefully. Special attention should be given to the information on the front of the booklet.

Copying, reproduction, or any action taken to reveal the contents of examination in whole or in part is unlawful. Copying questions or removing test booklets from the examination room is prohibited.

### Answer Sheets

To ensure proper scoring of your examination, it is imperative that you listen to the proctor's instructions and read the instructions printed on the examination booklets and answer sheets. Use only #2 pencils or mechanical pencils with HB lead. Marks in ink or felt-tip pens will not be scanned properly. For proper scoring, the answer spaces must be blackened completely.

Select the best answer from the four choices. No credit is given for multiple answers. If you decide to change an answer, erase the first answer completely. Incomplete erasures and stray marks may be read as intended answers. NOTE: Your sketches, notes and calculations are NOT considered to be part of your answer and are not inspected or graded. All work, however, must be turned in with your test booklet.

### Starting and Completing the Exam

Do not open the examination booklet until instructed to do so by your proctor. You are responsible for returning the numbered examination booklet assigned to you.

### References

The AKLS Examination is open-book and references are permitted. You may only use approved hand-held calculators from the current NCEES Calculator Policy (<https://www.ncees.org>). A general GPS reference and a general surveying text with surveying formulas may be helpful. However, remember that you have 60 multiple-choice questions to complete within two hours. Familiarity with the reference material (see AKLS Test Blueprint, page 5) should allow sufficient time to complete the examination. Failure to thoroughly learn and review the reference materials will result in insufficient time to complete the 60-item exam within two hours.

The exam questions are primarily developed from one or more of the references listed below. It is to your advantage to spend time learning and reviewing the relevant material.

1. ASPLS Standards of Practice for Professional Land Surveyors, 2013 Edition. This manual is now available on the ASPLS website at: <https://www.alaskapls.org>

Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors  
PO Box 112835  
Anchorage, AK 99511-2835

NOTE: The statutes and regulations located at <https://www.alaskapls.org> are the version being tested. Older printed versions of the ASPLS Standards of Practice Manual contain some outdated statutes and regulations

2. Manual of Instructions for the Survey of the Public Lands of the United States 1973

Pdf file available for download:  
<https://www.blm.gov/or/gis/geoscience/files/1973Manual.pdf>

3. BLM Manual of Surveying Instructions (2009)  
 Hard copy can be purchased at:  
<https://nsp.s.site-ym.com/store/default.aspx>  
 Pdf file available for download:  
[https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Manual\\_of\\_Surveying\\_Instructions\\_2009.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/Manual_of_Surveying_Instructions_2009.pdf)
4. BLM Publication  
 BLM/AK/AE-90/026+2000+973  
 Rev. June 2001  
Public Land Laws of Alaska can be purchased from:  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Alaska State Office Information Center  
 222 West 7th Avenue #13  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99513  
 (907) 271-5960  
 or  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Fairbanks Support Center  
 Public Information Office  
 1150 University Avenue  
 Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
 (907) 474-2251
5. General reference materials on surveying and GPS.
6. Statutes and Regulations -  
 Architects, Engineers, Land Surveyors,  
 and Landscape Architects  
 Department of Commerce and Economic  
 Development  
 Division of Occupational Licensing  
 (most recent edition)  
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/Portals/5/pub/aelsstatutesregs.pdf>
7. State of Alaska, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT/PF), Construction Manual, dated May 1, 2017. The Manual is located at the following website:  
<http://dot.alaska.gov/stwddes/dcsconst/constructionmanual.shtml>
8. State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources Survey Unit Website:  
<http://www.dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/survey/>
9. Definitions of Surveying and Associated Terms  
 Hard Copy can be purchased at:  
<https://nsp.s.site-ym.com/store/default.aspx>
10. Alaska Society for Professional Land Surveyors—at the following website:  
<https://www.alaskapls.org>
11. Federal Statute 25 CFR, Parts 150 and 169 (May 2016)
12. Alaska Railroad Transfer Act, 1982. U.S. Code: Title 45, 21, 1203.

### Special Accommodations

If you require special accommodations in the test-taking procedure because of a disabling condition, communicate your need by the deadline date listed on the exam application to the:

Department of Commerce, Community, and  
 Economic Development  
 Division of Occupational Licensing  
 PO Box 110806  
 Juneau, AK 99811-0806  
 Phone: (907) 465-2540

**AKLS Examination  
Test Blueprint (2020)**

No.	Content Domains	Number of Items
1	AS Titles 8, 9, 10 and AAC Title 12 - Professional Statutes & Regulations	3
2	AS Title 19 - Highways & Ferries	2
3	AS Title 27 - Mining	1
4	AS Title 29 - Municipal Government	3
5	AS Title 34 - Property	4
6	AS Title 35 - Public Buildings, Works and Improvements	1
7	AS Title 38 - Public Lands	3
8	AS Title 40 - Public Records & Recorders	3
9	AS Title 44 - State Government	1
10	AAC Title 11 - Natural Resources	5
11	Federal Statute 25 CFR, Parts 150 & 169	2
12	ASPLS Standards of Practice for Professional Land Surveyors, 4th ed. (Chapter 1) ASPLS	2
13	ASPLS Standards of Practice for Professional Land Surveyors, 4th ed. (Chapter 2) Standards	4
14	ASPLS Standards of Practice for Professional Land Surveyors, 4th ed. (Chapter 3) Guidelines	5
15	ASPLS Standards of Practice for Professional Land Surveyors, 4th ed. (Chapter 4) Sources of Information	1
16	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act	2
17	Alaska Statehood Act	1
18	Alaska State Plane Coordinate System/Geodetic Surveying	6
19	Public Land Survey System (Federal)	9
20	Boundary Law	2
	<b>Total Number of Items</b>	<b>60</b>

## AKLS Sample Questions

1.

You are surveying a parcel of state land for public disposal and there is an existing ATV trail that does not have a reserved easement or right-of-way. When creating the plat, this trail should be shown with an easement:

- A) 50 feet wide centered on the trail.
- B) 30 feet on each side of the centerline.
- C) 20 feet wide, unless a need is demonstrated for a different width.
- D) No easement needs to be shown.

2.

The Federal Geodetic Control Committee defines the minimum distance accuracy for a Third-order, Class I survey as:

- A) 1:15,000
- B) 1:10,000
- C) 1:5,000
- D) 1:20,000

3.

Along an east-west section line:

- 1. The section corners were surveyed and set in June 1919.
- 2. The survey was approved by the GLO Surveyor General in July 1925.
- 3. Land north of the section line was entered in March 1919 and patented in July 1935 from the Federal Government.
- 4. Land south of the section line was entered in February 1949 and patented in February 1951 from the Territory.

Section line easements are:

- A) none
- B) 33' each side.
- C) 33' on north; none on south.
- D) 33' on south; none on north.



### AKLS Sample Questions

4.

Alaska legislation has adopted the NAD 83 system for State Plane Coordinates. What does the legislation refer to regarding the units of measure?

- A) The legislation permits use of meters or International Feet.
- B) The legislation permits use of meters or U.S. Survey Feet.
- C) Legislation permits use of meters and either International Feet or U.S. Survey Feet, as long as it is specified.
- D) State legislation mentions meters, but is silent about any conversion to feet.

5.

In performing a retracement survey on a Public Land Survey where BLM monuments are lost, BLM procedures require that surveyors use which of the following adjustments for positioning the monuments?

- A) Single and double proportion
- B) Least squares adjustment
- C) Bowditch adjustment
- D) Bowditch and Grant adjustments

**Key for: "AKLS Sample Questions"**

1. B
2. B
3. D
4. D
5. A