



Office of the
Director

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
Washington, DC 20415

September 10, 2013

MEMORANDUM FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORS

FROM: Kimberly A. Holden,
Deputy Associate Director,
Recruitment & Hiring

SUBJECT: Draft Revised Qualification Standard for Professional Engineering
Occupations, 0800

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing a draft revision to the qualification standard for professional engineering positions, 0800. Agencies continue to need qualified applicants for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) positions in a very tight labor market. To provide agencies flexibility to compete, and to encourage more STEM students to consider opportunities in the Federal Government, we have added Engineering Technology bachelor's degrees, accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), as qualifying for professional engineering occupations.

As a part of our review process, we examined the curriculum requirements for Professional Engineering and Engineering Technology degree programs, we reviewed ABET accreditation criteria, and we met with representatives from both academia and Federal agencies. Experience and education requirements are unchanged, as are professional registration and licensure options used to qualify in lieu of required education. We updated the language to reflect changes in terminology used in reference to professional registration and licensure.

A copy of the draft standard is attached. We value your input and ask that you review the draft for accuracy, completeness, and clarity. In addition, please address the specific questions outlined below:

1. Describe the type of engineering occupations you fill in your organization (e.g., series, specialty, grade levels).
2. Do you currently have enough qualified applicants for your Engineering occupations? If not, please describe the issue(s).
3. Do you currently hire individuals with bachelor's degrees in Engineering Technology? If yes, into what types of jobs (please provide title, series, grade levels).

As a reminder, draft qualification standards are not to be used for filling positions until issued in final. Please send your comments by email to competency@opm.gov no later than Friday, October 18, 2013.