

End of the junior engineer program

Why is the junior engineer program ending on March 31, 2022?

To better regulate candidates for the profession and resolve various legal issues, the OIQ decided to update its regulations in 2019. As a result, the junior engineer (Jr. Eng.) title was replaced by the candidate to the engineering profession (CEP) title. Accordingly, the OIQ stopped issuing junior engineer's permits on April 1, 2019 and candidates to the engineering profession are now registered in the OIQ's CEP register (instead of the roll of members). Junior engineers were granted a three-year transition period to finish their junior engineer program and obtain their engineer's permit.

I am an engineer-in-training. Am I affected by this situation?

Yes, because the junior engineer (Jr. Eng.) title and the engineer-in-training (EIT) title will no longer be recognized after March 31, 2022. This means that engineers-in-training must make a decision about their professional title and their next steps before March 31, 2022.

Sponsorship

For more information, refer to the "[Sponsorship](#)" section of our Web site.

Can I register for the sponsorship program?

No. As of December 31, 2020, it is no longer possible to register for the sponsorship program and obtain experience credits, due to the structure of the program, which lasts one and a half years. In fact, since the junior engineer program will no longer exist on April 1, 2022, it is impossible to fulfill all the sponsorship program's requirements within the required periods of time.

Note that all those who obtained the OIQ's approval to begin the sponsorship program may finish it.

How many credits does the sponsorship program provide?

Once you have completed sponsorship program, you are entitled to eight months of experience credits. However, these eight months cannot be divided up on a prorated basis if you do not complete the entire program. In other words, if you do not complete the program, you will not receive any credits.

Deadlines and process for obtaining an engineer's permit

Which dates do I need to remember in connection with the end of the junior engineer program?

- December 1, 2021: This is the deadline for sending all your documents to the OIQ so that your file can be processed by March 31, 2022.
It is important to meet this deadline, because if you do not, your file might be processed after March 31, 2022, which would mean that you would lose your junior engineer title before you obtain your engineer's permit. However, if this situation occurs, you could then temporarily become a CEP.
- March 31, 2022: This is when the junior engineer program ends (no extensions will be granted). You have until this date to fulfill all of the junior engineer program requirements for obtaining your engineer's permit, apply to transfer to the CEP program, or request that your name be removed from the roll. If you take no action before March 31, 2022, you will be struck from the roll of members and your junior engineer's permit will be automatically revoked.

What is the fastest way to obtain my engineer's permit?

Every situation is different, and the answer depends not only on your professional path, but also on your progress in the junior engineer program. Therefore, it is impossible to say exactly how long it will take you to acquire your engineer's permit. However, if you want to speed up your file's processing time, make sure that you send us all required information at the same time (dates, signatures, etc.) so that your file keeps its order of priority for processing. In fact, all incomplete files are automatically returned. If you have questions about your path or need assistance in completing your file, feel free to contact us BEFORE you send us your documents.

How much time does it take to process the files?

File processing times depend on the volume of files received by our teams. The end of the junior engineer program has created a huge work load and a much larger volume of files to process than usual. Even though additional staff has been hired and efforts are being made to provide efficient follow-up, you can expect the initial assessment to be completed in at least 10 to 12 weeks. However, various factors can affect the processing times, such as the compliance of the files received, the meeting schedule of the Admission Committee, etc.

Can I get an extension beyond March 31, 2022 to finish my junior engineer program?

No. Extensions will not be granted to finish the junior engineer program, even for special situations, such as if you are on a sick leave or a parental leave, plan to retire soon, are not working as much or at all due to the pandemic, etc.

If you don't think you will be able to complete the junior engineer program by March 31, 2022, you might consider the solution of transferring to the CEP program in order to become an engineer. That way, you will receive an additional five-year period to meet the requirements for obtaining your engineer's permit.

Benefits of obtaining an engineer's permit

Why should I complete the process and obtain my permit?

The engineer's permit gives you a professional status and credibility in the eyes of society, the public and employers. It also offers excellent professional mobility within Canada and internationally. Furthermore, once you are registered on the roll of members, you will have the privilege of using the engineer title and independently practicing the various professional activities that are reserved for engineers, without being [supervised](#) by an engineer.

Will the engineer's permit help me get a job?

While a professional title cannot guarantee that you will find a job, it does give you an edge in the job market. In fact, in line with its mission to protect the public, the OIQ supervises and controls engineering practice throughout Quebec to ensure that its members use best practices in their work. For many employers, this regulation serves as a guarantee of competence.

Recognizing experience and experience credits

For more information, refer to the "[Engineering Experience](#)" section of our Web site.

How can I be sure that my engineering experience will be recognized by the OIQ?

Several experiences may be recognized under the junior engineer program (engineering work, internship, sponsorship, graduate engineering studies). However, conditions apply to each of these types of experience. To avoid unpleasant surprises and obtain the experience credits you desire, feel free to contact us BEFORE you send us your file.

How can I report my experience if I do not have an engineer to act as my referee?

In the event that you do not have a referee, please contact the OIQ so that a solution can be found.

Professional examination

For more information, refer to the "[Professional Examination](#)" section of our Web site.

Do I absolutely have to pass the professional exam?

Yes. Passing the professional examination is still a condition for obtaining your engineer's permit. Therefore, you must register for one of the examination sessions scheduled in the [calendar](#). Note that despite the pandemic, several examination sessions are scheduled and certain accommodations can be made in specific cases.

Can I take the professional examination remotely during the pandemic?

No. For the time being, the professional examination cannot be taken remotely. The examinations must be taken on site and proof of identity must be provided.

Is it possible to take the examination in English?

Yes, the examination is available in French and in English. The study materials for the examination is only available in French.

Mandatory continuing education

For more information, refer to the "[Continuing Education](#)" section of our Web site.

Will the continuing education hours that I accumulated as a junior engineer or an engineer-in-training be kept in my file once I have obtained my engineer's permit?

Yes. These hours remain in your file for the reference period in progress. In addition, under the new [Regulation respecting mandatory continuing education for engineers](#) (in French only), you will be able to transfer up to 7 excess hours to the following reference period, provided you are still a member of the OIQ.

Is the required number of continuing education hours the same for junior engineers and full-fledged engineers?

Yes. The requirements set forth in the regulation are the same for junior engineers, engineers-in-training and full-fledged engineers.

Professional liability insurance

For more information, refer to the "[Professional Liability Insurance](#)" section of our Web site.

Will the requirements for professional liability insurance change when the junior engineer program ends?

No. Junior engineers and engineers-in-training have the same liability insurance requirements. In fact, for as long as you remain an OIQ member, you must be enrolled in the group professional liability insurance plan contracted by the OIQ, as well as the supplementary group plan if you perform certain types of activities. The plan will cover you for a period of five years from the date on which your junior engineer's permit or engineer-in-training permit ceases to be valid, provided it is replaced with an engineer's permit.

French language requirements

For more information, refer to the "[Language Requirements](#)" section of our Web site.

Is everyone required to take the French examination?

Under the Charter of the French Language, professional orders may issue permits only to individuals who have appropriate knowledge of the French language. This means that junior engineers must pass the examination administered by the Office québécois de la langue française if they do not meet one of the following conditions:

- They have studied or taken courses on a full-time basis for at least three years at the secondary or postsecondary level, at an institution that teaches in French (secondary school, CEGEP, university);
- They have passed the fourth and fifth year secondary level examinations in French as a first language in Quebec;
- They obtained a secondary school degree in Quebec starting in the 1985-1986 school year.

Consult the following pages for questions and answers about transferring to the CEP program

Transferring to the CEP program

If you don't think that you will be able to complete the junior engineering program by April 1, 2022 or would like to request a transfer to the CEP program, these questions and answers are for you. For more information, refer to the "[Candidate to the Engineering Profession](#)" section of our Web site.

What are the major differences between the junior engineer program and the candidate to the engineering profession (CEP) program?

- Candidates to the engineering profession are registered in the OIQ's CEP register, as opposed to junior engineers and engineers-in-training, who are registered on the roll of members. This difference explains why CEPs do not have the same rights and responsibilities as junior engineers and engineers-in-training, especially when it comes to mandatory continuing education and professional liability insurance. CEPs may register on the OIQ's roll after they have acquired their engineer's permit (they will then be subject to the same rights and responsibilities as all other engineers).
- CEPs must complete 24 months of experience (compared to 36 months, including 12 months in Canada, for junior engineers and engineers-in-training) and acquire the six professional competencies required to practice engineering.
- CEPs must complete mandatory online theoretical training components before taking the professional examination, as opposed to junior engineers and engineers-in-training, who can take the professional examination without any prior training.

Consult the [table that explains the differences between the junior engineer and CEP programs](#) for more details.

How can I request a transfer to the CEP program?

You must apply for a transfer in your portal by going to the "Requests" section and clicking on "Professional admission program transfer request."

Can I cancel my transfer application after submitting it?

No. The transfer application is irreversible, which means that you cannot cancel it.

I am a ex junior engineer (or engineer-in-training); can I transfer to the CEP program?

Yes. You must apply for a transfer in your portal by going to the "Requests" section and clicking on "Professional admission program transfer request."

What is the deadline for submitting an application to transfer to the CEP program?

The deadline is March 31, 2022. After that date, the junior engineer and engineer-in-training titles will no longer be recognized. In other words, if you have not already finished your junior engineer program or applied for a transfer to the CEP program, you will be struck off the roll and will no longer be affiliated with the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec.

However, we recommend that you apply for the transfer before December 1, 2021 to be sure that your file is processed by March 31, 2022.

Do I have to provide specific documents?

In principle, no. However, depending on your situation, we may contact you to request additional or missing information from your file.

Will I have to pay fees to transfer to the CEP program?

If you are currently registered on the roll of members as a junior engineer or an engineer-in-training, you will not have to pay fees to transfer to the CEP program or to register in the CEP register.

If you are no longer registered on the roll of members as a junior engineer or engineer-in-training, you will have to pay the CEP program registration fee, as well as the transfer fee.

Is there a deadline for successfully completing the CEP program?

You have five years from the date of your registration in the CEP register to successfully complete the program.

What will my official professional title be once I am registered in the new professional admission program?

Your new professional title will be “candidate to the engineering profession.” You will also use the abbreviation “CEP.”

Here are some examples:

- Pierre Larochelle, candidate to the engineering profession;
- Alexandrine Tremblay, CEP.

Once you are registered in the program, you will no longer be allowed to use the junior engineer title (Jr. Eng.) or the engineer-in-training title (EIT) in your professional signature or your job title.

Once you have transferred to the CEP program, you will not be able to return to the junior engineer program.

As a CEP, do I have to complete the annual registration process?

Just like junior engineers and engineers-in-training who were supposed to register annually to stay on the OIQ's roll, CEPs must complete the annual registration process to keep their name in the register. If you do not renew your registration, your name will be removed from the CEP register.

If I transfer to the CEP program, which steps do I need to take to obtain my engineer's permit?

To obtain your engineer's permit, you must complete the three components of the professional admission program.

Components	Description
Practical component	Demonstrate your acquisition of 6 professional competencies (which break down into 28 sub-competencies) and a minimum of 24 months of practical experience in engineering.
Theoretical component	Take an online training activity lasting around 30 hours to prepare for the professional examination and pass the professional examination. Pay the fee for the online training activity, which can be accessed in the CEP portal.
Linguistic component	Demonstrate appropriate knowledge of the French language.

If I become a CEP, what happens to the continuing education hours that I accumulated as a junior engineer?

CEPs are not subject to the *Regulation respecting mandatory continuing education for engineers*. This means that you do not have to take hours of training (other than those included in the professional admission program) until you have acquired your engineer's permit.

However, continuing education hours that you accumulate as a junior engineer or an engineer-in-training will remain in your CEP file for the entire reference period in progress (i.e. if you obtain your engineer's permit during the same reference period, the hours you have accumulated will be used to meet your continuing education requirements as an engineer). Furthermore, note that starting on April 1, 2021, hours (up to 7 hours) that you accumulate in excess of the number of hours required to fulfill the continuing education requirements (30 hours over a two-year period) may be transferred to the next period.

What are my obligations with respect to professional liability insurance as a CEP?

The *Regulation respecting professional liability insurance for engineers* does not apply to CEPs. In other words, you are not obligated to enrol in the group professional liability insurance plan for OIQ members.

Engineering experiences

Will the experience I acquired as a junior engineer be recognized?

All the experience that was recognized and validated by the OIQ while you were a junior engineer will be recognized under the CEP program (these months of practical experience will be transferred to your CEP file).

Experience that you acquired as a junior engineer or an engineer-in-training which has not yet been validated by the OIQ will be subject to review. It may be recognized if it is current (less than five years ago).

Note that in addition to the months of practical experience, you will need to demonstrate that you have acquired the six professional competencies required to obtain the engineer's permit. You will find all the details in your CEP portal, once you have transferred to the program.

If I transfer to the CEP program, how do I send you my engineering work experiences?

To report experiences after you transfer to the CEP program, you will need to do so in your CEP portal. Please note that the experience certification forms used in the junior engineer program are no longer accepted.

During my junior engineer program, one or more of my engineering experiences were rejected. Could these experiences be reassessed under the CEP program?

If you would like us to review a previously rejected experience, please report it in your portal so that it can be assessed based on the regulations that apply to the CEP program.

If I do not produce designs or perform reserved activities, would I be able to demonstrate that I have acquired all of the required competencies?

Yes. To acquire a competency, you must have had at least some exposure to it, such as by participating in discussions with colleagues, training activities, etc.

Can a teaching experience be used to demonstrate that I have acquired certain required competencies?

No. Teaching at the university, CEGEP or secondary levels is not recognized as valid engineering experience. Only time spent on research may be considered and recognized as an acquired competency in some cases.

As a CEP, can I engage in the reserved activities specified in the *Engineers Act*?

Yes, CEPs may engage in an activity reserved for engineers, provided that they do so under the control and supervision of an engineer.

Will the credits I earned from my internship during my bachelor's of engineering program be recognized?

Yes. For the purposes of the CEP program, the OIQ can recognize up to eight months of practical experience for the internships that you complete after you have earned 60 credits in a bachelor's of engineering program. You may submit up to two internships when you report your practical experience in your portal.

If you already earned a credit for 4 months when you were a junior engineer or an engineer-in-training, it will be kept in your file.

I did the sponsorship program when I was a junior engineer. Does this give me any advantage in the CEP program?

Yes. Completing the sponsorship program gives you an advantage, because in the eyes of the OIQ, you will have acquired one of the six professional competencies required to obtain an engineer's permit, i.e. competency 5 "Act professionally."

However, unlike the junior engineer program, the sponsorship program does not let you accumulate months of practical experience for the CEP program.

I am currently in the sponsorship program, but will not be able to finish it. Can some of it be recognized?

No. You must complete the six meetings to receive experience credits (junior engineer program) or gain recognition for the "Act professionally" competency (CEP program).

Can I complete my sponsorship program after I transfer to the CEP program?

No.

Is there a fee to have my experiences assessed?

If you never submitted an engineering experience certification form in the five years after you registered on the roll as a junior engineer or an engineer-in-training, you will have to pay the applicable assessment fee (consult the [fee schedule](#)). Otherwise, there will be no fee.

Professional examination

Is the theoretical component of the CEP program (online training and professional examination) mandatory for everyone?

The professional examination is mandatory for everyone.

If you passed your professional examination as a junior engineer, you do not have to take the online training or pass your examination again. In your case, you will be considered to have passed the theoretical component of the CEP program.

If you did not pass your professional examination as a junior engineer and you become a CEP, you will be required to complete the online training component and then register for the examination. You will have five years to take the theoretical training blocks and pass the examination. Refer to the [fee schedule](#) for more details.

I am registered for a professional examination session and I am transferring to the CEP program before the date of the exam. What should I do?

If you transfer to the CEP program and you are already registered for an examination session, you must take the online training activity lasting approximately 30 minutes before the date of your examination. Please note that this training activity must be completed at least 2 weeks before the examination date. To find out the fee for the online training activity, please consult the [fee schedule](#).

If you are not able to complete the training activity by the deadline, your registration will be cancelled and you will have to register for another session (without charge), once you have completed the online training activity.

Can I register for a professional examination session before I have finished the online training activity?

No. You must finish the online training activity before you can register for the examination.

I have been registered on the roll as a junior engineer for less than three years and I have still not taken the professional examination. Is there a fee for the theoretical component of the CEP program?

The only fee that you must pay is the fee for the online training activity. In fact, if you have been registered on the roll for less than 3 years, you do not have to pay the professional examination registration fee because it is still not applicable in your case. However, if you have been registered on the roll for more than three years, you will have to pay both the examination registration fee and the fee for the online training activity (consult the [fee schedule](#)).

French language requirements

Why do I have to prove appropriate knowledge of the French language?

Under the Charter of the French Language, appropriate knowledge of French is a requirement for completing the CEP program and obtaining the engineer title. Therefore, if you do not include any proof of this knowledge in your junior engineer (or engineer-in-training) file, it will be requested in the CEP program. If you fulfilled this requirement during your junior engineer program, your linguistic component will be considered complete.

Do you have other questions?

Please contact our Customer Service Department:

By e-mail

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By telephone

Montreal region: **514 845 6141, option 1**

Anywhere in Quebec or abroad (toll free): **1 800 461-6141, option 1**