



Benz passes the National Association of State Boards of Geology FG exam

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Kylie Benz

Kylie Benz, Field Hydrogeologist, continues her path towards becoming a licensed professional geologist with her passing the Association of State Boards of Geology Fundamentals of Geologist (FG) exam. This standardized test evaluates foundational geologic knowledge, serving as the first step toward professional licensure as a geologist.

The FG exam is designed to test an entry-level geologist's academic understanding of geology. It emphasizes the importance of licensure in protecting the public, the environment, and ensuring the competency of practicing geologists. Passing this exam is not just about earning a credential; it's about demonstrating your readiness to contribute to the field of geology in a meaningful and responsible way.

The FG exam covers a wide range of topics essential for aspiring geologists. The exam includes questions drawn from eight content sections:

- General and Field Geology: This section covers the basics of geology and fieldwork techniques.
- Mineralogy, Petrology, and Geochemistry: This section focuses on the study of minerals, rocks, and the chemical processes that affect them.
- Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, and Paleontology: This section deals with the study of sediments, rock layers, and fossils.
- Geomorphology, Surficial Processes, and Quaternary Geology: This section examines landforms, surface processes, and geological events of the Quaternary period.
- Structure, Tectonics, and Seismology: This section covers the study of geological structures, tectonic movements, and earthquakes.
- Hydrogeology: This section focuses on the distribution and movement of groundwater.
- Engineering Geology: This section deals with the application of geological knowledge in engineering projects.

Benz devoted many hours preparing for the FG exam. Her study plan involved the following strategies:

Field Experience: Her hands-on experience helped reinforce her understanding of geologic principles.

Reviewing the Exam Content: She familiarized herself with the eight topics and focused on the topics she felt less confident on.

Practicing with Sample Questions: She utilized practice exams to get a feel for the types of questions she would encounter.

Staying Up to Date: Benz stayed up to date with the latest developments in geology to ensure her knowledge was current.

The FG exam is a critical step towards becoming a Licensed Professional Geologist.

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