

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is Caltrans?

We are the **C**alifornia Department of **T**ransportation. The mission of Caltrans is to help improve mobility across California. If you are interested in innovating modes of travel in land, rail, freeways, roads, airports, ramps or bridges, Caltrans would like to learn more about you. Contact us at www.dot.ca.gov or www.caltrans.ca.gov and learn more.

2. How do I get an engineering job at Caltrans?

If you are a graduate or registered as a senior in an ABET approved four-year curriculum in civil engineering, or if you possess a valid Engineer-in-Training certificate, you can take an examination on the web at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/jobs/>.

3. When can I take the Internet exam?

You may take the Internet exam any time, day or night. The exam is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

4. Once I take an Internet exam, how long will it be before I know if I passed the exam?

You will receive instant results once you complete the exam.

5. Is the Transportation Engineer, (Civil) (TEC) Internet exam secure?

Yes, all Internet exams are secure.

6. Does Caltrans reimburse employees who wish to continue their education, i.e., Masters program?

The Department may pay 50 percent of Career-Related Training tuition and course required books and materials, with a limit up to \$500 per person per fiscal year.

7. Does Caltrans offer professional development for Civil Engineers?

Yes, Caltrans provides training in a formalized Rotational Professional Engineering Development Program to all newly hired TECs. The objective is to familiarize the employee with the diversity of work within Caltrans while s/he is gaining experience that potentially qualifies him/her for admittance to the Professional Engineer registration examination. Additional information can be obtained on the web at <http://onramp.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/workforcedev/booklet/index.htm>.

8. Will Caltrans pay for relocation fees?

Yes. The employee must initially pay fees. Reimbursement will be made for new TECs and Transportation Surveyors hired from out-of-state, with allowable costs up to \$1,000 upon verification.

9. May I select more than one location where I would be willing to accept employment?

Yes. The more locations you are willing to work in, the more you increase your chance of employment opportunities. Caltrans employs more than 22,000 people throughout the State of California. You would be able to choose where you want to work, live and recreate in a diverse and progressive state.

- 10. While taking an Internet exam, if I originally anticipated that I would be willing to work anywhere in California, but would like to limit those choices to 2-3 locations, can I change my preference?**

Yes. Access the webpage at <http://exams.spb.ca.gov> and follow the instructions for the Transportation Engineer (Civil) Internet exam on how to update your personal information.

- 11. What is the pay?**

Starting TECs with no experience will receive a minimum monthly salary of \$3,574. Education and experience will potentially allow a starting transportation engineer to receive a minimum monthly salary of up to \$4,636. California registered professional engineers may receive a minimum monthly salary of \$5135.

- 12. If I accept a job offer, do I have to start at the bottom of the pay scale?**

Your salary is set according to your work experience and education. This is determined at the time of hire.

- 13. I have friends/relatives who are interested in working for Caltrans. How can they find out what exams your Department offers?**

Caltrans employs individuals in many disciplines. To get information on exams being advertised, call Caltrans' 24-hour exam line recording at (916) 227-7856 or access our webpage at <http://www.dot.ca.gov>. Interested applicants can obtain copies of job bulletins and/or specifications via the Internet.

- 14. I do not qualify to take the exam yet because I am not close to graduating from college, but I am interested in gaining some hands-on experience. Does Caltrans offer Student Assistant and Volunteer programs?**

Yes. You can work part-time on a temporary basis without taking a civil service examination. Experience gained can count toward meeting the minimum requirements for a civil service examination. Please visit the Caltrans website at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/jobs/SA/sa_index.htm.

- 15. Does Caltrans require physical examinations?**

Caltrans has certain classifications (e.g., engineering) requiring physical examinations administered by a medical doctor. You may also be required to have an audiometric evaluation.

- 16. What kind of benefits does Caltrans provide?**

Caltrans offers health, dental and vision plans. You are also entitled to sick and vacation leave. Other benefits provided include a savings plus program, public employees' retirement program, group legal services plan, a flex-elect program and paid holidays, including a floating personal day.

For an overview of employee benefits and career opportunities, please review the booklet *Orientation for the Great State Employee* at <http://www.dpa.ca.gov/benefits/pubsmain.shtm>