

EXAMINATION QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

RE 423 (Rev. 1/26)

SALESPERSON APPLICANTS

BROKER APPLICANTS

Course requirements for salesperson examination

To qualify to take an examination for a real estate salesperson license, an applicant must submit evidence (official transcript) of having completed a college-level course in **Real Estate Principles, Real Estate Practice***, and *one* additional course from the following:

- Accounting
- Business Law
- Common Interest Developments
- Computer Applications in Real Estate
- Escrows
- Legal Aspects of Real Estate
- Mortgage Loan Brokering and Lending
- Property Management
- Real Estate Appraisal
- Real Estate Economics
- Real Estate Finance
- Real Estate Office Administration

* *Effective January 1, 2024, any real estate practice course submitted for purposes of qualifying to take a real estate license exam, must include components on implicit bias and fair housing. Additionally, the fair housing component must include an interactive participatory component where the applicant role plays as both the consumer and the real estate professional.*

Standards for acceptable college-level courses

Each college-level course required to qualify for a real estate license examination must:

1. Be either a three-semester unit or four-quarter unit course.
2. Have been taken at either:
 - An institution of higher learning accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges or by a comparable regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, OR
 - A private real estate school which has had its courses approved by the California Real Estate Commissioner as “statutory courses.”

Note: Do not confuse college-level semester or quarter-unit statutory courses with continuing education courses. Continuing education courses are courses that must be submitted to renew a license.

Courses taken through a foreign institution of higher learning must be evaluated by a foreign credentials evaluation service approved by the Department of Real Estate. (Refer to form RE 223.)

Course requirements for broker examination

An applicant for the broker examination must have completed *eight* college-level courses, in addition to the experience/educational requirements. These eight courses *must* include the following:

- a. Real Estate Practice**
- b. Legal Aspects of Real Estate
- c. Real Estate Finance
- d. Real Estate Appraisal
- e. Real Estate Economics or Accounting
- f. And three* courses from the following group:

- Advanced Legal Aspects of Real Estate
- Advanced Real Estate Appraisal
- Advanced Real Estate Finance
- Business Law
- Common Interest Developments
- Computer Applications in Real Estate
- Escrows
- Mortgage Loan Brokering and Lending
- Property Management
- Real Estate Office Administration
- Real Estate Principles

* *If applicant completes both Accounting and Real Estate Economics, only two courses from group “f” are required.*

** *Effective January 1, 2024, any real estate practice course submitted for purposes of qualifying to take a real estate license exam, must include components on implicit bias and fair housing. Additionally, the fair housing component must include an interactive participatory component where the applicant role plays as both the consumer and the real estate professional.*

Members of the California State Bar are statutorily exempt from the college-level course requirements. Evidence of admission to practice Law in California must be furnished, such as a photocopy of both sides of a California State Bar membership card. However, members of the California State Bar would still need to demonstrate that they have satisfied the two years full-time licensed salesperson experience requirement or have at least two years real estate related experience while practicing law in California. Members of the State Bar of California using equivalent experience should submit a Non-Licensed Experience Verification (RE 227) form outlying this experience along with their broker exam or broker exam/license combination application.

Experience

A minimum of two years full-time licensed salesperson experience within the last five years or the equivalent is

BROKER APPLICANTS CONTINUED

required. Following are acceptable methods of documenting the experience requirement for the broker examination.

Verification of licensed sales experience

Holding a salesperson license for two years does not necessarily qualify you for a broker license. You must document experience as a licensed salesperson on a full-time basis (or part-time for the equivalent of two years full-time) in the form of certifications from your responsible broker or former responsible broker(s). These certifications must be made using the Licensed Experience Verification (RE 226). Letters of recommendation will not suffice.

If it is impossible to obtain verification of experience from a former responsible broker, you must still complete the Licensed Experience Verification (RE 226) in full and indicate the reason why you could not obtain the responsible broker's signature (e.g., deceased, litigation, etc.) in the space labeled "Signature of Certifying Broker." In addition, you must attach two Experience Certification (RE 228) forms from persons who work in a related professional capacity and who are in a position to attest to your experience and activity. One Licensed Experience Verification (RE 226) form and two Experience Certification (RE 228) forms are required for each separate affiliation when the actual responsible broker is not able to verify experience.

When submitting the Licensed Experience Verification (RE 226) form and the Experience Certification (RE 228) forms, it is important that you provide sufficient detail to enable the Department to perform an evaluation. The Department may conduct further inquiry when evaluating experience.

➤ **LICENSED EXPERIENCE DEFINED**

1. Full-time salesperson activity means at least 40 hours per week devoted to activities that require a real estate license. No additional credit will be given for more than 40 hours of activity.
2. Part-time activity as a real estate salesperson will be given credit on a prorated basis. For example, 20 hours of activity per week would be given credit as half time experience, and four years of such experience would be required to qualify for a broker license. No credit is given for less than 10 hours of activity per week.
3. Salespersons who claim full-time experience for 40 hours per week, but who are employed as full-time employees in another industry, will not, ordinarily, be credited in excess of 20 hours per week maximum (or half-time employment in the real estate business).

Education in lieu of experience

➤ **MAJOR OR MINOR IN REAL ESTATE**

An applicant with a degree from an accredited four year college or university which included a major or minor in real estate may be exempt from the two-year salesperson experience requirement. This may be verified by submitting a copy of the transcript showing the degree earned.

Courses completed or degrees earned through foreign institutions of higher learning must be evaluated by a foreign credentials evaluation service approved by DRE. See Examination Applicant Foreign Education Information (RE 223) for further information.

Equivalent activities in lieu of experience

➤ **GENERAL INFORMATION**

A claim of equivalent experience, in lieu of the two years of licensed sales experience within the last five years required for the broker examination, may be based on any combination of salesperson experience and equivalent experience, which, considered as a whole, would satisfy the intent of the law.

An applicant who has not been active as a licensed real estate salesperson may be eligible for the broker examination, provided Non-Licensed Experience Verification (RE 227) form(s) showing real estate-related experience are submitted. The Equivalent Experience Verification form(s) must be completed in full and must have two verifying signatures, who are not related by blood or marriage, on each form.

When submitting the Non-Licensed Experience Verification (RE 227) form(s), it is important that you provide sufficient detail to enable the Department to perform an evaluation. The Department may conduct further inquiry when evaluating equivalent experience.

Regardless of the experience, the eight college-level courses required for a broker's license must be completed and cannot be waived based on the equivalent experience.

➤ **ACCEPTABLE KINDS OF EQUIVALENT EXPERIENCE**

An applicant may qualify with **two years full-time experience**, gained within the five-year period immediately prior to the date of application for the broker examination, in any of the following areas:

1. Experience as an escrow or title officer or as a loan officer in a capacity directly related to the financing or conveying of real property.
2. Experience as a subdivider, contractor, or speculative builder, during which time applicant performed comprehensive duties relating to the purchase, finance, development, and sale or lease of real property.
3. Experience as a real property appraiser.
4. Experience in examples 1-3 above which was obtained as a non-licensed individual while performing official duties during military service.

The above-referenced patterns are designed to assist the applicant in understanding the general types of equivalent experience which can be used to qualify for the broker examination. Other types of real estate-related experience will be considered, provided that it satisfies the intent of the law. It should be noted, however, that claims for equivalency by unlicensed persons for activities which require a real estate license will not be considered.

BROKER APPLICANTS CONTINUED

NOTE: Please take care in preparing the claim of qualification and presentation of adequate supporting letters or certifications. Do not have verifiers send individual letters separate from your application submissions. Be accurate as to dates, etc., as incompleteness or inaccuracies will result in delays and additional correspondence.

DRE evaluation of experience

All qualification requirements must be met before you can be scheduled for the broker examination. DRE evaluation of claimed experience or education cannot be conducted with applicants in person at any office of the Department or on the telephone.

Standards for acceptable college-level courses

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2. Have been taken at either:

- An institution of higher learning accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges or by a comparable regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education, OR
- A private real estate school which has had its courses approved by the California Real Estate Commissioner as “statutory courses.”

Note: Do not confuse college-level semester or quarter-unit statutory courses with continuing education courses. Continuing education courses are courses that must be submitted to renew a license, and are only acceptable if they were approved by the Department of Real Estate (DRE).

Courses taken through a foreign institution of higher learning must be evaluated by a foreign credentials evaluation service approved by DRE (refer to form RE 223).
