

Licensure of Geologists in North Carolina (and elsewhere)

--Why it's important

--How to become licensed



North Carolina Board of Licensing for Geologists

The Future Looks Promising for Careers in Geology!

- Projected 16% growth in geoscience jobs, 2012-2022, Job outlook – Faster growth than average (*Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook*).
- “Society needs more geoscientists than there are currently students” (*Environmental Science and Technology* 2010, 44 (2), pp. 550-555)

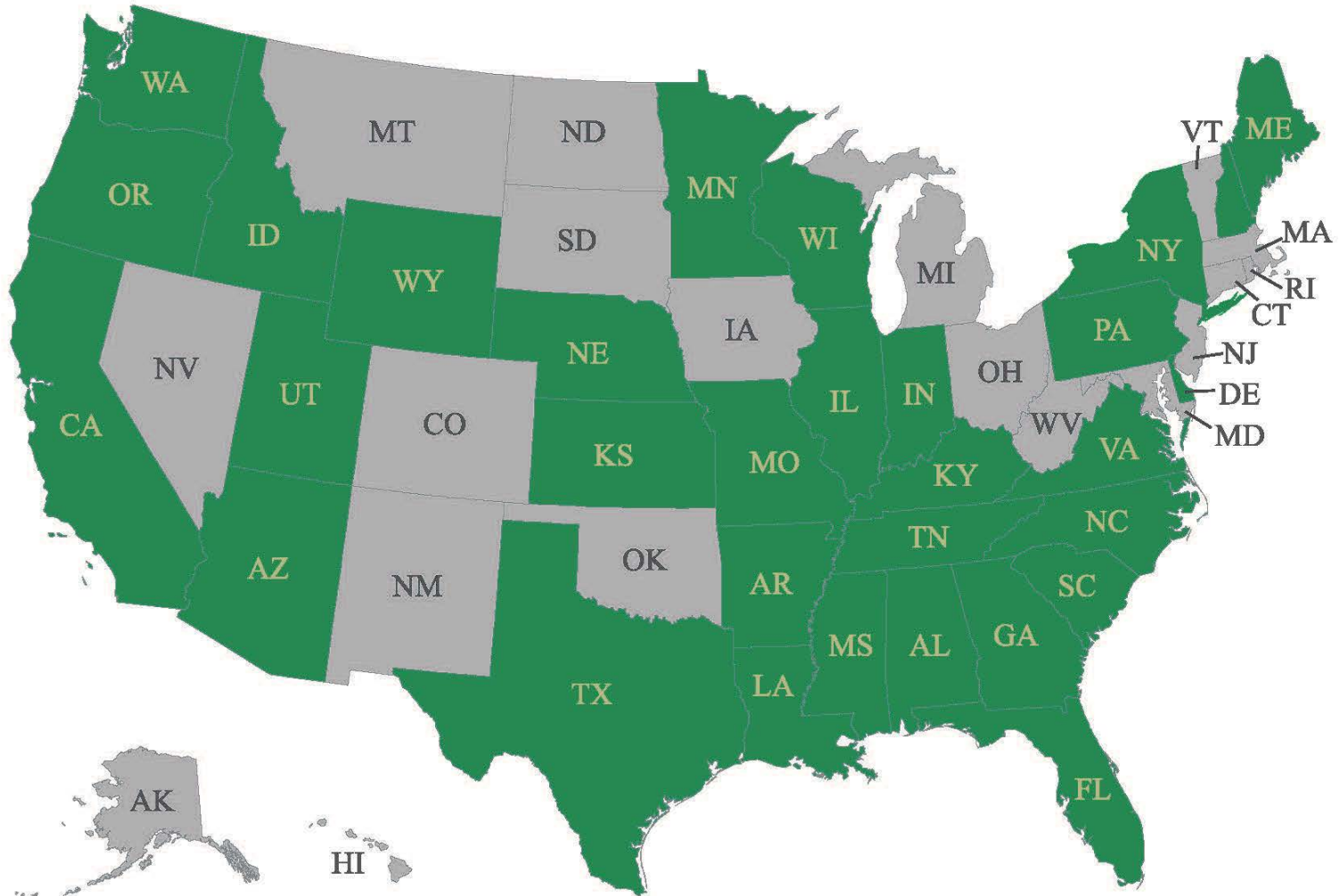


Why Pursue Licensure?

- **REQUIRED** for many positions in > 30 US states, including North Carolina, and Canada
- Impressive professional accomplishment, often associated with pay increase and/or promotion
- Can be licensed in other states via reciprocity/comity



United States & Puerto Rico



- ASBOG Member Board Regulatory State (MBR) (31)
- Visitor State Regulatory (VSR) (1)
- Visitor State Non-Regulatory (VSNR) (19)

North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists

- Established by the Geologists Licensing Act, NC General Statute, Chapter 89E
- Requirements, NCAC 21 Chapter 21
- Professional Code of Conduct for licensed geologists:
“...to safeguard the life, health, property and welfare of the public and to establish and maintain a high standard of integrity, skills, and practice in the profession of geology...”



North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists

- Offers licensure for North Carolina geologists and corporations engaged in geologic work
- Five members appointed by the governor – mining geologist, academic geologist, company geologist, consulting geologist, and non-geologist public member, plus the State Geologist (*ex officio*)
- Member, National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)
- Administers exams for licensure in North Carolina



The Licensing Exam

NCBLG administers the ASBOG exam

- Two tests:
 - Fundamentals of Geology (FG) - Part I
 - Practice of Geology (PG) - Part II
- Each test is multiple choice
- Four hours to take each test
- Exams given in March and October; next exams are 3/16/18 and 10/5/18



The Licensing Exam –FG

Minimum Requirements to Apply:

- Graduation from college or university with degree in geology, or have completed 30 credit hours in geology, of which 24 are advanced level.
- We recommend taking the FG as soon as you qualify.



The Licensing Exam –PG

Minimum Requirements to Apply:

- FG requirements **PLUS:**
- Three years of geological experience after graduation. Each year of undergraduate study counts as ½ year of experience (up to 2 years), and each year of graduate study counts as 1 year of experience (up to 2 years).
- Job experience verification is required.
- Five references from registered geologists and/or engineers.



How to Apply

- Application instructions available on NCBLG website (<http://www.ncblg.org>)
- Be aware of deadlines for submittal – deadline to order for March 2018 exam is January 26, but *first* you must be approved by the Board to take the exam. One-time application fee is \$55.
- Submitted applications are reviewed and candidates approved by the Board.
- Exams given in March and October at the McKimmon Center.
- Parts I (\$230) and II (\$280) both given each time; candidates can take one or both on a given day.

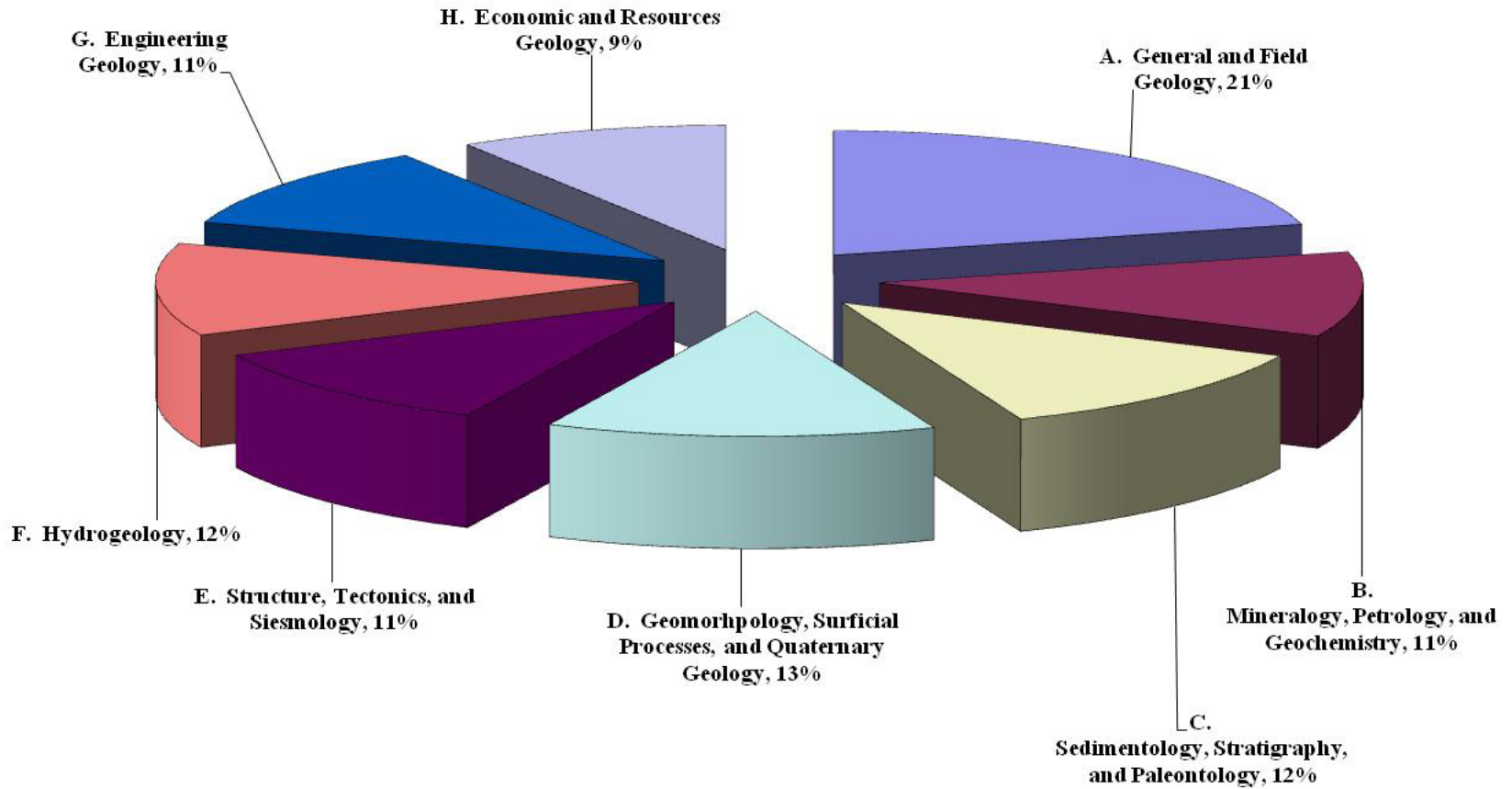


The Licensing Exam –What’s On It?

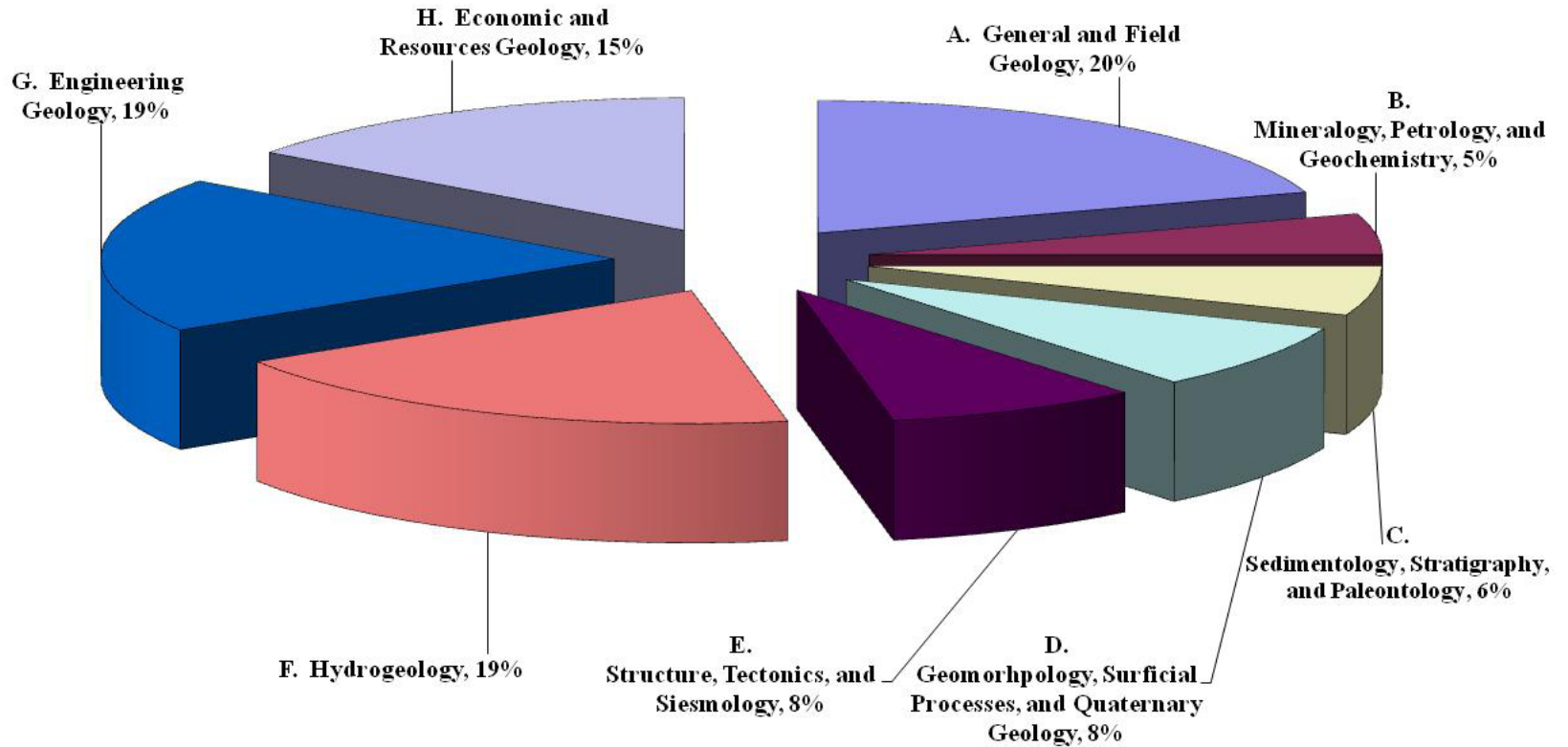
- Content Based on ASBOG Task Analysis Survey:
 - Conducted every 5 years; most recent TAS 2015
 - Surveys academic and professional geologists in the US and Canada
 - Rates importance of 43 geologic tasks in a series of ‘domain areas’ for protecting the general public
 - Includes ethics issues faced by geologists
- FG focus: information gained in an academic setting
- PG focus: skills/knowledge applied in work setting



**Figure 17 - ASBOG® Task Analysis 2015
FG Test Blueprint - Domain Percentages**



**Figure 18 - ASBOG® Task Analysis 2015
PG Test Blueprint - Domain Percentages**



The Licensing Exam –Tips for Preparation

- Take the FG as soon as feasible
- Download ASBOG's Candidate Handbook:
 - Detailed instructions for taking the exam
 - Information on the exam blueprints and topics
 - Sample questions
- REVIEW!
- http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.aegweb.org/resource/resmgr/Additional_Resources/asbog_study_hints_0812.pdf
- ASBOG data show that first-time candidates perform better than return candidates



Figure 6
ASBOG® Fundamentals of Geology Examination
Passing Rate by Highest Degree in the Geological
Sciences

(March 2008 through March 2017)

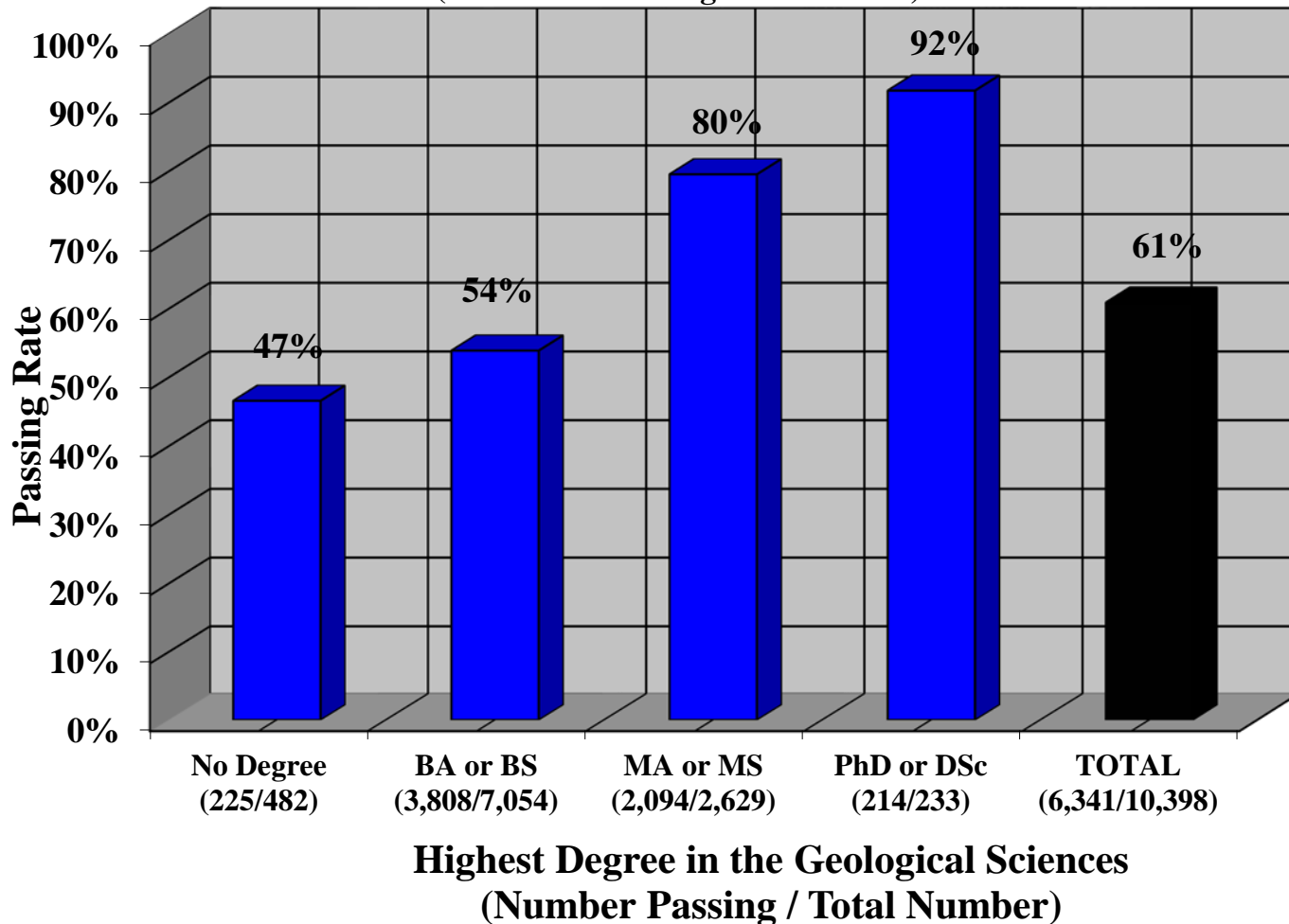


Figure 7
ASBOG® Practice of Geology Examination
Passing Rate by Highest Degree in the Geological Sciences
(March 2008 through March 2017)

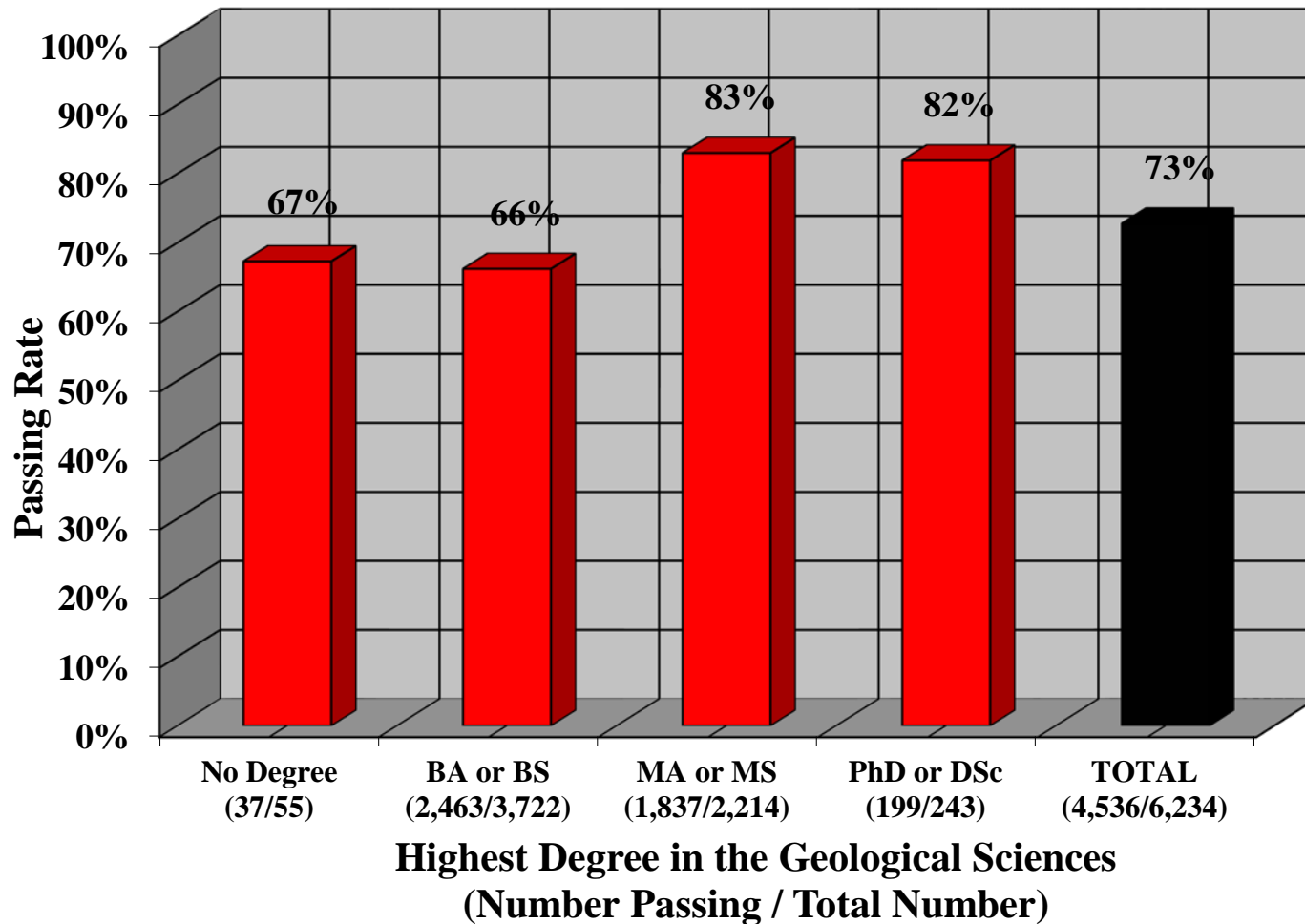


Figure 8
ASBOG® Fundamentals of Geology Examination
Passing Rate by Number of Attempts
(March 2008 through March 2017)
Total Number of Candidates = 10,427

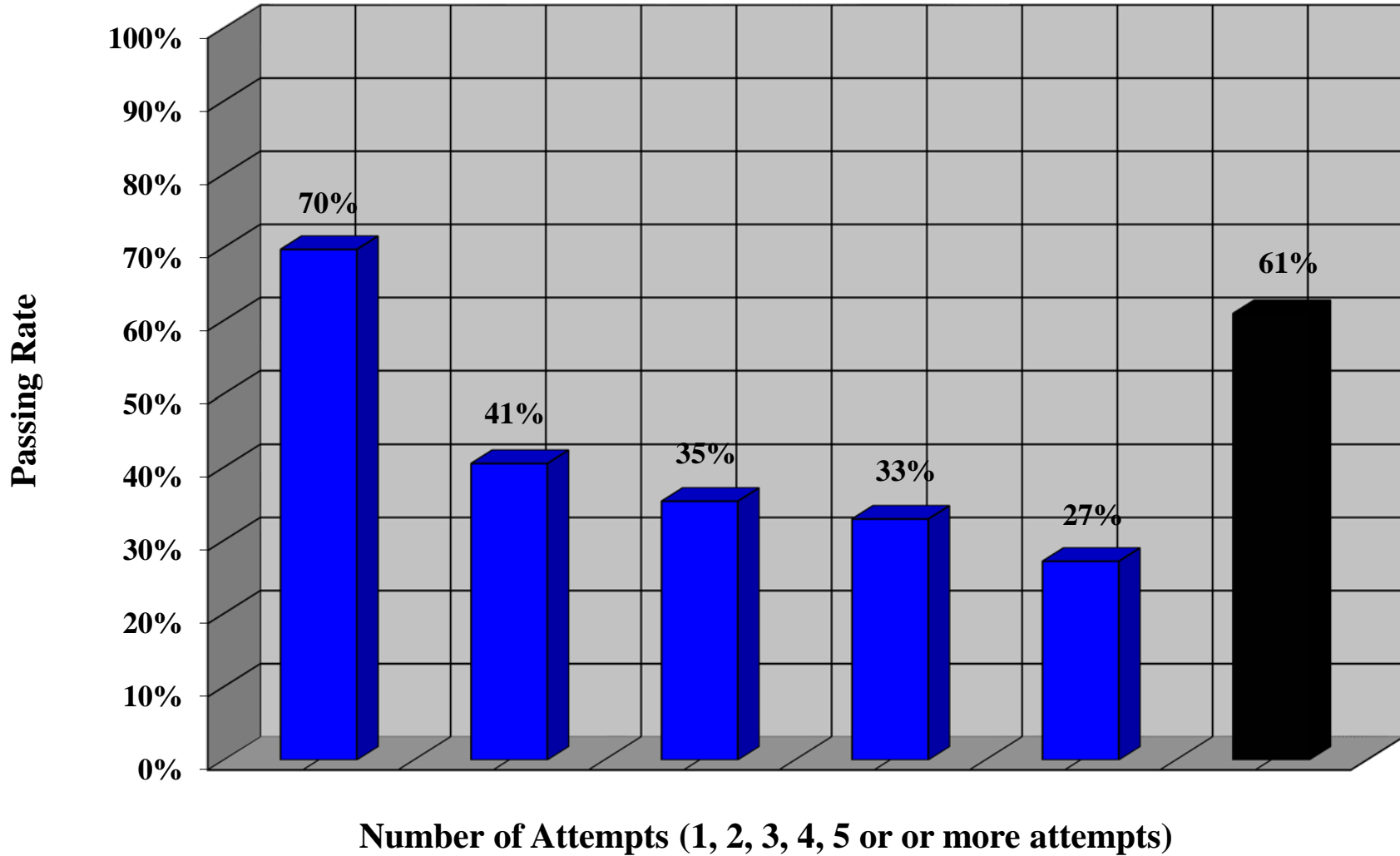
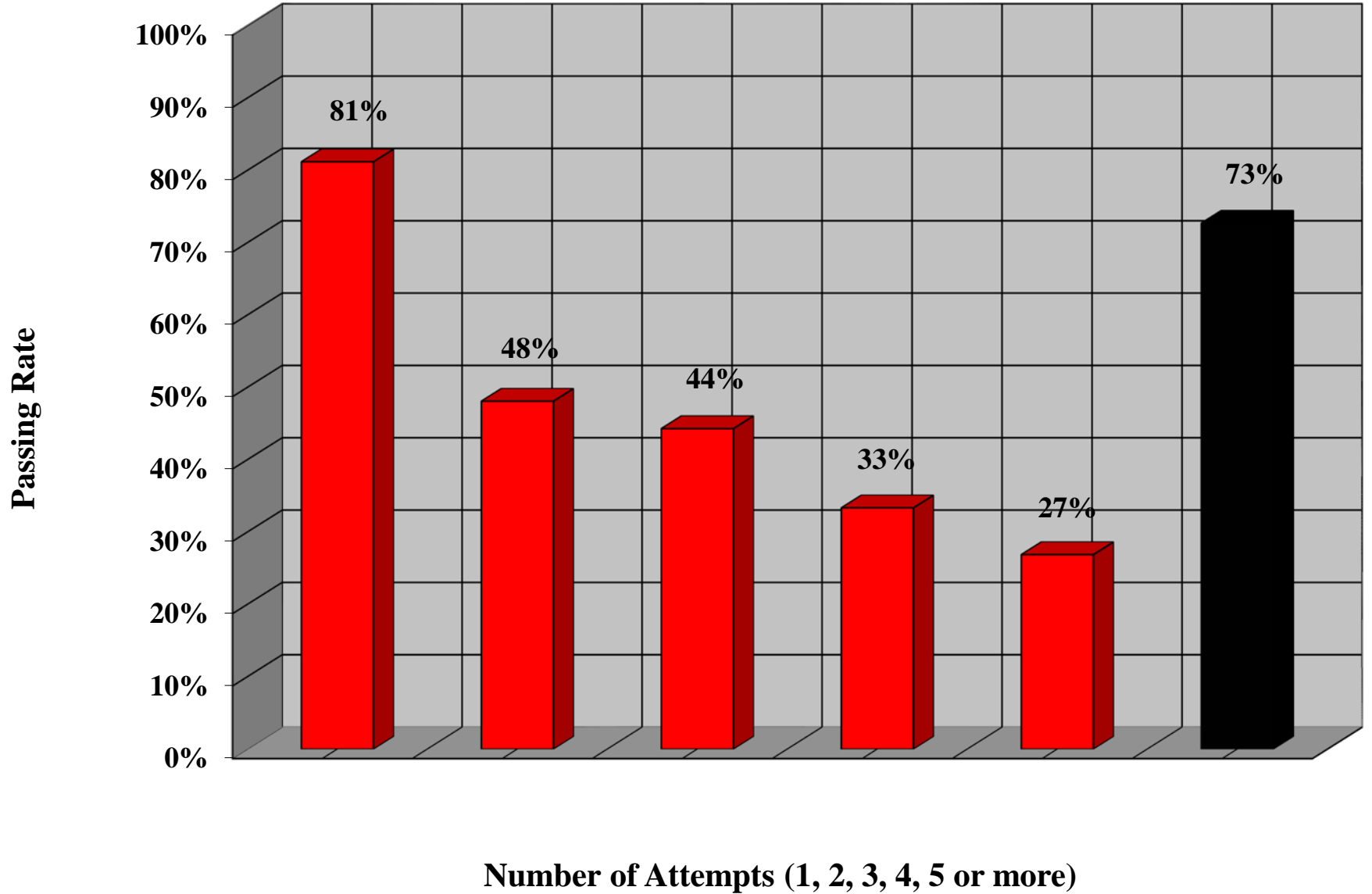


Figure 9
ASBOG® Practice of Geology Examination
Passing Rate by Number of Attempts
(March 2008 through March 2017)
Total Number of Candidates = 6,269



Information Resources:

- **North Carolina Board for Licensing of Geologists**

- Board Executive Director, Barbara Geiger, Upton Associates
- PO Box 41225, 3733 Benson Dr, Raleigh NC 27609
- 919-850-9669
- <http://www.ncblg.org>

- **National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)**

<http://www.asbog.org>



Licensure of Geologists in North Carolina

Questions?

