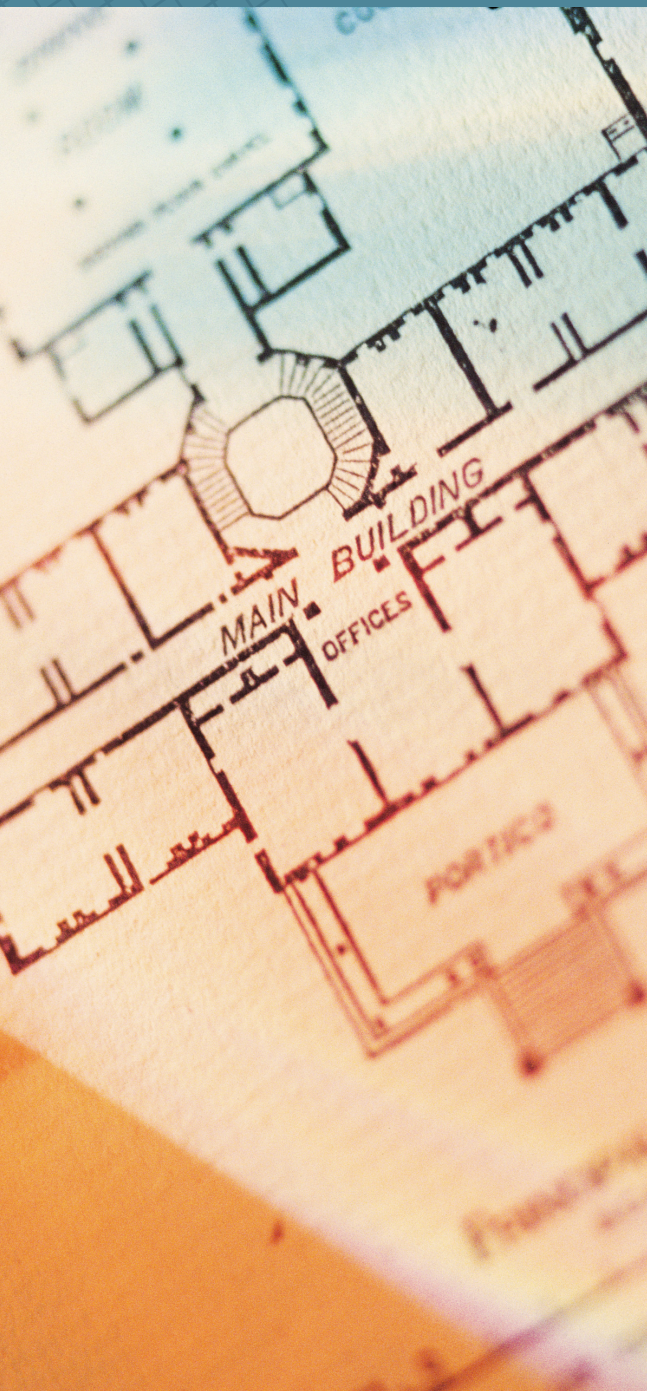


BLUEPRINT FOR LICENSING SUCCESS

Process & Deadlines for Obtaining an
Alabama Real Estate License

2026





THE COMMISSION STAFF WANT YOU TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN ACQUIRING YOUR LICENSE.

However, this is **your** license and it is essential that you plan ahead.

If you have questions or concerns about meeting deadlines, feel free to **contact us** before the deadline to allow time for possible remedy.

WE CANNOT HELP ONCE A DEADLINE HAS BEEN MISSED.



GETTING STARTED

ID NUMBER REGISTRATION

In order to pursue licensing with the Commission, you must pre-register by following the instructions on the [ID Number Registration](#) page of our website. Pre-registering gives the Commission your contact information and allows you access to your electronic file so that the Commission may engage with you and begin collecting the necessary information and verifications in order to, ultimately, issue your license. Your ID number is necessary to:

- have your prelicense course completion submitted to the Commission,
- schedule the license examination and have those results shared with the Commission,
- apply for your real estate license, and
- schedule your appointment to be fingerprinted and for those results to be shared with the Commission.

GENERAL APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

Persons must be 19 or older when a license is issued; must have a high school diploma or equivalent; must have legal status in the United States; and, if convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude, must appear before the Commission.

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

If you have ever been convicted of a crime and are concerned that you may not be considered eligible for a real estate license, you may seek the Commission's consideration of your criminal history.

You may do this PRIOR to expending your time and money taking prelicense coursework and the license examination. Go to the [Application for Determination of Licensing Eligibility](#) to find information about this process.

You will need to pursue the fingerprint-based criminal background history process, as well.



PRELICENSE EDUCATION

Tools to help choose a school for the prelicense course include [Course Search](#) and [Examination Pass Rates](#).

The school will verify your successful completion of a prelicense course directly to the Commission using your ID number.

SALESPERSON LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the 60 clock hour salesperson prelicense course approved by the Commission.

Applicants must take and pass the salesperson license examination within 6 months of course completion.

BROKER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Completion of a 60 clock hour broker prelicense course approved by the Commission plus holding an active salesperson license for 24 of the 36 months prior to application.

Applicants must take and pass the broker license examination within 6 months of course completion.

RECIPROCAL SALESPERSON* REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the 6 clock hour reciprocal salesperson prelicense course covering Alabama License Law.

Applicants must take and pass the reciprocal salesperson license examination on Alabama License Law within 6 months of course completion.

RECIPROCAL BROKER* REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the 6 clock hour reciprocal broker prelicense course covering Alabama License Law.

Applicants must take and pass the reciprocal broker license examination on Alabama License Law within 6 months of course completion.

*Reciprocal licenses can only be issued to those holding a current license in good standing that has been earned by completing a state's prelicense education and passing the license examination.

Information on requirements for reciprocal licensing may be found in [Rule 790-X-1-.18](#) of Alabama License Law.



LICENSE EXAMINATION

To prepare for the license examination, find examination locations, and schedule the license examination, please visit [Pearson's website](#) or call 888-926-9488.

You cannot schedule the license examination until you have completed your prelicense coursework.

Examination results will be sent directly to the Commission by Pearson.



IMPORTANT DEADLINE!

As noted above, you have 6 months to pass the license examination after completing the prelicense course.


It is strongly advised that you take the license examination soon after completing all prelicense course requirements while the information is fresh in your mind.

It is not unusual for applicants to take the license examination multiple times before passing it and you will want to allow time for multiple attempts.

It is state law that all applicants must pass the license examination within 6 months of completing the prelicense course.

Deadlines cannot be waived because there is no hardship provision in the law.

Plan ahead. Should you miss the deadline, you start over.



APPLICATION FOR LICENSE AND FINGERPRINTING

Upon successfully passing the license examination, you will be given passing notification along with the next steps toward license application. You will find [license application instructions](#) on our website. **These instructions are very important! Do not overlook them!**

IMPORTANT DEADLINE!



You have 90 days from passing the license examination to submit a complete license application with materials and fees to the Commission.

A complete application consists of the following:

- Application completed in full including all related information (this varies depending on the type of license being requested). Refer to [specific license application instructions](#).
- Fees

The 90-day timeframe is measured from license examination date to receipt at the Commission or postmark for those applications mailed into the Commission.

This is state law. Deadlines cannot be waived because there is no hardship provision in License Law. Plan ahead. Failure to meet this deadline will mean your examination score is null and void and you will need to start over.



FINGERPRINT-BASED CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

Please coordinate fingerprinting with filing your application. They should be done about the same time. Review the information provided in the [license application instructions](#) on our website.

PLEASE NOTE:
If you have been convicted of a felony, you will be required to submit court documents concerning your conviction. These are in addition to the FBI report that we will get. These are your responsibility. We recommend that you expedite your application process by proceeding to obtain these court documents as early as possible.



LICENSE ISSUANCE

Alabama real estate license applicants may not engage in real estate business until their license has been issued to their qualifying broker. Salespersons and associate brokers cannot print their license. Issuance will be verified to the applicant by an email. Qualifying brokers may not engage in business until the Commission has issued all licenses appropriate to the manner in which you are doing business.

TEMPORARY SALESPERSONS

These licenses are, as noted, temporary. They expire one year after issuance. Within that one year, the 30 clock hour post license course must be completed AND the application with fee for an original salesperson license must be submitted to the Commission.

ACTIVE TEMPORARY SALESPERSON LICENSES

Temporary salesperson licenses may only be active within the first six months of their issuance unless the post license course and application for original license are successfully completed. Therefore, if you want to be actively engaged in licensed activity past the first six months, you must complete your post license course and submit your license application and fee.

If you do not complete these things in the first six months, your license will be placed on inactive status and you will not be able to use it. In any event, you should complete the post license course and make application for your original salesperson license before your temporary salesperson license expires.



IMPORTANT DEADLINE:

If the application for original salesperson license, with all required materials, is not received by the Commission within **one year** from temporary salesperson license issuance, your license will lapse and you will have to start the process over completely as if you never had a license.

This is state law. The deadline cannot be waived because there is no hardship provision in License Law. Plan ahead. Should you miss the deadline, you need to start over.

Reach Us Online



FACEBOOK
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INSTAGRAM
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X (FORMERLY TWITTER)
@arecalabamagov



YOUTUBE
@arecalabamagov



LINKEDIN
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WEBSITE
www.arec.alabama.gov



ALABAMA REAL ESTATE

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CONTACT INFORMATION

FOR QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

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