

Oregon Electrical Exam Content Guide

What actually differs between Oregon electrical exams (same books, different content)

All exams use the same core references (NEC, OESC, OAR/ORS), but **they pull different material from those books and test it at different depths.**

1) Scope of work drives exam content

Each license corresponds to a different **legal scope**, so the exam focuses on what that license holder is allowed to do. We have provided a brief summary of license scope descriptions on every exam web page.

Examples:

License	Scope	What the exam emphasizes
Limited Residential	Dwellings only	NEC Chapters 1–4, Article 210, 220 (basic)
Limited Energy	Low voltage systems	Communications, signaling, limited power
Journeyman	General installation	Full NEC core, moderate calculations
Supervising (Master)	Design + oversight	Full NEC + complex systems + rules

2) NEC coverage is selective (not all exams use all articles)

Even though you bring the same book:

- Lower-level exams:
 - Focus on **common articles**
 - Minimal use of specialty chapters
- Higher-level exams:
 - Use **entire NEC**, including:
 - Chapter 5 (special occupancies)
 - Chapter 6 (special equipment)
 - Chapter 7 (special conditions)
 - Chapter 8 (communications)
 - Annexes and tables

3) Calculation difficulty changes significantly

License	Calculation level
Limited	Minimal or basic
Journeyman	Standard load calculations
Supervising	Advanced/commercial/industrial

Supervising exam includes:

- Multi-step load calculations
 - Motor & feeder sizing
 - Demand factors across systems
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4) Type of thinking required

Lower licenses

- Direct code lookup
- “Find the rule”

Higher licenses

- Interpretation + application
 - Scenario-based decisions
 - “What is the correct design/requirement?”
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5) Oregon rules (OAR/ORS) weighting

- Limited exams → light exposure
- Journeyman → moderate
- Supervising → heavier emphasis

Examples:

- Who can perform work
- Supervision requirements
- Permit rules

6) Question style differences

License	Question style
Limited	Straightforward, single-step
Journeyman	Code + simple calculation
Supervising	Multi-step, scenario-based

Key takeaway

- ✓ Same books
 - ✓ Same allowed materials
 - ! Different:
 - Depth of NEC usage
 - Complexity of calculations
 - Scope-based questions (scopes included on all license-specific pages)
 - Amount of Oregon law tested
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Simplified way to think about it

- Limited → “Can you wire this correctly?”
- Journeyman → “Can you install per code?”
- Supervising → “Can you design and take responsibility for the system?”