



New TREC Website Features Advance Agency Goals

In the last week, the TREC website has been improved and expanded with new (1) Education providers' pass rates, (2) Exam topic analysis, (3) Updated FAQs, and (4) Electronic delivery of licenses.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 2010

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As part of the agency's push towards better licensee and public education, transparency, and paper reduction, four major projects were completed over the last week on the Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC) website: www.trec.state.tx.us.

(1) Education Providers' Pass Rates

www.trec.state.tx.us/education/examination/exam_pass_rates.asp

How do schools know if their course offerings are fully preparing students for success on exams? How can students know if one school's program is more successful than another? Now both can see online what percentage of graduates from which education programs pass the broker, salesperson, and inspector examinations. These statistics are crucial for schools to assess their program's strengths and weaknesses. In order to renew its accreditation under state law, at least 55% of a TREC Approved Propriety School's graduates must pass the licensing exam the first time the exam is taken. This information is also helpful for those considering a career in real estate in Texas; it allows prospective students to compare success rates across many different education providers.

(2) Real Estate Exam Topic Analysis

www.trec.state.tx.us/education/examination/ExamTopicReports.asp

Each required real estate license exam covers a wide variety of necessary topic areas. An analysis of each exam topic for the broker, salesperson, and inspector exams can now be found on the TREC website. This can be an extremely helpful tool for all participants in the real estate service provider industry as it showcases the areas where test takers and potential licensees are well versed in the laws, ethics, subject matter, and procedures, and those where they need more work. For test takers, this can be used as a study tool to better prepare for a profession in the real estate field. For educators this offers a guide to areas where students need better information or the subject needs more attention in teaching. Lastly, for those seasoned professionals already in the industry, this is great information to identify those areas where training and mentoring of these newly minted professionals needs more focused leadership, expertise, and on-the-job experience.

(3) TREC Standards & Enforcement Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

www.trec.state.tx.us/questions/faq-enf.asp

The TREC Standards and Enforcement Services Division has updated its FAQs on the website. They feature a new menu of topics for both licensees and consumers alike and a more comprehensive explanation of those enforcement and legal questions that are most frequently posed to agency staff. New stand-alone topics include: Applications/MCDs, Branch Offices, Broker Supervision, Buyer Representation Agreements, Commissions, Corporation/LLC/DBA, Disclosure of Agency, Inspectors, Intermediary, Option Periods/Option Fees, Rebates, and Residential Service Companies. Not only are all questions answered more thoroughly, but rule and statute citations are also given so further information can be located with just the click of the mouse. A highly utilized “word search” tool is also available for easier navigation to a specific topic.

(4) Electronic Delivery of Licenses

The agency has begun primarily delivering licenses through an email message with an embedded link. As part of an agency paper reduction initiative and the directive from state officials to cut costs, licenses are now being emailed instead of mailed via the United States Postal Service. For brokers sponsoring a salesperson, a copy of the salespersons’ license will be sent via email as well. This means that it is imperative that all license holders ensure that the agency has their current primary email address on file. You can do this online at www.trec.state.tx.us/permaddress.asp. Your license will be emailed to you and can be printed, framed, and hung for display, or just saved to the licensees’ hard drive for future use. The electronic file is an official state license.

The mission of TREC is to assist and protect consumers of real estate services and foster economic growth in Texas. Through its programs of education, licensing and industry regulation, the Commission ensures the availability of capable and honest real estate service providers. More information at: www.trec.state.tx.us

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