

Requirements for Licensed Texas Law Enforcement Careers  
as of 10/26/09

In Texas, you are not licensed until an agency sends a completed license application to the Commission.

In order to become licensed as a peace officer or county jailer in Texas there are three requirements:

1. successful completion of the basic licensing course;
2. passing of the state licensing examination; and
3. appointment by a law enforcement agency.

We have listed the requirements for enrollment in a basic licensing training program and the requirements to be licensed. Each academy and/or agency may have additional requirements for training, licensing, and appointment. You will need to check with the specific academy/agency for their requirements.

Minimum Enrollment Requirements for training as a Texas Peace Officer or County Jailer (Commission Rule 215.15)

The list below are the minimum requirements, academies may establish additional requirements or standards for enrollment in law enforcement training programs.

Unless otherwise noted, the requirements are the same.

General Requirements:

- (1) never been convicted of any family violence offense;
- (2) not prohibited by state or federal law from operating a motor vehicle;
- (3) not prohibited by state or federal law from possessing firearms or ammunition;
- and
- (4) a U.S. citizen.

Criminal Background:

(a) The applicant must:

- (1) not be currently charged with any criminal offense for which conviction would be a bar to licensure;
- (a) community supervision history:
  - (i) has never been on court-ordered community supervision or probation for any criminal offense above the grade of a Class B misdemeanor or a Class B misdemeanor within the last ten years from the date of the court order;
- (b) conviction history:
  - (i) has never been convicted of an offense above the grade of a Class B misdemeanor or a Class B misdemeanor within the last ten years;
- (2) For purposes of this section, the commission will construe any court ordered community supervision, probation, or conviction for a criminal offense to be its closest equivalent under the Texas Penal Code classification of offenses if the offense arose from:
  - (i) another penal provision of Texas law; or
  - (ii) a penal provision of any other state, federal, military or foreign jurisdiction.

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(3) A classification of an offense as a felony at the time of conviction will never be changed because Texas law has changed or because the offense would not be a felony under current Texas law.

Peace Officer Educational Requirements:

- (1) a high school diploma;
- (2) a high school equivalency certificate; or
- (3) an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States after at least 24 months of active duty service.

County Jailer Educational Requirements:

- (1) a general educational development (GED) test indicating high school graduation level;
- (2) a high school graduate; or
- (3) 12 semester hours credit from an accredited college or university.

Peace Officer Medical and Psychological Requirements:

An applicant must be declared in writing by that medical professional to be:

- (A) physically sound and free from any defect which may adversely affect the performance of duty appropriate to the type of license sought; and
- (B) show no trace of drug dependency or illegal drug use after a physical examination, blood test, or other medical test; and declared in writing by that professional to be in satisfactory psychological and emotional health to serve as the type of officer for which the license is sought. The examination must be conducted pursuant to professionally recognized standards and methods:

A chief administrator may petition the commission for a waiver of an individual who was convicted or received probation or court-ordered community supervision for a Class B misdemeanor at least five years prior to enrollment upon proof of mitigating circumstances. (Commission Rule 211.30)

Minimum Requirements for Licensure as a Texas Peace Officer or County Jailer  
(Commission Rule 217.1)

General Requirements:

- (1) never been convicted of any family violence offense;
- (2) not prohibited by state or federal law from operating a motor vehicle;
- (3) not prohibited by state or federal law from possessing firearms or ammunition;
- (4) a U.S. citizen; and
- (5) been subjected to a background investigation and has been interviewed prior to appointment by representatives of the appointing authority.

Military Requirements:

Not been discharged from any military service under less than honorable conditions including, specifically:

- (A) under other than honorable conditions;
- (B) bad conduct;
- (C) dishonorable;
- (D) any other characterization of service indicating bad character;

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Texas Licensing Requirements:

- Not had a commission license denied by final order or revoked;
- Not currently on suspension, or does not have a voluntary surrender of license currently in effect;
- Meets the minimum training standards and passes the commission licensing examination for each license sought; and
- Not violated any commission rule or provision of Occupations Code, Chapter 1701;

Educational Requirements:

- (A) a general educational development (GED) test indicating high school graduation level;
- (B) a high school graduate; or
- (C) 12 semester hours credit from an accredited college or university.

Age Requirements:

peace officers:

- 21 years of age, or 18 years of age if the applicant has received an associate's degree or 60 semester hours of credit from an accredited college or university or has received an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States after at least two years of active service;

county jailers:

- 18 years of age;

Criminal Background:

(a) The applicant must:

- (1) not be currently charged with any criminal offense for which conviction would be a bar to licensure;

(a) community supervision history:

- (i) has never been on court-ordered community supervision or probation for any criminal offense above the grade of a Class B misdemeanor or a Class B misdemeanor within the last ten years from the date of the court order;

(b) conviction history:

- (i) has never been convicted of an offense above the grade of a Class B misdemeanor or a Class B misdemeanor within the last ten years;

- (2) For purposes of this section, the commission will construe any court ordered community supervision, probation, or conviction for a criminal offense to be its closest equivalent under the Texas Penal Code classification of offenses if the offense arose from:

- (i) another penal provision of Texas law; or
- (ii) a penal provision of any other state, federal, military or foreign jurisdiction.

- (3) A classification of an offense as a felony at the time of conviction will never be changed because Texas law has changed or because the offense would not be a felony under current Texas law.

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Medical and Psychological Requirements:

An applicant must be declared in writing by that medical professional to be:

- (A) physically sound and free from any defect which may adversely affect the performance of duty appropriate to the type of license sought; and
  - (B) show no trace of drug dependency or illegal drug use after a physical examination, blood test, or other medical test; and
- declared in writing by that professional to be in satisfactory psychological and emotional health to serve as the type of officer for which the license is sought. The examination must be conducted pursuant to professionally recognized standards and methods:

Training Requirements:

Peace Officer training:

- (A) the current Texas basic peace officer course, or as an alternative to the current basic peace officer course taken at a licensed academy, the commission may approve an academic alternative program that is part of a degree plan program and consists of the commission-approved transfer curriculum, the commission-approved peace officer sequence courses, and after September 1, 2003, at least an associate's degree; or
- (B) successful completion of a commission recognized, POST developed, basic law enforcement training course, to include:
  - (i) out of state licensure or certification; and
  - (ii) submission of the current eligibility application and fee.

County Jailer training:

The current Texas basic county corrections course(s).