

## Sheriffs' Challenge

Deputy Sheriffs with prior law enforcement experience as set out in 12 NCAC 10B .0505 may be eligible for the Challenge option. Eligible officers would have the option to choose either: (#1) attending Basic Law Enforcement Training in its entirety within the twelve-month probationary period; OR (# 2) challenging the state examination and undergoing a skills assessment within a twelve month probationary period. The following are steps an officer must follow to be authorized by the Division to participate in the Sheriffs' Challenge.

### **A. Oath of Office**

An individual must first obtain appointment with a Sheriff's Office and be sworn as a deputy sheriff. The officer must complete the basic training requirement during their one year probationary period.

### **B. Documentation and Eligibility**

The officer's eligibility for the Sheriffs' Challenge is based on their prior law enforcement training and experience. The criteria for eligibility is based on whether the officer is considered a North Carolina applicant, out of state, and federal transferee.

#### ***North Carolina applicant:***

- (a) have a minimum of two years full-time sworn law enforcement experience that occurred prior to their application;
- (b) have had a break in service exceeding one year;
- (c) have previously received General or Grandfather certification as a sworn law enforcement officer by either the Commission or the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, and such certification has not been denied, revoked or suspended by either Commission; and
- (d) have held general powers of arrest.

#### ***Out of State Transfer:***

- (a) have a minimum of two years full-time sworn law enforcement experience that occurred prior to their application;
- (b) have held certification in good standing as a sworn law enforcement officer from the appropriate Peace Officer's Standards and Training entity in the transferee's respective state;
- (c) have had general powers of arrest; and
- (d) submit documentation verifying their qualified status.

***Federal Transfer:***

- (a) have a minimum of two years full-time sworn law enforcement experience;
- (b) have held certification or commissioning as a sworn law enforcement officer from the appropriate federal entity authorized to issue such sworn law enforcement officers certification or commission;
- (c) have held general powers of arrest; and
- (d) submit documentation verifying their qualified status.

**C. Documentation/Verification**

- **Do you have at least 2 years full-time experience as sworn law enforcement officer either in North Carolina or with a Federal or Out-of-State Agency?**

Yes. You will need to provide documentation of your prior service as well as documentation that such service meets the definition of sworn law enforcement position.

- **Did you hold certification with the relevant Peace Officer's Standards and Training agency either in North Carolina, another state, or federal agency?**

Yes. You will need to provide documentation of this certification.

- **Did you hold general powers of arrest either in North Carolina or with a Federal or Out-of-State Agency?**

Yes. You will need to provide documentation that your service meets the definition of general powers of arrest.

**D. Certification and Training Option**

The Sheriff's Office must submit an application for deputy sheriff certification to the Sheriffs' Standards Division, in compliance with 12 NCAC 10B .0300. Upon submission, Division staff will review the application for certification. If items are required to complete the application, the file will be placed in a pending status. It is important to note Sheriffs' Standards must issue probationary certification before the officer can begin the Challenge Process. In order to ensure timely notification, please notify Division staff via email if you are submitting an application to be considered for the "challenge" option.

It is encouraged that the letter of verification from prior law enforcement agency(-ies) to verify an individual's eligibility is included when the application for certification is submitted. If documentation of eligibility is submitted with the application, the information will be reviewed to determine if the individual qualifies for the Challenge option.

The prospective challenger will have choice of two basic training options. ***Option one*** allows the officer within the twelve month probationary period to the BLET state examination, and undergo a skills assessment. The current exam is comprised of 300 objective questions. The applicant must score a minimum of **70%** on each unit to

successfully complete the state examination. The skills assessment consists of five areas: **First Responder; Firearms; Law Enforcement Drivers ‘Training; Officer Health & Wellness (Physical Fitness); and Compliance & Control Tactics.** The applicant must demonstrate satisfactory knowledge of each skills related activity before an appropriate instructor certified by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. Successful completion of the skills related activities must be documented on a Commission approved form. ***Option two:*** An individual may enroll in and successfully complete a Basic Law Enforcement (BLET) in its entirety (valid for one year) prior to being sworn; if allowed by employing agency, BLET may be completed within the 12 month probationary period.

After eligibility is established, Division staff will provide notification to the Sheriff’s Office regarding the officer’s training options. Upon receipt of this notification, the officer will elect the training option in which they will participate. The election form must be returned to the Division for further processing.

#### **E. Authorization and Challenge Assessments**

Upon receipt of the election form indicating option one, Division staff will prepare an authorization letter which allows the individual to sit for the state exam and begin the skill assessments. The officer must submit a copy of the authorization form to the school director where they will be taking the BLET state exam.

The challenge consists of documents and forms for certified instructions to document the individual’s proficiency for each of the five skills. Upon completion of the Sheriffs’ Challenge, the state exam and skills assessments results must be submitted to the Division. You will not be credited with the basic training requirement until all documentation is received and evaluated by the Division.