



**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF POLICE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL**



Subject			Policy Number
APPLICANT SELECTION PROCESS FOR EMPLOYMENT AS A POLICE OFFICER			401A
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I. PURPOSE

To comply with the relevant provisions of the Texas Occupations Code, Texas Administrative Code, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), and *Rules and Regulations* of The University of Texas System Board of Regents.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. The University of Texas (UT) System Police: except when referring to “UT System Police Policies and Procedures” or “UT System Police Academy,” this term refers to:
 - 1) The University of Texas System, Office of the Director of Police; or
 - 2) The police department of a University of Texas institution.
- B. UT System Police Policies and Procedures: policies and procedures binding on all UT institution police departments and issued by The University of Texas System, Office of the Director of Police.
- C. The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) –A regulatory State agency that establishes and enforces standards to ensure that the people of Texas are served by highly trained and ethical law enforcement, corrections, and telecommunications personnel.
- D. Reinstatement Exception–Having left employment from any institution police department within 180 days or less and is otherwise eligible for rehire.

III. POLICY

An applicant seeking to be employed as a police officer and laterally entering into and joining the UTSP, must meet the Minimum Standards for Appointment required by the Texas Occupations Code, Texas Administrative Code, TCOLE, and the UT System Police Policies and Procedures. Applicants for the position of police officer must have successfully completed a Basic Peace Officer Course approved by the Office of the Director of Police and passed the TCOLE licensing exam.

IV. APPLICANT SELECTION PROCESS

1. Application

- a. Each applicant must apply for employment to the human resources department of the institution at which he/she wishes to be employed.
- b. An applicant already employed in another capacity by the employing police department must complete a new application for employment.
- c. Initial application method will be determined by the institutional police department and its human resources department.
- d. An applicant will be required to provide the following within a timeline specified by the hiring institution:
 - 1) Personal History Statement (DP-1)
 - 2) Authorization for Release of Personal Information (DP-38)
 - 3) Polygraph Questionnaire (DP-4)

2. Physical Agility Test

- a. The Physical Agility Test is outlined in UT System Police [Policy 402](#).
- b. The applicant must sign a waiver (DP-36) prior to attempting the physical agility test.
- c. Each applicant will be given an orientation of the physical agility test. Each individual event will be explained, and standards outlined.
- d. Members of the hiring institution will be available to demonstrate the elements of the test or assist the applicant with techniques needed to complete the test.

It is highly encouraged to give each eligible applicant an opportunity to practice each event prior to official testing/scoring.

3. Conditional Offer of Employment

A Conditional Offer of Employment (DP-2) may be given at any time after passing the written examination but must be executed prior to the pre-polygraph questionnaire (DP-4), polygraph examination, drug screen, psychological, and medical examinations.

V. APPLICATION, QUALIFICATION STANDARDS AND DISQUALIFIERS

- A. Each applicant must submit an application for employment to the human resources or personnel department of the institution at which he/she wishes to be employed.
- B. Qualification Standards
 - 1. The applicant must be fingerprinted using the Fingerprint Applicant Services of Texas (FAST) and subjected to a search of local, state and U.S. national records and fingerprint files to disclose any criminal record.
 - 2. The applicant must be a citizen of the United States.
 - 3. If applicable, the applicant must have received an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States after at least two years of active service.
 - 4. If applicable, the applicant must have registered for the Selective Service.
 - 5. If applicable, the applicant must meet the following physical requirements:
 - 1) **VISION:**
 - 1) VISUAL ACUITY - Maximum uncorrected visual acuity of 20/200 and corrected or correctable to 20/30.
 - 2) OTHER VISUAL FACTORS – An applicant may be rejected for color deficiencies as determined by the Director of Police after examination by an approved ophthalmologist.
 - 2) HEARING – The applicant must be able to hear ordinary conversation from at least 15 feet.
 - 3) GENERAL HEALTH – The applicant must pass the physical agility test and be capable of performing all police duties specified in the current job description.
 - 6. Written entry-level examination does not apply to applicants for the position of police officer.
 - 7. The applicant must satisfactorily meet the requirements of a thorough, comprehensive background investigation conducted by the institution’s police department.
 - 8. The applicant must be of good moral character and reputation.
 - 9. The applicant must have a satisfactory prior employment record.
 - 10. The applicant must successfully complete an oral board interview.
 - 11. The applicant must successfully complete and pass a polygraph examination commissioned and/or conducted by the institution’s police department.
 - 12. The applicant must possess a valid driver’s license issued by the state where the applicant permanently resides, not be in jeopardy of license suspension, and provide proof of financial responsibility pursuant to the Texas Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act.
 - 13. The applicant must be eligible to drive a university vehicle in accordance with University of Texas System Policy UTS157.
 - 14. If applicable, the applicant must be examined by a physician, selected by the institution police department, who is licensed by the Texas Medical Board. The physician must be familiar with the police duties specified in the job description. To fulfill this requirement, the applicant must be declared in writing by that physician:
 - 1) To be physically sound and free from any defect that may adversely affect the applicant’s performance of duty as a peace officer;
 - 2) To show no trace of drug dependency or illegal drug use after a physical examination, blood test or other medical test. The “Drug Screen Report” shall be a 10-panel drug

screen report; and

- 3) To meet the vision and hearing requirements listed in Subsection V.B.5. If the physician is unable to approve the vision and hearing requirements, another Texas-licensed physician who specializes in vision or hearing may be used.
15. If applicable, the applicant must be examined by a psychiatrist or psychologist, selected by the institution police department. If the examiner is a psychologist, he/she must be licensed by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. The psychiatrist or psychologist must be familiar with the police duties specified in the job description, must conduct the examination pursuant to professionally recognized standards and methods, and must declare in writing that the applicant is in satisfactory psychological and emotional health to be a peace officer.
16. The applicant must agree to swear or affirm to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Texas to the best of his/her ability.

C. Disqualifiers

1. An applicant who falls into any of the following categories is ineligible to be licensed and must be removed from further consideration:
 - 1) Community supervision history:
 - (1) has ever been on court-ordered community supervision or probation for any criminal offense above the grade of Class B misdemeanor or a Class B misdemeanor within the last ten years from the date of the court order; but
 - (2) the commission may approve the application of a person who received probation or court-ordered community supervision for a Class B misdemeanor at least five (5) years prior to application if an agency administrator sufficiently demonstrates in writing with supporting documentation that mitigating circumstances exist with the case and with the individual applying for licensure, and that the public interest would be served by reducing the waiting period;
 - 2) Persons who are currently charged with or under indictment for any criminal offense for which a conviction would be a bar to licensure.
 - 3) Persons who have been convicted of an offense above the grade of a Class B misdemeanor or a Class B misdemeanor in the last 10 years.
 - 4) Persons who have been convicted of any family violence offense.
 - 5) Persons who are prohibited by state or federal law from operating a motor vehicle.
 - 6) Persons who are prohibited by state or federal law from possessing firearms or ammunition.
 - 7) Persons who have had a dishonorable discharge or bad conduct discharge from the military.
 - 8) Persons who have had a TCOLE license denied by final order or revoked; is currently on suspension; have a voluntary surrender of a TCOLE license currently in effect; or have violated any TCOLE rules or provisions of the Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 1701.
2. An applicant who falls into any of the following categories will not be commissioned by the UT System and must be removed from further consideration:

- 1) Persons who have:
 - 1) Used marijuana intentionally any time in the 36 months preceding the date of application;
 - 2) Persons who have used any of the drugs listed in (a-f) of this section at any time while serving as a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, security officer or fire fighter/EMT.
 - 2) Persons who used paint, glue or other inhalants for the purpose of intoxication within the last five years.
 - 3) Persons who used hallucinogenic drugs, including, but not limited to, LSD, PCP or Psilocybin within the past five years.
 - 4) Persons who abused prescription medicines, whether prescribed to them or another person, in the last five years.
 - 5) Persons who used anabolic steroids for any reason other than the treatment of a medical condition, and as authorized by and under the direction of a licensed physician, within the last five years.
 - 6) Persons who illegally used any other substances or drugs listed in the federal or Texas Controlled Substances Acts, including, but not limited to: amphetamines, methamphetamines, cocaine, opium, barbiturates, heroin, morphine, ecstasy and Eve within the past five years.
 - 7) Persons, who illegally sold, produced, cultivated or transported for sale marijuana or any other substances or drugs listed in the Federal or Texas Controlled Substances Acts.
 - 8) Persons who have been terminated, asked to resign, or resigned from any previous employment for engaging in inappropriate or unlawful behavior, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
 - 1) Any felony offense;
 - 2) Sex crimes;
 - 3) Sexual harassment;
 - 4) Discriminatory or retaliatory acts; or
 - 5) Any offense involving acts of moral turpitude
3. Applicants who do not complete and satisfactorily meet the applicant selection process requirements; among other duties, the process requires applicants to submit documentation such as the personal history questionnaire and other documents on or before the designated date, report to appointments and examinations on the scheduled dates and times, properly notify the institution police department of address and/or telephone number changes, and comply with the directions and instructions of the background investigator.
 4. Applicants who do not demonstrate maturity, dependability, integrity, and good work ethic in their past and present employment. An applicant's employment history since age 18 must not indicate instability in the applicant's employment history, including excessive tardiness or absenteeism; inefficiency; failure to follow directions, policies, procedures, rules and regulations; poor working relationships; or negligent work habits.
 5. Applicants with an unstable credit history. This includes a consistent history of issuing insufficient funds checks, a history of delinquent payments, or a failure to meet financial obligations. An applicant's credit history will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine his/her continuing eligibility in the hiring process.
 6. Applicants who have made false/deceptive statements. Applicants must be truthful and

honest in their responses to all inquiries relative to their suitability for employment with the institution police department. Applicants found to have withheld material information, and/or to have committed or attempted to commit any deception or fraud in their applications; examinations or appointments are deemed unsuitable.

TCOLE Minimum Standards for Enrollment can be accessed by using the link provided below:

<https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/read>

VI. ENTRY LEVEL TESTS

- A. Written examinations do not apply to applicants for the position of police officer.
- B. Physical Agility Test - The Physical Agility Test shall be given to persons applying for the position of Police Officer. For further details on the test, please refer to UT System Police Policy 402 (Physical Agility Test).
- C. If an individual is hired under the Reinstatement Exception within 180 days or less the applicant will not be required to take the Physical Agility Test.

VII. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

- A. The applicant must complete The University of Texas System Police DP1 (Personal History Statement Form); the DP4 (Pre-Polygraph Questionnaire); the DP5 (Polygraph Authorization); the DP36 (Assumption of Risk); and the DP38 (Authorization for Release of Personal Information.) The applicant must return the packet, and all required supporting documents to the institution police department by the assigned deadline.
- B. If the Personal History Statement or Pre-Polygraph Questionnaire Packet is received after the deadline, the applicant's employment process may be terminated unless the applicant furnishes appropriate mitigating information.
- C. The individual conducting the background investigation must verify that all information contained in the Personal History Statement is true and correct.
- D. The following documents must be submitted by the applicant, verified by the background investigator, and placed in the appropriate section of the background investigation folder:
 - 1. DP1 (Personal History Statement) – completed, signed, and notarized
 - 2. DP36 (Assumption of Risk)
 - 3. DP38 (Authorization for Release of Personal Information) – signed and notarized
 - 4. DP4 (Pre-Employment Polygraph Questionnaire)
 - 5. Copy of Current Driver's License
 - 6. Driver's License Return (10-27)
 - 7. Copy of current automobile insurance
 - 8. Copy of social security card
 - 9. Copy of birth certificate
 - 10. Certified copy of high school diploma or GED
 - 11. Certified copies of transcripts and degrees from accredited colleges or universities must be submitted with the applicant packet, if applicable
 - 12. Copy of military discharge papers (DD-214), if applicable

13. Certified copy of U.S. citizenship papers, if applicable
14. Copy of credit report with credit score

VIII. –BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION

After receiving the DP1 (Personal History Statement Form), DP-2 (Conditional Offer), DP4 (Pre-Polygraph Questionnaire), the DP5 (Polygraph Authorization), the DP36 (Assumption of Risk), and the DP38 (Authorization for Release of Personal Information); the institution police department must conduct a thorough background investigation on each applicant.

In 2021, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement was tasked by the 87th Legislature (Senate Bill 24 (87R) to develop and implement an electronic process to ensure that proper pre-employment background investigations are being completed on TCOLE licensees, and to facilitate a secure electronic transfer of personal information held by previous employing law enforcement agencies in the State of Texas.

- A. On March 1, 2022, TCOLE implemented the Secure Share System (TSS) site. TSS provides a secure electronic portal that allows law enforcement agencies across Texas to share personnel information of applicants electronically. The University of Texas System Police will participate in the TCOLE Secure Share System on a statewide basis, but the management of the program and the time sensitive obligations rest with both ODOP and each institutional police department. The TSS holds both applicants and law enforcement agencies accountable by requiring review of pertinent employment records of prior conduct and activities before an applicant is hired by a law enforcement agency.
- B. Please see below on how to create an account and the guidelines of the TSS users.

Steps to become an active user:

1. Each campus will be required to select at least (2) two TSS representatives to manage requests from the TSS site.
2. All TSS representatives will need a PID number to use the system. If the TSS representatives are civilian and have no PID number, please complete the PID request form, found here. Once the form has been completed forward it to policepersonnel@utsystem.edu to be processed.
3. Selected TSS representatives will then need to visit the TCOLE website at and apply for an account at <https://seureshare.tcole.texas.gov/login>. Once the representatives have been approved by TCOLE, the system will be immediately made available for use.
4. You can find additional information on TCOLE's Secure Share (TSS), as well as access the recorded how-to presentation, presentation slides and presentation handouts [here](#).

Guidelines for TSS Users

1. The chief administrator or designee of each appointing agency is required to contact every one of the prior appointing agencies when completing background investigations for employment. Per TCOLE an in-person review of personnel files may be conducted, but ONLY if both agencies agree to it. If the hiring agency requests employment documents via the TSS, the responding agency must provide the documents through the TSS system.
2. All requested documents must be uploaded to the system within 10 calendar days from the date of request. Once documents have been uploaded, the requesting agency rep will have 14 calendar days to view them. After the agency's designated TSS user has opened the file, the documents will only be viewable for 72 hours.
3. The failure of an agency head or the agency head's designee to comply with both ends of the process constitutes grounds for suspension of the agency head's license under Government Code

Section 1701.501.

4. TSS users must ask for a release of information from the requesting agency before releasing personnel files.
5. Effective January 1, 2022, TCOLE has mandated that the Background Confirmation Forms ([BCF](#)) be included in hiring packets. A BCF must also be submitted for applicants who have no prior law enforcement experience (See VIII.B.4 of this policy for instructions to complete the form).

Background Confirmation Forms (BCF) that **do not meet** the following requirements will be rejected:

- a. All fields must be completed to include all current and former agencies
 - b. Must be signed by the agency's chief administrator or their designee
 - c. Must be completed on updated BCF form ([BCF 24.002](#))
 - d. Must be submitted no earlier than 30 days prior to the tentative start date.
(Tentative Start Date is required) (**Note: this is not an all-inclusive list.**)
6. Additionally, in order to comply with Texas Occupations Code 1701.451 a background investigator must obtain and review personnel files. Therefore, BCF's that imply a background investigation was conducted over the phone, by email, by fax, or not attempted at all, will not be accepted. Please be advised that the TCOLE Secure Share (TSS) system is the only electronic system TCOLE recognized for the sharing of personnel files.
 - a) An applicant is in compliance with all minimum standards for employment; and
 - b) An applicant is screened out if, based on the applicant's past history or other relevant information, he/she is found to be unsuitable for the position.
- C. The background investigation must examine and ensure, at a minimum:
1. An applicant is in compliance with all minimum standards for employment; and
 2. An applicant is screened out if, based on the applicant's past history or other relevant information, he/she is found to be unsuitable for the position.
 3. All of the applicant's previous law enforcement employment, by requesting records through the TSS or in person review that must include contact with **all** former law enforcement employers;
 4. The applicant's dependability, integrity, initiative, situational reasoning ability, self-control, writing skills, reading skills, oral communication skills, interpersonal skills and physical ability to perform the essential functions of the job;
 5. The applicant's suitability for licensing and appointment, by reviewing the applicant's biographical data, scholastic records, employment and criminal history; and statements made through publicly available sources that include, but are not limited to, publications, documents and social networking media; and by interviewing references, supervisors, and others who know the applicant's abilities, skills, and character.

- D. The individual conducting the background investigation must scrutinize all information contained in the DP-1 (Personal History Statement) and report all information that is found not to be true and correct.
- E. The individual conducting the background investigation must record his/her findings on the DP -6 (Evidence Organizer and Report of Background Investigation) and any attached pages that are necessary.

IX. – ORAL INTERVIEW BOARD

In accordance with the *Rules and Regulations* of The University of Texas System Board of Regents and TCOLE rules, interviews of the applicants will be conducted as follows:

- A. The Chief of Police or designee at the employing institution police department will assemble a panel of board members to participate in an interview board.
- B. The Board must consist of at least three persons.
- C. The Board members may be members of the police department or outside community members.
- D. The Board members must be in good standing
- E. The Board Members must be present during all applicant interviews for current vacancies sought to be filled, for consistency across applicant scores.
- F. During the interview, the Board will ask the applicant various questions designed to determine the applicant's situational reasoning ability, initiative, dependability, integrity, interpersonal skills, and overall suitability for employment. The Board shall use the DP7 (Interview Booklet) to create consistency when scoring the applicant.
- G. An applicant already employed in another capacity by the employing police department must complete a new application for employment.
- H. After each applicant interview, the board members will complete a DP11 Individual Member Score Sheet. An applicant must receive a score of 18 in order to pass the interview board.
- I. The chairperson for the interview board members, will take the individual scores from each board member and complete the DP12 Interview Summary Score Sheet. These scores will be used to rank each applicant in the order of his/her suitability for the position sought.
- J. To continue in the application process, an applicant who has successfully completed all hiring requirements must rank within the number of available vacancies for the position sought. Applicants must be selected from this list in the order of their final ranking.
- K. An applicant who obtains a passing Interview Board score, but whose score ranks him/her outside the number of currently available vacancies, may continue the application process by being placed on a limited-term eligibility list for future vacancies.
- L. An applicant who chooses not to be placed on the limited-term eligibility list will be removed from further consideration. The University of Texas System Police reserves the right to discontinue this limited-term eligibility list at any time.

X. – CONDITIONAL OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT

- A. An applicant who does not successfully complete all phases of the selection process will have the conditional offer of employment rescinded.

XI. – POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION

- A. The applicant must complete form DP4 (Pre-Employment Polygraph Questionnaire).
- B. The applicant must sign form DP5 (Polygraph Authorization) before taking the polygraph examination.
- C. The polygraph exam must be administered by an examiner who is licensed by any of the following: American Polygraph Association, National Polygraph Association, or American Association of Police Polygraphists. The polygraph exam is used to confirm the validity of the information the applicant has provided on his/her application and personal history statement, and to the oral interview board.
- D. The applicant must successfully complete and pass the polygraph exam.

XII. – MEDICAL/DRUG SCREENING

- A. Licensed health care providers must perform a battery of tests designed to determine an applicant's medical, physical and vision suitability for the respective position sought.
- B. The applicant must be examined by a physician licensed by the Texas Medical Board. The physician must be familiar with the duties appropriate to the license sought and the peace officer appointment to be made. The appointee must be declared by that professional, on a form prescribed by the commission, within 180 days before the date of appointment by the agency to be physically sound and free from any defect which may adversely affect the performance of duty appropriate to the type of license sought; show no trace of drug dependency or illegal drug use after a blood test or other medical test;
- C. The Physical Exam section of TCOLE Form L-2 (Declaration of Medical Condition) must be completed by the examining physician.
- D. The Drug Exam section of TCOLE form L-2 (Declaration of Medical Condition) must be completed by the reviewing licensed physician.
- E. The original document must be placed in the appropriate section of the Background Investigation folder submitted to the Office of the Director of Police.
- F. A copy of the drug screening report shall be included with the L-2 in the Background Investigation folder.
- G. The "Drug Screen Report" shall be a 10-panel drug screen report.

XIII. – PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAM

- A. If applicable, the applicant shall be examined by a psychologist, selected by the appointing, employing agency, or the academy, who is licensed by the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. This examination may also be conducted by a psychiatrist licensed by the Texas Medical Board. The psychologist or psychiatrist must be familiar with the duties appropriate to the type of license sought. The individual must be declared by that professional, on a form prescribed by the commission, 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. The examination process must consist of a review of a job description for the position sought; review of any personal history statements; review of any background documents; at least two instruments, one which measures personality traits and one which measures psychopathology; and a face-to-face interview conducted after the instruments have been scored. The appointee must be declared by that professional, on a form prescribed by the commission, within 180 days before the date of the appointment by the agency.
- B. In exceptional circumstances, TCOLE may allow a licensed physician to perform the evaluation of psychological and emotional health. In these circumstances, the Office of the Director of Police may request an exception from TCOLE in writing and must receive approval from TCOLE before the evaluation can be completed.

- C. The examination may be conducted by a qualified person identified by Texas Occupations Code § 501.004. In this situation, the Office of the Director of Police may request an exception from TCOLE in writing and must receive approval from TCOLE before the evaluation can be completed; and
- D. TCOLE Form L-3 (Declaration of Emotional and Psychological Health) must be completed by the examining licensed psychiatrist or psychologist. The original document must be placed in the appropriate section of the Background Investigation folder submitted to the Office of the Director of Police.

XIV. BACKGROUND FOLDER SUBMISSION

- A. The background investigation shall examine at a minimum the immediate past 15 years (if applicable) calculated from the date of application by the applicant.
- B. The individual conducting the background investigation for a police officer must submit the completed background investigation folder to the Office of the Director of Police for review.
- C. The folder must be reviewed by the Office of the Director of Police to ensure the applicant meets the qualifications for police officer. After its review, the Director of Police, or designee, shall notify the employing institution's Chief of Police if the applicant is approved or not approved to be hired as a police officer.
- D. Each applicant selected for employment must provide the following completed documents for the background investigation folder in the following order: The information should be verified on the DP53 (Police Officer Appointment Index)
 - 1. TCOLE Form L-1 Appointment Application
 - 2. TCOLE Form L-2- Medical Exam/ Drug Screen Report (must be a 10-Panel Drug Screen)
 - 3. TCOLE Form L-3 Licensee Psychological and Emotional Health Declaration
 - 4. Copies of all TCOLE F-5R forms from previous law enforcement agencies (if applicable)
 - 5. Copy of military discharge papers (DD-214), if applicable with enlistment code
 - 6. FAST Fingerprint Applicant Services of Texas Results or receipt of completion; must have FBI and Texas results
 - 7. Firearms Qualification within 12- months prior to appointment
 - 8. DP1 (Personal History Statement) – completed and signed
 - 9. DP38 (Authorization for Release of Personal Information) – signed and notarized
 - 10. DP36 (Assumption of Risk)
 - 11. DP4 (Pre-Employment Polygraph Questionnaire)
 - 12. Polygraph Report
 - 13. Copy of current driver's license
 - 14. Driver's License Return (10-27)
 - 15. Copy of current automobile insurance
 - 16. Copy of social security card

17. Copy of birth certificate
 18. Certified copy of high school diploma or GED
 19. Certified copies of transcripts and degrees from accredited colleges or universities must be submitted with the applicant packet (if applicable).
 20. Certified documents from the appropriate authority showing the final disposition of each arrest, probation, community supervision, conviction or other criminal history or certified letter of non-prosecution, if applicable.
 21. Copies of all certificates of training or achievement
 22. Copy of military discharge papers (DD-214), if applicable with enlistment code
 23. Certified copy of U.S. citizenship papers, if applicable
 24. Copy of credit report with credit score
- E. An institution police department that hires an individual under the Reinstatement Exception with less than 180-day break in service who already holds a valid, active Texas peace officer license will only be required to provide the listed documentation consistent with TCOLE requirements.
1. TCOLE L-1 Appointment application
 2. F-5R
 3. Background Investigation / Updated DP-6 and DP-1
 4. Military Discharge (DD-214), if applicable
 5. Firearms qualification within 12 months prior to appointment

XV. COMMISSIONING OF LATERAL OFFICERS/ADVANCED OFFICER TRAINING PROGRAM

Upon satisfactory completion of the background investigation, and with the approval of the Director of Police, an applicant will be commissioned as a police officer of The University of Texas System Police. Those so commissioned will have the option of attending formal Advanced Officer Training (AOT) provided by the UT System Police Academy, at the discretion of the institution Chief of Police.

XVI. LICENSING OF NON-TEXAS (OUT OF STATE) PEACE OFFICERS FOR SERVICE WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM POLICE

- A. Candidates seeking to join the UT System Police as a sworn officer and who have served honorably as a peace officer or equivalent designation in another state or within federal/military law enforcement (as provide for by TCOLE) are required to meet all applicable TCOLE requirements including successful completion of the TCOLE Class 1018, Supplemental Peace Officer Course and then successfully pass (challenge) the current Texas peace officer licensing examination. As a matter of ODOP/UTSP Policy the process enumerated above shall be completed within 180 days of initial employment.
- B. If such candidates fail three times to pass the licensing examination, in order to be retained in a peace officer position the candidate will be required to successfully complete a Texas Basic Peace Officer Course approved by the Director of Police and subsequently pass the licensing examination upon graduation.

XVII. DUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSIONS/PART-TIME OFFICERS

The dual commissioning of UT System Police officers or the employment of part-time UTSP Officers, when permitted by TCOLE, shall be authorized only by the Director of Police.



Michael Heidingsfield
Director of Police

Changes/Additions Since Last Publication

Revisions “Changes include modification to the requirement that the background investigation process take place in a particular order; including hyperlinks as necessary; adding flexibility as to when a conditional offer of employment may be made—Our thanks to Assistant Chief Jay Tillerson, UT Arlington PD, for his recommendations”—June 21, 2023

Revision of Paragraph XVI to remove the requirement for attendance at a Lateral Officer Course and instead offer the option of Advanced Officer Training program. February 9, 2016.

Deletion of Paragraph XVII C. obliging the completion of a mandatory Lateral Officer Course. February 9, 2016.

Addition of Paragraph XVIII regarding Dual Law Enforcement Commissions/Part-Time Officers, September 3, 2014

Revisions made, effective September 1, 2014 to simplify the application process for those who meet the criteria of the reinstatement exception:

- Addition of Paragraph II.D. – defining Reinstatement Exception.

- Addition of language to Paragraph V.B.1. requiring the use of FAST.

- Addition of Paragraph VI.C. which provides an exception to the requirement for a physical agility test.

- Revision of Paragraph VII. D regarding required documents.

- Revision of Paragraph XV. D. regarding required documents.

Addition of Paragraph XVII - LICENSING OF NON-TEXAS PEACE OFFICERS FOR SERVICE WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM POLICE, March 25, 2014

Paragraph III – language revised to include “...and laterally entering into and joining UTSP, ...” to the first sentence and “...approved by the Office of the Director of Police...” to the last sentence. March 3, 2014

Paragraph XVI – added “of Lateral Officers” to the title of paragraph. Language of the paragraph revised to clarify the requirement to attend the first scheduled Lateral Academy. March 3, 2014

Section IV. Applicant Selection Process

Revised 10 phases to 9 phases; combined drug screen with medical. Revised to reflect current practices across institution police departments. September 27, 2021

V. Phase 1 Application, qualification standards, and disqualifiers;

- Bullet C, section 2 a(1) inserted, “intentionally” to allow for those instances when applicants have ingested marijuana without their knowledge. I.e.: marijuana cookies, brownies, etc. September 27, 2021

VII. Phase 3 Required Documentation

- Bullet D. section 2 added DP36 assumption of risk form September 27, 2021

IX. Phase 5 Oral Interview Board

- A-H were slightly revised to reflect current practices.

- B. was modified from 5 board members to a minimum of 3 board members

- C. allows for community members to serve on the hiring board

- E. stipulates that the board members must be the same for all applicant interviews.

- G. explains that DP11 must be completed for oral board scoring

- H. advises the chairperson for the board will complete the DP12 summary score sheet. September 27, 2021

XI. Phase 7 Polygraph

Bullet C was revised to be consistent with 87th Texas Legislative session that de-licensed Texas Polygraphers. September 27, 2021

XII. Medical/Drug Screening

Drug Screening was combined with Medical Screening September 27, 2021

XIV. Background Folder Submission

Bullet D, section 10. Added DP36 form to documents needed. September 27, 2021

VIII. Phase 4. A-B, Background Investigation

Added language to comply with the 87th Legislature (Senate Bill 24 (87R) that mandates an electronic process to ensure that proper pre-employment background investigations are being completed on TCOLE licensees, and to facilitate a secure electronic transfer of personal information held by previous employing law enforcement agencies in the State of Texas. May 17, 2022.