



P.O.S.T. Update

October 2020

Mike Ayers – Executive Director

POST Rule Changes

Effective January 1, 2021, the following rule changes will take effect:

- **464-3-.02 Qualifications for Certification: Pre-Employment Requirements. Amended & 464-3-.14 Law Enforcement Officer Psychological Affidavit added**
 - Each agency (peace officer candidates) and academy (pre-service candidates) must submit an affidavit acknowledging that a psychological evaluation to determine suitability as a law enforcement officer was conducted for each application for certification, on forms approved by Council.

NOTE: This affidavit will be provided in the supporting documentation section of the certification application (similarly as the Physician's Affidavit is currently provided in the POST Data Gateway) for agencies/academies to download. Completed affidavits will subsequently be uploaded in the supporting documentation section of the certification application.
- **464-3-.12 Requirements for retired law enforcement credentials issued in accordance with OCGA 16-11-130(c)(2)(E). The requirements are as follows:**
 1. A person who is a citizen of this state; and
 2. Has retired with at least ten years of aggregate service as a law enforcement officer with powers of arrest under the laws of any state of the United States or of the United States; and
 3. Separated from service in good standing.
 4. Good standing shall be defined as not being subject to any suspension or revocation to practice as a law enforcement officer.
 5. If the applicant for retired credentials served as an officer in another state(s) or the United States, documentation of good standing shall be required from the state(s) where the applicant was employed as a law enforcement officer or the United States.
 6. Each applicant shall document eligibility to possess a firearm by providing a copy of a valid Georgia Weapons Carry Permit.

7. Each applicant must provide, with the application for retired credentials, one photograph that complies with a US Department of State passport photo; and all documents must be submitted on forms approved by Council.
- **464-3-.13 Officer Code of Conduct Agreement.**
 - Effective January 1, 2021, any officer actively employed as a peace officer, communications officer or jail officer must submit an Officer Code of Conduct Agreement on forms approved by Council.
- NOTE:** This agreement will be provided in the supporting documentation section of the certification application (similarly as the Physician's Affidavit is currently provided in the POST Data Gateway) for agencies/academies to download. Completed agreements will subsequently be uploaded in the supporting documentation section of the certification application.
- **464-3-.15 Voluntary Surrender of Certification**
 - An officer may voluntarily surrender any POST certification they have been issued. **Any surrendered certification shall be deemed equivalent to a revocation.**
 - **464-7-.02 Administration of Pre-Investigative Consent Orders.**
 - In certain instances, using guidelines approved by the POST Council, a pre-investigative consent order may be offered, in lieu of a full POST disciplinary investigation. Any such consent order agreed upon and finalized by the Executive Director and Chairman shall be deemed to be the final action of the Council. In cases in which no agreement is made, the Director of the Investigations Division of the Council shall assign the case to an investigator as in other cases.

New Physician's Affidavit for Basic LE Certification

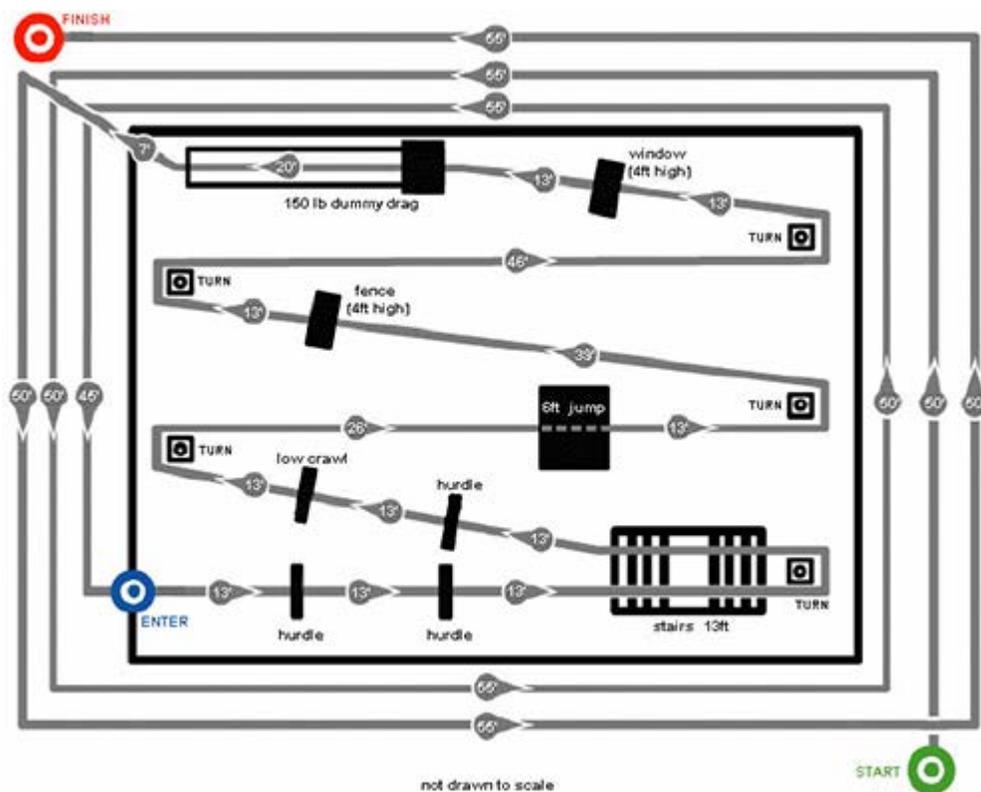
- A new Physician's Affidavit has been updated in the Basic Law Enforcement Certification Application as a result of the POST Rule change for Psychological Affidavits. Please be sure to use this new affidavit for all **new basic law enforcement certification applications.** This affidavit change is for the basic law enforcement certification application ONLY and **does not apply to any other POST basic certification applications.**

Physical Abilities Addition to Basic Curriculum

Another change coming from POST on January 1, 2021, is the Physical Ability Test (PAT) that will be required for each candidate enrolled in a basic law enforcement course attending any law enforcement academy in the state. POST worked hand-in-hand with the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC), and other agencies, to develop this test. The PAT has been validated and approved by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and is now the POST approved PAT for all basic law enforcement candidates.

The test is basically a timed obstacle course. See the map below. The course is just a few feet larger than half of a basketball court and must be completed in 2 minutes, six seconds or less. The candidate starts with 1 3/4 laps around the outside of the course and then enters, following the pattern shown on the map. They must jump two small hurdles, climb a flight of stairs, descend the flight of stairs, go around a cone and continue back up and down the stairs again. The candidate jumps over more hurdles and must go under a bar that is 2 1/2 feet high. If they fail to negotiate the low crawl correctly, there is a two-second time penalty. More running and a leap across a simulated 6-foot gap representing a large ditch. If either foot hits the tape, there is another two second time penalty. The candidate can opt to skip the jump and take the two second time penalty as well.

Running back across the floor, the candidate must negotiate a 4-foot-high chain link fence panel, round the cone and run back across the floor. Now the candidate must climb through a standard sized window, which is four feet high, and, once safely through it, drag a 150-pound dummy a distance of 20 feet until the dummy is across the designated line. Now, one more lap around the outside of the course and they are finished.



GPSTC has been running this PAT in its basic mandate courses for almost a year in order to gather numbers for the study. It has not been a requirement to enter the academy. The PAT has a very high success rate and a very interesting correlation. The staff at GPSTC determined that a large percentage of the candidates who had “failed the test” eventually had problems academically and/or behaviorally before they reached the end of basic training. Many of these students failed out. So, it seems that the PAT can not only help to identify candidates

who are not yet physically capable of being a peace officer, but it can help to identify others who will likely not pass due to academic or behavior issues.

POST feels that these rule changes, along with more planned rules changes, and the inclusion of the PAT at the academies, will help in its mission to provide the citizens of Georgia with qualified, professionally trained, ethical and competent peace officers and criminal justice professionals.