

Rule 9.5: Part-Time Officer Bridge Program for Full-Time Certification

Rule 9.5.1 Purpose

1. This rule establishes a process by which currently certified part-time law enforcement officers may obtain full-time certification through demonstrated competency, training equivalency, and sustained service.
2. This rule recognizes prior completion of an approved part-time training and provides a pathway to full-time certification through evaluation conducted by accredited full-time training academies.

Rule 9.5.2 Policy

1. The Board may grant full-time certification to qualified part-time certified officers who demonstrate competency equivalent to full-time training standards.
2. This program shall:
 - Recognize prior Board approved part-time training
 - Require validation of knowledge, physical fitness, and critical job skills
 - Ensure evaluation is conducted through Board accredited full-time academies
3. This rule shall not waive minimum employment standards or moral character requirements established in Chapter 2.

Rule 9.5.3 Eligibility Requirements

1. Applicants must meet all of the following criteria:
 - A. Hold a current and valid part-time law enforcement certification issued by the Board.
 - B. Be currently appointed as a part-time, reserve, or auxiliary law enforcement officer.
 - C. Have completed a minimum of five (5) consecutive years of service.
 - D. Have performed a minimum of forty (40) duty hours per month during the qualifying period.
 - E. Submit a notarized sworn affidavit from the agency head verifying service, activity, and good standing.
 - F. Meet all minimum employment standards outlined in Chapter 2.
 - G. Applicants must have served in a part-time capacity in one of the following positions, or other position approved by the Board:

1. As an instructor in a Board-approved academy or as an instructor or student in criminal justice or a related field at an institution of higher learning; or
2. As an investigator for a district attorney or as an investigator for a state agency responsible for enforcement of criminal statutes; or
3. As a municipal police officer, county deputy sheriff, or other law enforcement officer appointed or employed in a recognized political subdivision of any state, province, or territory of the United States who:
 - Is vested with authority to bear arms and make arrests; and
 - Has as a primary duty the prevention and detection of crime, apprehension of criminals, and enforcement of criminal or traffic laws.

Rule 9.5.4 Program Requirements

Applicants must successfully complete all phases of the Bridge Program through a Board accredited full-time residential training academy.

(A) Written Equivalency Examination

1. Applicants shall successfully complete a Board approved equivalency examination.
2. The examination shall be the same or substantially similar to that administered to out-of-state lateral or military applicants.
3. The applicant shall be allowed one (1) attempt only to achieve a passing score.

(B) Physical Fitness Assessment

1. Applicants shall complete the Board approved Physical Fitness Test.
2. Applicants must achieve a minimum score of fifty percent (50%) of the established standard for their age and gender category.

(C) Skills Evaluation Requirements

Applicants shall successfully complete the following pass/fail evaluations:

1. Firearms – successful completion of a Board approved 50 round qualification course.
2. Emergency Vehicle Operations – successful completion of a driving competency evaluation.
3. Defensive Tactics – successful completion of a practical skills evaluation.

Rule 9.5.5 Academy Administration and Validation

1. All testing and evaluations required under this rule shall be:
 - Conducted by a Board accredited full-time residential training academy
 - Administered by instructors certified in their respective disciplines
2. The Director of the full-time residential training academy shall:
 - Review all examination and evaluation results
 - Verify compliance with Board standards
 - Certify successful completion of all program requirements
3. The academy director's certification shall constitute the official validation prior to submission to the Board.

Rule 9.5.6 Fees

1. Board accredited full-time residential training academies may charge a reasonable fee to the employing agency to cover the costs associated with administering the Bridge Program.
2. Such fees may include costs related to:
 - Testing
 - Instructor time
 - Facility use
 - Equipment and materials
3. The payment of any fees shall be the responsibility of the sponsoring/employing agency. The fee is not eligible for reimbursement by BLEOST.

Rule 9.5.7 Failure to Complete Program

1. Any applicant who fails any portion of the program shall be deemed ineligible under this rule and must complete a Board approved full-time basic training academy to obtain certification.

Rule 9.5.8 Certification Procedures

1. Upon successful completion and academy validation, documentation shall be forwarded to the Board.
2. Certification shall be issued in accordance with Chapter 3 procedures.

Rule 9.5.9 Administrative Review

1. The Board reserves the right to review all submissions and deny certification where standards are not met or information is incomplete or inaccurate.
2. Misrepresentation shall be subject to sanctions under Board policy and state law.
3. The Board may waive any one or more of the above provisions and grant full-time certification upon a supermajority vote of the Board. However, completion of the equivalency exam shall not be waivable.
4. The Bridge Program shall not be available after five (5) years from the date of full adoption of this policy unless otherwise extended by a vote of a supermajority of the Board.