



Kim Vickers  
Executive Director

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

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## Technical Assistance Bulletin

To: All Texas Law Enforcement Agencies/Contract Training Providers/Licensees  
From: Kenny Merchant/Director, Credentialing and Field Services  
Regarding: **Becoming a Texas Peace Officer, Jailer, or Telecommunicator**  
Date: August 30, 2019

This bulletin is about obtaining a Peace Officer, Correctional Officer (Jailer), or Telecommunications Officer License, without having had a previous license of that type. TCOLE does have a path (and Bulletin) for Out-of-State Police/Military Police/Federal Law Enforcement to obtain a Texas License through a separate track. TCOLE does not have such a track for Out-of-State/Military/Federal Jailers or Telecommunicators.

Requirements for obtaining a license for each of the license types are almost the same, with the major difference being the type of basic licensing course (academy) required:

1. Meet the minimum eligibility requirements of Rule 217.1-  
[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=4&ti=37&pt=7&ch=217&rl=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=4&ti=37&pt=7&ch=217&rl=Y),
2. Complete the required academy. \*College degrees or other training are not an acceptable substitute for a TCOLE approved academy.
3. Pass the State Licensing Exam.
4. Locate an agency willing to appoint you to that license. Your license will not be issued until you are actually appointed.

\*In the case of Jailers and Telecommunicators, an agency may appoint you prior to taking or completing your academy, as long as you meet the requirements of Rule 217.1. At that time a Temporary License is issued, which gives you 1 year to complete the required training. This option is not available for Peace Officers.

Some persons choose to attend an academy on their own, prior to looking for an appointing agency. Others may choose to locate an agency that will hire them and put them through an academy as part of the job requirement. The first option certainly can make a person more marketable, but academies can be expensive, and there is no paycheck while attending. There is also the possibility that after attending an academy on your own, a hiring agency may have the person repeat their own academy. The time required for completing basic licensing training varies by license, but is a major time commitment for each. Current minimum required hours are:

1. Peace Officer- 643 hours (this will increase to 696 hours in the near future)
2. Jailer- 120 hours (including Mental Health for Jailers, 4900).
3. Telecommunicator-64 hours (including Crisis Communication, 2120. This will increase to 80hrs in the near future)

After completion of the applicable academy, the person is given 3 attempts must pass the State Licensing Exam within 180 days. Failure to pass the Exam in that time frame or failing all 3 attempts will require repeating the academy. Once the Exam is passed, the person has 2 years from the date of the Exam to be appointed to that license type. Failure to be appointed in that time frame means that the academy must be repeated.



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A list of Texas Academies is on our website, here- <http://www.tcole.texas.gov/law-enforcement-academies>. Keep in mind that some Sheriff's Departments, not listed as Academies, may still conduct Jailer and Telecommunicator academies, if they have a Training Provider Contract and prior approval from TCOLE. Contract Training Providers are listed on our website, here- <http://www.tcole.texas.gov/contract-training-providers>.

Please be aware that both academies and law enforcement agencies may have standards higher than those required by TCOLE. TCOLE encourages this. Setting those standards is up to the individual agencies and is not controlled by TCOLE, unless the agency attempts to license persons who do not meet the minimum standards imposed by Rule 217.1.