

TITLE 79 LAW ENFORCEMENT - POLICE STANDARDS ADVISORY COUNCIL

CHAPTER 15 - LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY INSTRUCTOR  
CERTIFICATION

001 Purpose: To establish standards for certification of academy instructors.

002 Scope: Applicable to the Council, Director, and Training Academies.

003 Reference: State Statute 81-1403 and Title 79, Chapter 1

004 General: It is a goal of the Council that law enforcement academy certification training meet acceptable standards. Officers and other persons providing academy training that is prerequisite to receiving a State certification shall be certified by the Council.

005 Instructors who teach basic academy training courses that are part of the State basic curriculum shall be certified in accordance with this chapter. There are three levels of instructor certification: general, professional, and legal.

005.01 General Instructor Certification – A general instructor certification pertains to those individuals who have received instructor level training in a specific skill area as approved by the Council. The general certificate will be applicable in only those areas where the instructor has received such training.

005.02 General Instructor Minimum Qualifications

005.02A Experience: A minimum of three years law enforcement experience is required for general instructor certification. This requirement may be modified by request of an academy director or agency administrator with approval of the Council.

005.02B Education: High school graduation with a diploma or an equivalency certificate that meets the minimum score required by the State of Nebraska Department of Education.

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005.02C Other Qualifications: Must have successfully completed instructor level training in the applicable skill area(s) from a training course approved by the State. Must have successfully completed any apprenticeship hours required by the State.

005.03 Professional Instructor Certification – A professional instructor certification pertains to those who instruct in areas that are more cognitive in nature and require some level of experience to be able to instruct, i.e., criminal investigations, patrol techniques, and human understanding. A professional certification will require the applicant to demonstrate experience in the subject area and to have taken and completed an instructor development course of at least 24 hours. An officer may request a waiver of the instructor development course if he or she can exhibit experience in training and or higher education equivalent to having completed an instructor development course.

005.04 Professional Instructor Minimum Qualifications

005.04A Experience: Must have at least five years of experience in the subject area to be instructed.

005.04B Education: High school graduation with a diploma or an equivalency certificate that meets the minimum score required by the State of Nebraska Department of Education.

005.04C Other Qualifications: Must have successfully completed an approved instructor development course prior to certification or received a waiver from the Council. Must have received advanced or specialized education or training in subject areas as delineated in the application.

005.05 Legal Instructor Certification – A legal instructor certificate requires that the instructor has received his/her Juris Doctor Degree and instructs legal courses such as criminal elements, arrest, search, and seizure, and use of force.

005.06 Legal Instructor Minimum Qualifications

005.06A Experience: Recommend a minimum of three years of practice in the area the instructor is going to teach.

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005.06B Education: Must have a Juris Doctor Degree from an A.B.A. accredited college of law.

005.06C Other Qualifications: BAR certified to practice law.

005.07 Background: While no background investigation is required, an instructor must be recommended by the academy director and in making such recommendations, the academy director shall consider the reputation, conduct, stability and ability of the person being recommended.

### 006 Procedures

006.01 It is the responsibility of the academy director to insure that instructors are assigned only topics they are qualified to teach and are supervised on a regular basis to insure that instructional excellence is maintained. The evaluation and selection of persons to serve as academy instructors is the responsibility of the academy director or agency administrator.

006.02 Instructor applications shall be submitted on the approved instructor application form that can be obtained from the Training Center. Applications shall be submitted to the Director or designee for review and recommendation to the Council. Applications for instructor certification will be endorsed by the academy director and, where applicable, by the applicant's agency head.

006.03 The Director shall establish a system of review for instructor certification requests. The review shall be conducted to ensure the applicant meets minimum qualifications in the areas of education, training, experience, and background. The Director may recommend approval or denial of an application. The Director may recommend denial of the whole application or specific topic areas based upon qualifications presented in the application.

006.04 The Director shall make a recommendation on the application to the Council. The Director shall notify the academy director of any recommendation to deny a request at least 10 days prior to the Council meeting at which the application will be acted upon.

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006.05 The academy and or agency may submit additional documentation to support the application and or appear at the Council meeting to request the Council approve the application.

006.06 The Council shall approve or deny the application, in full or in part, based upon the information provided them.

006.07 The Director shall issue instructor certifications upon approval of he Council.

006.08 Instructor certifications shall be issued for a period of four years. A certificate may be renewed after four years if the instructor has instructed in an academy program during the period of certification and if the renewal is endorsed by the academy director under whose supervision he/she has instructed.

007 An instructor certification may be revoked when an instructor:

fails to meet minimum standards,

displays a lack of good moral character or behavior that adversely affects their credibility as an instructor,

displays a lack of good moral character or behavior that adversely affects the academy's reputation,

lacks the ability to effectively communicate or instruct in the academy setting,

has his/her professional certification suspended or revoked.

007.01 The employing agency or academy director may request the revocation of an instructor certification by submitting the request to the Director in writing and including all supporting documentation.

007.02 The Director shall review the request for revocation. The Director shall inform the effected instructor in writing that his/her instructor certification has been revoked and the reasons for the revocation and their right to appeal.

007.03 A person whose instructor certification has been revoked may appeal the action before the Council.

Effective Date: