

Chapter 3: ENTRANCE STANDARDS

Summary: Chapter 3 of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees' rules sets forth the requirements for admission to the Academy.

1. **Requirements for Admission to the Academy.** In order to be admitted to the Basic Corrections Training Course (the Basic Corrections Training Program and the Juvenile Basic Corrections Training Program), an applicant:
 - A. Shall be a high school graduate, or have scored as follows on one of the two Board of Trustees approved high school equivalency tests:
 - a. General Education Development Test (GED):
 - i. not lower than 35 on any one of the 5 parts, and
 - ii. an average not lower than 45 for all 5 parts, or;
 - b. High School Equivalency Test (HiSET):
 - i. A minimum score of 8 out of 20 on each of the five subtests, and;
 - ii. A minimum score of 2 out of 6 on the essay, and;
 - iii. Achieve a total scaled score on all five HiSET subtests of at least 45 out of 100.
 - B. Shall be at least 18 years of age.
 - C. Shall submit the medical certificate provided by the Academy, signed by a licensed physician indicating that the applicant is physically and medically fit to undergo physical training at the Academy;
 - D. Shall meet the physical fitness standards as established by the Board of Trustees;
 - E. Should have no convictions for Murder, Class A, Class B, Class C, or Class D crime; or convictions for any violation of the Maine Criminal Code, chapters 15, 19, 25, 29, 31, 35, 41 or 45, or a conviction for any equivalent crime in another jurisdiction outside the State of Maine. A person may make application to the Board of Trustees for a waiver of this provision;
 - F. Should not have engaged in any conduct that is penalized in this state as Murder, Class A, Class B, Class C, or Class D crime, or any provision of the Maine Criminal Code, chapters 15, 19, 25, 29, 31, 35, 41 or 45; or engaged in such conduct in another jurisdiction outside the State of Maine, unless that conduct is not punishable as a crime under the laws of that jurisdiction. A person may make application to the Board of Trustees for a waiver of this provision.

- G. Shall complete a state and federal criminal records check through the submission of fingerprints to the State Bureau of Identification and the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- H. Shall be of good moral character, as determined by a thorough background investigation by the hiring agency; and
- I. Shall not falsify or misrepresent any information during the application process, background investigation or polygraph examination.

2. Requirements for Admission to the Academy. In order to be admitted to the Law Enforcement Pre-Service Course; an applicant:

- A. Shall be a high school graduate, or have scored as follows on one of the two Board of Trustees approved high school equivalency tests:
 - a. General Education Development Test (GED):
 - i. not lower than 35 on any one of the 5 parts, and
 - ii. an average not lower than 45 for all 5 parts, or;
 - b. High School Equivalency Test (HiSET):
 - i. A minimum score of 8 out of 20 on each of the five subtests, and;
 - ii. A minimum score of 2 out of 6 on the essay, and;
 - iii. Achieve a total scaled score on all five HiSET subtests of at least 45 out of 100.
- B. Shall be at least 21 years of age, unless the applicant has an associate's degree or 60 credit hours of post-secondary education, in which case the applicant must be at least 20 years of age, or unless an applicant for pre-service training is currently enrolled in an accredited post secondary educational program, has completed 40 credit hours, and the applicant is at least 19 years of age;
- C. Shall submit the medical certificate provided by the Academy, signed by a licensed physician indicating that the applicant is physically and medically fit to undergo physical training at the Academy;
- D. Shall meet the physical fitness standards as established by the Board of Trustees;
- E. Should have no convictions for Murder, Class A, Class B, Class C, or Class D crime; or convictions for any violation of the Maine Criminal Code, chapters 15, 19, 25, 29, 31, 35, 41 or 45, or a conviction for any equivalent crime in another jurisdiction outside the State of Maine. A person may make application to the Board of Trustees for a conditional waiver of this provision;
- F. Should not have engaged in any conduct that is penalized in this state as Murder, Class A, Class B, Class C, or Class D crime, or any provision of the Maine Criminal Code, chapters 15, 19, 25, 29, 31, 35, 41 or 45; or engaged in such conduct in another jurisdiction outside the State of Maine, unless that conduct is not punishable as a crime under the laws of that jurisdiction. A person may make application to the Board of Trustees for a conditional waiver of this provision;

- G. Shall complete a state and federal criminal records check through the submission of fingerprints to the State Bureau of Identification and the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
 - H. Shall possess a valid motor vehicle operator's license. If such license is not a Maine license at the time of admission to the Academy, the applicant shall obtain a State of Maine license within any time limits prescribed by Maine law;
 - I. Shall be able to read and write at a level necessary to successfully complete the Law Enforcement Pre-Service Training Program as determined by the hiring or sponsoring agency.
 - J. Shall be of good moral character, as determined by a thorough background investigation by the hiring agency; or in the case of a person not employed, by the sponsoring agency, after review of the background investigation conducted by a licensed investigator approved by the Board of Trustees;
 - K. Effective July 1, 2026 and after, shall successfully complete to the satisfaction of the employer; or in the case of a person not employed, the sponsoring agency and the Board of Trustees, a polygraph examination conducted by a polygraph examiner who is either licensed in the State of Maine or has been previously approved by the Board. The examination shall follow the guidelines in the "Police Applicant Polygraph Testing" manual approved by the Board effective 1/1/2026;
 - L. Effective July 1, 2026, shall undergo and complete to the satisfaction of the employer; or in the case of a person not employed, the sponsoring agency, an evaluation of the applicant's suitability to work as a law enforcement officer by a licensed psychologist or licensed psychological examiner with experience in psychological screening in the field of law enforcement. The evaluation shall include, at a minimum, an evaluation of the following characteristics: anxiety, mood, anger, anti-social characteristics, ability to accept criticism, ability to communicate, assertiveness, self-confidence, ability to get along with others, judgment and verbal skills.
 - M. Shall complete an oral interview by the hiring agency; or in the case of person not employed, the sponsoring agency.; and
 - N. Shall not falsify or misrepresent any information during the application process, background investigation, or polygraph examination.
3. **Requirements for Admission to the Academy.** In order to be admitted to the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program, an applicant who is employed as a law enforcement officer must meet the standards set forth below. In the case of a person not employed as a law enforcement officer, the applicant must meet the standards set forth below as determined by a Selection Committee established by the Board of Trustees:
- A. Shall be a high school graduate, or have scored as follows on one of the two Board of Trustees approved high school equivalency tests:
 - a. General Education Development Test (GED):
 - i. not lower than 35 on any one of the 5 parts, and
 - ii. an average not lower than 45 for all 5 parts, or;
 - b. High School Equivalency Test (HISSET):

- i. A minimum score of 8 out of 20 on each of the five subtests, and;
 - ii. A minimum score of 2 out of 6 on the essay, and;
 - iii. Achieve a total scaled score on all five HiSET subtests of at least 45 out of 100.
- B. Shall be at least 21 years of age, unless the applicant has an associate's degree or 60 credit hours of post-secondary education, in which case the applicant must be at least 20 years of age;
- C. Shall submit the medical certificate provided by the Academy, signed by a licensed physician, indicating that the applicant is physically and medically fit to undergo physical training at the Academy;
- D. Shall meet the physical fitness standards established by the Board of Trustees;
- E. Should have no convictions for Murder, Class A, Class B, Class C, or Class D crime; or convictions for any violation of the Maine Criminal Code, chapters 15, 19, 25, 29, 31, 35, 41, or 45, or a conviction for any equivalent crime in another jurisdiction outside the State of Maine. A person may make application to the Board of Trustees for a conditional waiver of this provision;
- F. Should not have engaged in any conduct that is penalized in this state as Murder, Class A, Class B, Class C, or Class D crime, or any provision of the Maine Criminal Code, chapters 15, 19, 25, 29, 31, 35, 41 or 45; or engaged in such conduct in another jurisdiction outside the State of Maine, unless that conduct is not punishable as a crime under the laws of that jurisdiction. A person may make application to the Board of Trustees for a conditional waiver of this provision;
- G. Shall complete a state and federal criminal records check through the submission of fingerprints to the State Bureau of Identification and the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- H. Shall possess a valid motor vehicle operator's license. If such license is not a Maine license at the time of admission to the Academy, the applicant shall obtain a State of Maine license within any time limits prescribed by Maine law;
- I. Shall be able to read and write at a level necessary to successfully complete the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program as determined by the hiring agency.
- J. Shall be of good moral character, as determined by a thorough background investigation by the hiring agency; or in the case of a person not employed, by the Academy Selection Committee, after review of the background investigation conducted by a licensed investigator approved by the Board of Trustees;
- K. Shall successfully complete to the satisfaction of the employer and the Board of Trustees, or in the case of a person not employed, to the Academy Selection Committee, a polygraph examination conducted by a polygraph examiner who is either licensed in the State of Maine or has been previously approved by the Board. The examination shall follow the guidelines in the "Police Applicant Polygraph Testing" manual approved by the Board effective 1/1/2005 for polygraphs administered until 12/31/2025 and the manual approved by the Board effective 1/1/2026 for polygraphs administered on or after 1/1/2026;

- L. Shall undergo and complete to the satisfaction of the employer, or in the case of a person not employed, to the Academy Selection Committee, an evaluation of the applicant's suitability to work as a law enforcement officer by a licensed psychologist or licensed psychological examiner with experience in psychological screening in the field of law enforcement. The evaluation shall include, at a minimum, an evaluation of the following characteristics: anxiety, mood, anger, anti-social characteristics, ability to accept criticism, ability to communicate, assertiveness, self confidence, ability to get along with others, judgment and verbal skills.
- M. Shall complete an oral interview by the hiring agency or in the case of a pre-employment candidate, by a panel appointed by the Chair of the Board of Trustees representing state, municipal, and county, law enforcement agencies; and
- O. Shall not falsify or misrepresent any information during the application process, background investigation, or polygraph examination.

4. Requirements for Admission to the Basic Probation and Parole Training Program: In order to be admitted to the Basic Probation and Parole Training Program, an applicant who is employed as a probation officer must meet the standards set forth below.

- A. Meet the minimum qualifications for the probation and parole officer classification as determined by the Maine Bureau of Human Resources;
- B. Have been hired by the Department of Corrections as an adult probation and parole officer, including the completion of an oral interview;
- C. Meet the physical fitness standards established by the Board of Trustees;
- D. Submit the medical certificate provided by the Academy, signed by a licensed physician indicating that the applicant is physically and medically fit to undergo physical training at the Academy;
- E. Have no convictions for Murder, Class A, Class B, Class C, or Class D crime; or convictions for any violation of the Maine Criminal Code, chapters 15, 19, 25, 29, 31, 35, 41 or 45, or a conviction for any equivalent crime in another jurisdiction outside the State of Maine. A person may make application to the Board of Trustees for a conditional waiver of this provision;
- F. Not have engaged in any conduct that is penalized in this state as Murder, Class A, Class B, Class C, or Class D crime, or any provision of the Maine Criminal Code, chapters 15, 19, 25, 29, 31, 35, 41 or 45; or engaged in such conduct in another jurisdiction outside the State of Maine, unless that conduct is not punishable as a crime under the laws of that jurisdiction. A person may make application to the Board of Trustees for a conditional waiver of this provision;
- G. Complete a state and federal criminal records check through the submission of fingerprints to the State Bureau of Identification and the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- H. Possess a valid motor vehicle operator's license. If such license is not a Maine license at the time of admission to the Academy, the applicant shall obtain a State of Maine license within any time limits prescribed by Maine law;
- I. Be of good moral character, as determined by a thorough background investigation by the Department of Corrections;
- J. Not falsify or misrepresent any information during the application process or background investigation.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 25 M.R.S.A. §§ 2801-2809,

EFFECTIVE DATE:

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AMENDED:

December 25, 1979 - Sec. 3.1(E, G, H), 3.2

July 4, 1983 - Sec. 1(I)

September 4, 1985 - Sec. 1(I)

September 4, 1991

August 30, 1994 - Sec. 1(B)

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