

GEORGIA PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL
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**Re-Certification Requirements for Peace Officers Graduating
after January 1, 2012**

Effective January 1, 2012, peace officers graduating from the courses of Basic Law Enforcement, Basic Corrections, Basic Probation/Parole, GBI Basic Special Agent, Basic Juvenile Corrections Officer, or Basic Municipal Probation are issued a certification that will expire in four years from the date of issuance of that certification. In order to meet the re-certification requirements in four years, officers:

1. Must complete required annual training each year (20 Hours including Firearms Requalification, Use of Deadly Force, and Community Policing).
 - NOTE: These officers ***graduating after January 1, 2012*** must complete the required annual training **even if they are not actively employed each calendar year.**
2. Must complete a total of three classes (including the POST Block in the first recertification period). After the first recertification period, three classes during the four years (choose from any of the **following** courses):
 - GA POST Council Block of Training (1 class) during the first recertification period of four years. (NOTE: This block must be completed ONLY during your first recertification period (first four years)).
 - Eyewitness ID (available online at GPSTC)
 - Domestic Violence (available online at GPSTC)
 - Privacy, Civil Rights, and Suspicious Activity Reporting (available online at GPSTC)
 - Dealing with the Mentally Ill or Persons with Diminished Capacity (available online at GPSTC)
 - Legislative Update (available online at GPSTC)
 - Below 100 (available at GPSTC, other academies, and venues)
 - Law Enforcement and Animal Encounters (available online at GPSTC)
 - Juvenile Offenders (available online at GPSTC)
 - Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (available online at GPSTC)
 - Juvenile Justice Reform (available online at GPSTC)
 - Carrying and Possessing Weapons in Georgia (available online at GPSTC)
3. Must complete a new POST application in the POST Data Gateway system to re-certify every four years beginning with expiring certifications in 2016.
 - Can submit your recertification application up to 90 days before your certification expires.
 - Must have a current Physician's Affidavit (form included in application & must be within 180 days of application)
 - Must have current Fingerprint Results (either law enforcement agency LIVESCAN or Georgia Applicant Processing Service (GAPS) & must be within 180 days of application for re-certification).

- Must have current Driver's History (certified copy from GA Dept of Driver Services or Driver's History from employing law enforcement agency & must be within 180 days of application for re-certification)
- Must pay \$30 recertification fee

Failure to complete these requirements will result in expiration of the basic certification that was issued.



Recertification - Frequently Asked Questions

What is my status if I let my certification expire?

You will not have a basic certification for peace officer, and if you are currently employed, it could affect your employment if being certified is a condition of your employment.

What will I have to do to regain my certification if I let it expire?

If you recertify within three years of expiration, you will have to pay a late processing fee to recertify. You will also have to obtain a waiver for every calendar year in which you do not complete the required annual training before or after your designated recertification date.

If your certification is expired for more than three years, you will be required to complete the basic course again before you can be re-certified. The costs for retaking the basic course will be at your expense.

Please note that you could potentially have to pay two fees if you do not recertify on time: a late fee & a waiver fee. Completing all recertification requirements on time is to your benefit.

What happens if I do not get the annual required training?

Officers graduating from a basic peace officer course after January 1, 2012 must meet the continuing training requirement of twenty hours including Firearms Requalification & Use of Deadly Force each year whether you are actively employed in law enforcement or not. (NOTE: Juvenile Correction Officers do not have an annual Firearms Requalification and Use of Deadly Force requirement because it is not a part of the Basic Juvenile Correction Officer course.)

For example, if you are currently employed in a calendar year and fail to get your annually required training, you will lose your arrest authority on January 1st of the following year, and your certification will be suspended (beginning on January 1, 2013) until the requirement is made up & a waiver is obtained.

When your application for recertification is processed, your training history will be reviewed to make sure that you have completed annual training each year (whether employed or not). If you have not met the recertification training requirements, you will be required to make up the required training prior to your recertification being processed. If the training is not made up prior to your expiration date, late processing fees will apply. Waiver processing fees will apply for years that annual training requirements are not completed.

NOTE: *Officers receiving a peace officer certification **prior to January 1, 2012** only have the requirement of annual training for a calendar if they are actively employed for one day in that calendar year.*

What if I have become injured and cannot work or attend training?

POST Rule 464-4-.09 applies regarding notice of Long Term Medical Disability. You are required to notify POST if you are unable to work for more than 180 days due to a medical condition. Your certification may be suspended under this rule.



Recertification - Frequently Asked Questions

What if I have an active POST investigation at the time of my recertification? Will I be able to recertify?

An open POST investigation will not prohibit your recertification. However, Council rules apply and sanctions could be placed on your certification.

If my certification is suspended or revoked during my certification period, how does that affect the expiration of my certification?

Your certification will still expire. If your certification remains under suspension or revocation due to Council Rules or Council sanction, it will be up to the Council to determine your requirements to regain your certification.

How will I know that it is time to recertify?

The POST Data Gateway system will notify you 90 days from your certification expiration date. Your certification card has the expiration date on it.

Am I eligible for any other benefits as a peace officer?

Peace officers may participate in the Georgia Peace Officer Annuity and Benefit fund (POAB). You can get registration forms and more details at the POAB web site www.poab.georgia.gov.

Who is required to pay for my recertification – is it my responsibility or my agency's responsibility?

It is the individual officer's responsibility, but there may be some agencies that are willing to pay the fee for you.

Do I have to take the required recertification topic classes each year or just during the period of my certification?

You have to take them one time during the time period of your recertification (4 years). POST will check to see that you have completed each course topic at the time of recertification. Most of these topics are available online at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center's web site www.gpstc.org. These topics must be recorded in your POST training history (in the POST Data Gateway system) at the time of your recertification.

Currently, GPSTC reminds their online students that it may take up to four weeks to record online training to an officer's POST training history. Completing the required training and having it on your POST training history prior to submitting your recertification application will speed up the process.

What happens if I do not complete the required training classes?

Your recertification application will not be processed until all required training has been met. Additional fees may apply if your application completion goes beyond your expiration date.



Recertification - Frequently Asked Questions

If I got arrested during my recertification period, will I be able to recertify at that time?

Your arrest will initiate a POST investigation. An open POST investigation will not prohibit your recertification. However, Council rules apply and sanctions could be placed on your certification. POST Emergency Suspension rules apply for felony arrests or indictments.