



Kim Vickers
Executive Director

TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Technical Assistance Bulletin

To: All Texas Law Enforcement Agencies/Contract Training Providers/Licensees
From: Kenny Merchant/Director, Credentialing and Field Services
Regarding: **Specialty Certifications**
Date: March 2, 2020

Specialty Certificates are awarded by the Commission to recognize accomplishments in a certain, narrow field, as opposed to Proficiency Certificates, which recognize an overall combination of experience and general training. There are a number of Specialty Certificates, all addressed in Chapter 221 of the Texas Administrative Code, Title 37 (TCOLE Rules- <http://www.tcole.texas.gov/content/commission-rules>). Some of the Certifications are mandatory, based on specific job assignments, while most are voluntary. Mandatory Specialty Certifications will be listed in the Licensee Training Mandate Guide under "Assignment Specific Training." A sampling of Specialty Certifications includes, but is not limited to;

- Basic Instructor
- Advanced Instructor
- Firearms Instructor
- Mental Health Officer
- Civil Process
- Crime Prevention
- Cybercrime
- School Based Law Enforcement

Each Specialty Certificate requires completion of certain types of training, along with other possible requirements. The other requirements could be experience as a licensee, college credit, completion of multiple training courses, or completion of another Certificate. For example, to be awarded a Firearms Instructor Certification, the licensee must first have a Basic Instructor Certification. The requirements will be listed in the TCOLE Rules and also on the application form for the Certificate. One of the biggest mistakes made by those who wish to get a Specialty Certificate is assuming that completing the required training means that the Certificate is issued automatically- this is not correct. The licensee must meet all of the requirements of the Certificate and then make application to the Commission on the required form. Only after review and approval by the Commission will the Certificate be issued. Yes, there is a fee involved in the application. The Texas Legislature has mandated that the Commission create revenue through sales in order to pay for free training on the MyTCOLE site and to maintain the site, itself.



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For those licensees coming to Texas from out-of-state or Federal agencies, certifications from those entities do not transfer automatically as Texas Certifications. Some out-of-state and Federal training will be recognized as equivalents to the required training for a Specialty Certification (and will be listed on the application, if already approved), but the application process and all other requirements must still be met.

Please be aware that some Specialty Certificates require regular renewal, while others remain active unless revoked by the Commission. Those requiring renewal will have options for renewal shown in Rule and on the application form.