



Candidate Preparation Guide

Experience, Certification/Training and Education (ECT&E) Claim

Statewide Fire Promotional Exams

Deputy and District Fire Chief

Written Exam Administration Date:

November 18, 2023

Contents

Candidate Preparation Guide	1
Experience, Certification, Training and Education (ECT&E) Claim.....	1
Statewide Fire Promotional Exams.....	1
Deputy and District Fire Chief	1
Written Exam Administration Date:	1
Claim Submission	3
ECT&E Background.....	4
Weights and Scoring	4
Supporting Documentation	4
Relevant Time Periods for Experience Submissions	4
Current Work Experience.....	5
Work Experience Earned in Another Department.....	5
Calculating Work Experience	5
Supervisor Experience in a Firefighter Role Outside the Candidate’s Department.....	8
Supervisor Experience in a Non-Firefighter Role	9
Fire Training and Certifications.....	10
Trade Licenses.....	13
Education	14
EMT Licenses.....	15
25 Years of Service	15
Veteran’s Preference	15
Accessing the ECT&E Claim Website.....	16
Submission of the Claim.....	17
Appeal Rights	17
Claim Audits	17
FAQ’s	18

The Experience, Certification, Training, and Education (ECT&E) claim is an exam component of the November 18, 2023, Fire Promotional exams for the title of Deputy and District Fire Chief.

This section of the exam is similar but not the same as the Education and Experience (E&E) section of previous years. This guide is intended to help candidates familiarize themselves with the ECT&E component of the exam.

Please note these instructions are for candidates taking the November 18, 2023, exam. These instructions should not be relied upon for any future exam.

It is strongly recommended you closely read the on-line instructions, download, and print a copy of the claim, and work on it off-line before beginning your on-line submission.

Claim Submission

The ECT&E claim for the November 18, 2023, Deputy and District Fire Chief Promotional Examination is available for candidates to input information from the opening date of October 27, 2023, until the deadline of November 25, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. If the candidate starts but does not submit the claim, it can be finished later by “saving” the form; it does not need to be completed in one sitting. However, the claim needs to be submitted no later than 11:59 pm on November 25, 2023, for a candidate to receive credit. A “saved” claim is not a “submitted” claim. For the claim to be scored, it must be “submitted”. Once a candidate clicks “submit”, they cannot go back in and edit their submission. All claims will be reviewed based on the answers provided. Written requests for modification of a submitted claim must be emailed to civilservice@mass.gov on or before the deadline date, November 25, 2023, and will be added to your record for this examination component. Please include your full name, civil service personal identification number and the examination title in the subject line of any email sent. For example: John S. Smith – 123456 – Statewide Deputy Fire Chief.

Candidates must ensure they are submitting an ECT&E claim to the correct exam plan. If candidates are taking the 2023 Statewide Deputy Fire Chief written promotional exam, they must apply for the 2023 Statewide Deputy Fire Chief ECT&E exam claim. Please ensure that the candidate’s personal identification number on the ECT&E notice is utilized when submitting the ECT&E application.

When participating in multiple written promotional exams, candidates must submit an ECT&E application for each appropriate promotional ECT&E application.

The online ECT&E Claim application is not complete until you have electronically completed and submitted the online ECT&E claim and received a confirmation email acknowledging receipt of the ECT&E Claim application. If you have not received a confirmation email, you must resubmit your online application prior to the submission deadline, until you have received a confirmation email. Candidates should retain a copy of their email for their records.

Please note: The confirmation email is confirmation that your application has been received. It is not confirmation that all your supporting documents have been accepted. Please review the preparation guide carefully to ensure all the proper documentation is submitted.

ECT&E Background

The ECT&E component has three main sections: Experience, Certifications/Trainings/Licenses and Education. Through collaboration of HRD Civil Service Unit, subject matter experts from civil service departments and the test vendor, the weight distribution was determined through our job analysis test development process. Each exam is evaluated in partnership with subject matter experts. ECT&E components are displayed in the application and are specific to this examination.

Weights and Scoring

For the November 18, 2023, exam, the ECT&E exam component is one of three exam components and is weighted at 20% of the total exam. The ECT&E component has three main sections that have the following weights applied:

Experience	52%
Certifications/Trainings/Licenses	25%
Education	23%

Unlike previous ECT&E claim forms, a candidate will not be able to see point values for the associated claim entries. When exam scores are released, the candidate will receive a breakdown of their final score consisting of their written exam technical knowledge component, Situational Judgment component and ECT&E claim score.

Supporting Documentation

ALL claims, whether for experience, certification, training, license or education, require supporting documentation. This guide will identify what is supporting documentation for each category. The on-line form includes a section entitled “attachments” for submission of documents. **Please label your document to ensure it is processed accordingly.** A candidate can revisit the “attachments” page as many times as necessary to submit all required documentation before the claim is submitted. If submitting documentation through the Civil Service email, civilservice@mass.gov, please include ECT&E in the subject line, provide your name, personal identification number, and exam you have applied for. Candidates are encouraged to utilize their NeoGov account for all submissions.

Relevant Time Periods for Experience Submissions

The ECT&E asks a series of questions about a candidate’s employment and supervisory experience. The following experience timeframes apply for this exam title:

November 18, 2023, Statewide Deputy and District Fire Chief – candidate experience gained on or before written exam date.

A link to the **2023 Deputy Fire Chief EVF** form is [here](#).

A link to the **2023 District Fire Chief EVF** form is [here](#).

Current Work Experience

Candidates must submit a current EVF signed by their appointing authority or their designee for work in their current department. The appointing authority must include start/end dates for each grade level (rank), whether it was a full- or part-time position, and reasons for any breaks in service. Time is calculated per rank, and it can include any civil service temporary, provisional, reserve, call and/or intermittent time in a rank. Acting time is only accepted in the examination title category.

Leaves of absences or breaks in service for more than six months must be recorded on the EVF and will not be counted toward work experience.

HRD will only grant credit for work experience for time spent actually working within a department. An approved leave of absence will count towards ECT&E credit for up to 180 consecutive calendar days. HRD will not grant ECT&E credit for any time spent away from actually working (leaves or absences) in excess of 180 consecutive calendar days. For leaves or absences of more than 180 consecutive calendar days, only the first 180 consecutive calendar days will count towards ECT&E.

Work Experience Earned in Another Department

An EVF must be filled out for each department that a candidate is claiming work experience from. All time should be listed accordingly on the EVF. If an EVF from another department is unable to be submitted, a letter from an appointing authority on the department letterhead will be accepted. The documentation must include the start and end dates if claiming time in another department.

Name of Candidate: Robert Zulini **Last four digits of Social Security #:** 1234
Verifying Department: Anytown, MA **Examination Title:** District Chief

I. PERMANENT ORIGINAL SERVICE

List Date of Permanent Appointment in rank of Firefighter: 1/10/99

List End Date (if not current department) 5/10/00



Calculating Work Experience

The EVF form will be used to calculate work experience at each rank. Temporary and provisional time will be added to the candidates' time in the rank they are working in as a temporary and/or provisional.

Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of a work verification letter. Leaves of absences or breaks in service for more than six months will not be counted toward work experience.

If a candidate's experience is 6 months or over, round up to the next full year. If experience is 5 months or less, round down to the previous lower year. When the response required is calculated in years, round up to the nearest year. When the response is calculated in months, round up to the nearest month. If a candidate has 15 or more days of experience, round up the next month. Please remember that all types of experience in each category must be totaled on your EVF or letter from the appointing authority. Experience that is not totaled cannot be credited.

For any part-time employment claims, it is the candidate's responsibility to tally the number of hours worked and submit them in total within the "employment" category. Submission of part-time hours within the "shifts" category will not be accepted.

For part-time work calculations only, part-time work should be prorated based on a 172 hour/month to produce a month-worked claim. Examples:

- If a candidate worked part time for a total of 220 hours, the calculation would be 220 hours divided by 172 hours, resulting in 1.28 months of work. This would be rounded to credit for one month of work.
- For 670 hours of part-time work, the calculation would be 670 hours divided by 172 hours, resulting in 3.89 months worked. This would be rounded on the claim form, for a submission of 4 months of employment.

For example, if a candidate taking the District Fire Chief examination, has served part time as an acting District Fire Chief from 1/3/2019 – 6/5/2019 for a total of 300 hours, they would input the following:

IV. ACTING TIME IN EXAMINATION TITLE

Hours:
300 hrs

Dates of Service (From – To):
1/3/2019 - 6/5/2019

If the individual above had served as an acting District Fire Chief for the same time period, but on a full-time basis, then under "Hours" they would write "Full Time" instead.

IV. ACTING TIME IN EXAMINATION TITLE

Hours:
Full Time

Dates of Service (From – To):
1/3/2019 - 6/5/2019

Please see below for an example of calculating time:
EVF Example:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Human Resources Division 2023 Fire Chief Departmental Promotional Examinations Employment Verification Form											
<p>Instructions: The Appointing Authority (or their designee) <u>must sign</u> and date this form, certifying the information provided for each promotional candidate is accurate. Attach additional paperwork if necessary. This form must be submitted no later than seven calendar days after the written examination date. This form and any supporting documentation must be scanned and attached to your application or sent to civilservice@mass.gov no later than November 25, 2023. Please be thorough in completing this form. Not indicating full-time or part-time (if part-time then hours) will be considered insufficient verification. Acting time will be creditable only in the title of the examination.</p> <p>Candidates who are claiming the Promotional Preference for 25 Years: This form will serve as the primary source of verification and computation of a candidate's eligibility for this preference, and the examination date of November 18, 2023, will be the computation cut-off date. Time worked as a Permanent Reserve/Intermittent Firefighter or Call and Temporary Firefighter after certification may be applied toward one's eligibility for this preference.</p>											
Name of Candidate:	<u>Robert Zulini</u>	Last four digits of Social Security #: <u>1234</u>									
Verifying Department:	<u>Amytown, MA</u>	Examination Title: <u>District Chief</u>									
<p>I. PERMANENT ORIGINAL SERVICE List Date of Permanent Appointment in rank of Firefighter: <u>1/10/01</u> List End Date (if not current department) _____</p>											
<p>II. PROMOTIONS WITHIN DEPARTMENT (List Ranks and Dates of Promotions):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank:</th> <th>Date of Promotion:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><u>LT</u></td> <td><u>4/05/2006</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>CPT</u></td> <td><u>9/15/2015</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Rank:	Date of Promotion:	<u>LT</u>	<u>4/05/2006</u>	<u>CPT</u>	<u>9/15/2015</u>	_____	_____	
Rank:	Date of Promotion:										
<u>LT</u>	<u>4/05/2006</u>										
<u>CPT</u>	<u>9/15/2015</u>										
_____	_____										
<p>III. TEMPORARY AND PROVISIONAL TIME IN RANK(S)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank:</th> <th>Dates of Service (From – To):</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><u>CPT</u></td> <td><u>6/10/2014-9/15/2014</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Rank:	Dates of Service (From – To):	<u>CPT</u>	<u>6/10/2014-9/15/2014</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Rank:	Dates of Service (From – To):										
<u>CPT</u>	<u>6/10/2014-9/15/2014</u>										
_____	_____										
_____	_____										
<p>IV. ACTING TIME IN EXAMINATION TITLE</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Hours:</th> <th>Dates of Service (From – To):</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><u>820</u></td> <td><u>2/3/2021-7/19/2023</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Hours:	Dates of Service (From – To):	<u>820</u>	<u>2/3/2021-7/19/2023</u>					
Hours:	Dates of Service (From – To):										
<u>820</u>	<u>2/3/2021-7/19/2023</u>										
<p>V. RESERVE, INTERMITTENT OR CALL TIME AS FIREFIGHTER</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rank: (Example: Reserve Firefighter)</th> <th>Total # of Hours (include if part-time): (250 Hrs.)</th> <th>Dates of Service (From – To): (12/1/2015–01/20/2018)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>List Dates and Reasons for any breaks in service at <u>any and all</u> ranks: _____</p>			Rank: (Example: Reserve Firefighter)	Total # of Hours (include if part-time): (250 Hrs.)	Dates of Service (From – To): (12/1/2015–01/20/2018)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rank: (Example: Reserve Firefighter)	Total # of Hours (include if part-time): (250 Hrs.)	Dates of Service (From – To): (12/1/2015–01/20/2018)									
_____	_____	_____									
_____	_____	_____									
<p>Print Name of Appointing Authority (or designee): <u>John Doe</u></p> <p>Title of Designee: <u>Chief</u></p> <p>Signature of Appointing Authority (or designee): <u>John Doe</u> Date: <u>10/25/2023</u></p>											

Please see the calculation for the EVF example above:

Candidate was appointed to firefighter on 1/10/01.
Candidate was promoted to rank of Lieutenant on 4/05/06.

The candidate work experience in the rank of firefighter is 5 years and 3 months.

Candidate worked as a temporary Cpt. 6/10/14-9/15/14.
Candidate was promoted to Captain on 9/15/15.

This candidate worked 3 months as a temp Cpt. while a Lt. This time will be added to their Cpt. time but subtracted from Lt. time. Time is calculated from their appointment to Lt. until their appointment to Cpt. Time as a Lt. is 9 years and 2 months (9 yrs/5 months minus 3 months).

This candidate worked 820 hours as an Acting Deputy Fire Chief. This candidate took the Statewide Deputy Fire Chief promotional exam on November 18, 2023.

This candidate worked 820 hours as an Acting Deputy Fire Chief. This time is divided by 172 to obtain a calculation in months (5 months). This time is awarded as Acting time but subtracted from Captain time. Captain time is calculated from their appointment time until the date of the exam. Time as a Captain is 4 years rounded off (4 years/8 months' time minus 5 months Acting Deputy Chief time)

Supervisor Experience in a Firefighter Role Outside the Candidate's Department

Claims for work experience can be entered only once; multiple entries of the same work experience will not be scored.

Claims may be submitted for firefighter work outside of the candidate's department; this includes:

1. military firefighter or work in another department. The documentation must include the start and end dates if claiming time in another department.
2. A separate EVF must be filled out and signed for any claim of experience in another department.
3. A candidate can submit their DD214 as supporting documentation of time served as a military firefighter if the DD214 specifies that title in block 11. Additional documentation will be needed to support the claim of military firefighter if it is not indicated in block 11. Additional documents can include initial orders joining the military with the job of military firefighter.

Supervisor Experience in a Non-Firefighter Role

Claims may also be submitted for employment with supervisory responsibilities in a non-firefighter position. Supporting documentation for non-firefighter position(s) including a private company should be:

1. A letter on business letterhead with an original signature indicating start/end dates of employment (MM/DD/YYYY).
2. Full- or part-time position. If the claim is for part-time employment, the letter must indicate how many actual hours were worked or the number of hours worked per week. This will be calculated under the prorated, part-time calculation (172 hour/month).
3. Supervisory responsibility with official duties listed. Duties can include: supervising staff and work processes, enforcing policies and procedures, monitoring employee productivity, and providing feedback, setting performance goals, assisting with scheduling, employee corrective measures.
4. For documentation from a non-governmental company (private or non-profit organization), the tax ID must be included in the supporting documentation.

Please note: If a candidate owns their own company, they must follow the same guidelines listed for a private company.

All documentation listed above must be submitted to support a claim of outside supervisor time in a private company.

Time spent within the Non-Commission Officer (NCO) ranks or time spent within the Officer ranks would qualify as supervisory experience. Proof for NCOs would be Orders showing date of rank, NCOERs, ERB/SRB. A candidate who is no longer in the military would need to show Expiration Term of Service (ETS) date. If a candidate is still serving, then they would need to provide proof of still serving (Commanding Officer letter). For officers, they would provide proof of date of rank to officer and ETS date.

Please note: When Claiming time in the National Guard, inactive time is calculated on a part-time basis. Awarding 42 days per year plus 2.5 days per each additional month.

The example below will **NOT** be accepted as supporting documentation for outside supervisor time.

ABC Company

September 10, 2023

123 Main St
Anytown, MA 01234

To Whom it May Concern:

I have owned the ABC company for 5 years. I have experience managing my budget and ensuring my customers receive great service. I can provide references upon request. My EIN #1274365.

Sincerely,

Mac Macdonald

Fire Training and Certifications

Candidates may claim certification and training courses they have earned as of the date of the written exam. Please indicate the number of certifications/certificates you have earned. The claim will be the sum of all specified certifications and training the candidate has completed; the maximum number of training and certifications a candidate can be awarded is eight. All training courses require documentation in the form of an awarded Pro-Board or FEMA certificate. If a certificate is not provided, a Pro Board certification registry will be accepted. **Certificates of attendance are not accepted.** The following certifications are accepted for credit and must be obtained either through MA Fire Academy, FEMA or the National Board of Fire Service Professional Qualifications:

- Firefighter I
- Firefighter II (Select both for a "FF I/II Certificate")
- Fire Instructor I
- Fire Instructor II
- Fire Instructor III
- Fire Officer I
- Fire Officer II
- Fire Officer III

Prepared by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Human Resources Division (HRD)
Last Update October 20, 2023

- Fire Officer IV*
- Fire Prevention Officer I
- Fire Prevention Officer II
- Fire Prevention Officer Credentialing I
- Fire Prevention Officer Credentialing II
- Fire Prevention Officer Credentialing III
- Basic Fire Investigation*
- Advanced Fire Investigation*
- Safety Officer
- Public Fire Educator*
- Fire Inspector I
- Fire Inspector II
- Haz Mat Technician
- Hazardous Materials: Operations Level
- Driver Operator/Pumper
- Driver Operator/Aerial
- Incident Safety Officer
- Technical Rescuer: Rope Rescue I/II
- Technical Rescuer: Confined Space Rescue I/II
- Technical Rescuer: Trench Rescue I/II
- Technical Rescuer: Surface Water I/II
- Technical Rescuer: Swift Water Rescue I/II
- ICS 100.C: Introduction to the Incident Command System
- ICS 200: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response
- ICS 300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents
- ICS 400: Advanced ICS
- ICS 700: An Introduction to the national incident Management System
- ICS 800: National Response Framework, An Introduction
- Chief Fire Officer MGMT Training (MFA)

*Certification of Completion accepted. Certifications of completion are only accepted for classes denoted with an asterisk.

Below is an example of an **accepted** certification:



Below is an example of an **unaccepted** certification:



Please note:

November 18, 2023, for all Statewide Deputy and District Fire Chief– candidate training and certificates are required to be earned on or before written exam date.

Trade Licenses

A candidate will receive credit for holding up to three trade licenses on the list of accepted trades. Any trade license claimed requires a copy of the candidate's current trade license including the license number and issuing agency. Only one trade will be accepted in each category. For example, you can receive credit for a Journeyman's Pipe Fitter license or an Apprentice Pipe Fitter License. The following is a list of accepted trade licenses:

- Journeyman Electrician
- Master Electrician
- Systems Technician
- Systems Contractor
- Journeyman Plumber
- Master Plumber
- Journeyman Gasfitter
- Master Gasfitter
- Limited Undiluted Gas Fitter
- Undiluted Gas Fitter
- Restricted Construction Supervisor License
- Unrestricted Construction Supervisor License
- Apprentice Sprinkler Fitter
- Journeyman Sprinkler Fitter
- Fire Protection Sprinkler Fitter
- Apprentice Refrigeration License
- Technician Refrigeration License
- Contractor Refrigeration License
- Apprentice Pipe Fitter
- Journeyman Pipe Fitter
- Master Pipe Fitter
- Apprentice Sheet Metal Worker
- Journeyperson Sheet Metal Worker
- Master Sheet Metal Worker
- Class 1 Hoisting
- Class 2 Excavating
- Class 3 Electric & Pneumatic
- Class 4: Specialty
- Mariner: Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vehicles (six pack)

- Mariner: Master Inland
- Mariner: Master Near Coastal
- Class A Driver's License
- Commercial Hood Cleaning: Restricted Certificate of Competency (Type 2)
- Commercial Hood Cleaning Unrestricted Certificate of Competency (Type 1)
- Boiler & Pressure Valve: Fireman & Engineer

Please note:

November 18, 2023, for all Statewide Deputy and District Fire Chief – candidate trade licenses are required to be earned and active or before written exam date.

Education

Candidates may receive credit for an associate, bachelor, master, and doctorate degrees from a regionally accredited higher education institutions in the United States; or institutions outside the United States granting degrees or degree program credits that are recognized by one of the United States regional accrediting agencies or that are transferable to a regionally accredited higher education institution in the United States. Candidates are to indicate the highest degree attained to receive credit. (For example, if the candidate received a related bachelor's and master's degree, they should select the "master's degree" category.) Related degrees have more value than non-related degrees. Related degrees are based on job analysis conducted with our subject matter experts. Additionally, a candidate can receive credit for a degree from a regionally credited college or university in a field outside of the specified fire-service degrees identified as a non-related degree.

A candidate must submit official transcripts to support their submission. A combination of unofficial transcripts and a diploma will be accepted in lieu of official transcripts. Transcript links cannot be accepted. The related degrees in the fire service are:

- Biochemical Science
- Building Construction Engineering
- Business Administration
- Business Management
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Science
- Emergency Management
- Fire Administration
- Fire Prevention Engineering
- Fire Safety
- Fire Service
- Fire Science
- Homeland Security/Security and Intelligence Studies
- Nursing

- Occupational Safety
- Paramedic Medicine
- Public Administration
- Structural Engineering

Please note: November 18, 2023, for all Statewide Deputy and District Fire Chief – candidate degrees are required to be earned on or before written exam date.

EMT Licenses

A candidate will get credit for holding a current EMT license, such as EMT Basic/Advanced or Active Paramedic license. All licenses claimed require a copy of the candidate's current license including the license number and expiration date. A license will be accepted from the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians or the Massachusetts Emergency Medical Technician License.

25 Years of Service

Any candidate who can provide written documentation may receive 2.0 extra points on a passing grade for having completed 25 years of service as a member of a regular municipal fire department in Massachusetts.

The 25 years' experience credit is calculated from the starting employment date provided on the EVF and until the date of the exam. Experience from multiple municipal fire departments can be combined to make up the 25 years. An EVF is required from each department to verify experience. In addition, experience that occurred concurrently will also be awarded. In order to be eligible for this preference, the 25-year time must be fully completed. Rounded time will not be counted.

Please note: November 18, 2023, for all Statewide Deputy and District Fire Chief – candidate 25-year preference are required to be earned on or before written exam date.

If a candidate has already been approved for the 25-year experience credit, as shown on your ECT&E application notice, it will automatically be added to your final passing score.

The 25-year experience credit will also be documented on your ECT&E application notice.

Veteran's Preference

Any candidate who qualifies for disabled veteran or veterans' preference may receive 2.0 extra points on a passing score for the examination.

In order to update your Veteran status, a candidate must submit their DD214 or a statement of service/Commanding Officer letter on Official letterhead with appropriate signature and include details of your military service to date that includes:

- Dates of full-time active duty
- Current assignment
- Date of entrance into service
- Estimated time of separation
- Expected discharge type (i.e., honorable)
- Statement confirming that you will receive a DD214, not for training, at the completion of your current Active-Duty service.

If a candidate has already been approved for veteran preference, it is not necessary to resubmit documentation to be awarded veteran points. It will automatically be added to your final passing score.

Veteran preference will also be documented on your ECT&E application notice.

Please note: November 18, 2023, for all Statewide Deputy and District Fire Chief – Veterans status must be attained on or before written exam date.

In order to be awarded your preferential Veterans or 25 years of service points, you must achieve a passing grade on the exam.

Please note: A candidate cannot receive both 2.0 points for 25 years of service **and** 2.0 points for Veteran's Preference. The maximum number of points awarded between the two categories is 2.0 extra points on a **passing grade** for the examination.

The following information is on the exam poster.

*Statutory Preference Points: Upon submission of written proof, two points will be added to the **passing score** of qualified Veterans and Disabled Veterans or individuals who have 25 years of service as a member of a regular police or fire force and have passed an examination for promotional appointment in such force. If you are qualified for both the Veteran's Preference and the Promotional Preference for 25 years of service, please be advised that two points are the maximum allowable number of points to be added to your passing, overall (general average) examination score. To claim the Promotional Preference for 25 years of service, candidates must claim this preference in the ECT&E Claim application and verify eligibility on the Employment Verification Form submitted for this examination. To claim veterans' preference, claim veteran status in the application and attach your DD214 to the application or email it to civilservice@mass.gov. For more information on veteran status refer to the Military Information section on our website.*

Accessing the ECT&E Claim Website

All candidates who are registered to take the Statewide Deputy and District Fire Chief exam on November 18, 2023, will receive an email on October 27, 2023, with a link that takes the candidate to the web page. Only on-line claims will be accepted. No other form of submission will be accepted.

Scores are issued from the information on a candidate's ECT&E application.

If a candidate has created two profiles, they must use the profile sent to them to access their on-line claim. It is important to use the same profile when submitting all documentation or inquiries related to their claim.

Submission of the Claim

After candidates complete and review their submission, they must “accept and submit” their ECT&E claim by clicking on the button highlighted below under the “certify” section of the application. Failure to click this button will result in no score for the claim. Candidates should only submit their claim when they have completed the claim; once submitted, the claim cannot be revisited. If a revision is needed, a candidate can email Civil Service at civilservice@mass.gov before the application end date.

The screenshot shows the 'ECT&E Claim' application interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: 'Info', 'Attachments', 'Questions', 'Review', and 'Certify'. The 'Certify' link is highlighted. The main content area is titled 'Certify' and includes a toggle for 'Are you interested in receiving text message notifications from this organization?' set to 'ON'. Below this, it lists reasons for selecting 'yes' and provides a link to the 'Terms of Use'. At the bottom, there is a declaration statement and two buttons: 'Decline' and 'Accept & Submit'. The 'Accept & Submit' button is circled in red, with a red arrow pointing to it from the right.

Appeal Rights

Under Massachusetts law, once a candidate receives their examination score, they have 17 calendar days from the emailing of their score notice to file an appeal of their ECT&E claim.

General Law - Part I, Title IV, Chapter 31, Section 24 (malegislature.gov)

Claim Audits

HRD reserves the right to audit any ECT&E claim from the time of submission through the life of any eligible list. Candidates should maintain original copies of any documentation submissions in case HRD, or an appointing authority requests them.

FAQ's

1. How are the years rounded on the EVF?

Years are calculated by rank and are rounded up. (Ex. 6 years/6 months as a Lieutenant=7 years). When the response required is calculated in years, round up to the nearest year. When the response is calculated in months, round up to the nearest month.

2. Why do I have to submit an official transcript? And why does my diploma not count?

Official transcripts are sent directly from the school registrar and contain coursework information. Unofficial transcripts will be accepted accompanied by a copy of the diploma.

3. What documents do I need to submit to verify my veteran's status?

The non-active duty training DD214 or a statement of service/Commanding Officer letter on Official letterhead with appropriate signature and include details of your military service to date that includes: dates of full-time active duty, current assignment, date of entrance into service, estimated time of separation, expected discharge type (i.e., honorable), statement confirming that you will receive a DD214 not for training at the completion of your current Active-Duty service.

4. I am unable to provide my military documents because the only people who can verify this information are currently deployed.

Even under deployment, a candidate should be able to send an email or reach out to those who can provide the documentation.

5. Who selects the trainings that are accepted for points on the ECT&E claim?

A job analysis was performed prior to this exam. Subject matter experts met to evaluate the criteria for accepted trainings based on the curriculum, and accessibility. A survey was sent out to all civil service departments in the Commonwealth to evaluate what trainings should be accepted for credit. Each exam is evaluated in partnership with subject matter experts. Components and/or specifications of each component are subject to change with evaluations of each exam.

6. I was laid off from my department for two years, am I entitled to calculate my laid off time as part of my 25 years of service?

An individual member needs to serve as a member in the force for 25 years for HRD to calculate the 25 years of service. Therefore, the individual would not receive credit for the years they were laid off.

7. If I have worked in more than one Civil Service department, do I need to submit more than one EVF?

Yes, a candidate must submit a separate EVF form for each department they would like to claim experience for.

8. Can I combine the time from multiple departments to qualify for 25 years statutory preference?"

Experience from multiple municipal fire departments can be combined to make up the 25 years. An EVF is required from each department to verify experience.

9. Can I claim 25-year statutory preference if I have worked for a civil service police and fire department?

In the statute, fire is considered to be a separate "force". You need to be a part of one or the other municipal force to qualify for 25 years.

10. If I'm a veteran and have 25 years in the force as a firefighter, can I receive 4 points on my score?

*A candidate cannot receive both 2.0 points for 25 years of service **and** 2.0 points for Veteran's Preference. The maximum number of points awarded between the two categories is 2.0 extra points on a **passing grade** for the examination.*

11. I worked as a corrections officer for 10 years prior to becoming a firefighter. Can I claim this time under "outside supervisor" time since I "supervised" inmates as a corrections officer?

Time as a corrections officer will not be considered for "outside supervisor" time. This role is considered "care of custody" for inmates and does not meet the duties intended to fulfill this role.

12. I majored in Accounting and minored in Public Administration. Can I claim a related degree?

Your related degree must be the degree listed on your transcripts as your major.

13. Is time worked as a firefighter in another state count towards my experience?

This time is counted towards experience in another department, but not towards your 25-year preferential points.