

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT FAQ: STATE OFFICER CERTIFICATION EXAM

How many questions are on the exam, and how much time will I have to complete the exam?

Discipline	Total # of Questions	Graded Questions	Field Test Questions*	Passing Score	Correct # to Pass (Raw Score)	Time Allowed**
Law Enforcement – FLEA	200	190	10	80%	152	3 hours
Law Enforcement Auxiliary	110	100	10	80%	80	1½ hours
Corrections – FCMS	200	190	10	80%	152	3 hours
Correctional Probation – FCPO	200	190	10	82%	156	3 hours

* Field test questions are new questions placed randomly throughout the exam to obtain performance statistics. These questions are still undergoing validation and, therefore, will not count against the exam score.

** Your time on the exam does not begin until the screen displays question 1. There is an on-screen timer and you will receive warnings at 60 minutes, 30 minutes and 15 minutes remaining.

How do I navigate through the exam?

You are encouraged to go through the tutorial at the beginning of the exam for a better understanding of screen navigation, tools, and question setup. Time spent in the tutorial does not count against your exam time. If you are unsure of an answer to a question you can mark it and go back to it before exiting the exam, if time permits.

How are exams scored?

Each graded question answered correctly counts as one point toward your raw score. Questions left unanswered are marked incorrect and will affect your score.

Your overall exam score is a percentage equal to the number of questions answered correctly divided by the number of graded questions on the exam. Exam scores are truncated, rather than rounded. For example, a score of 81.57% is truncated to 81% rather than rounded up to 82%.

Are there any tips for answering the exam questions?

All questions on the exams come directly from the training curriculum and are linked to the learning objectives. This does not mean they are written verbatim from the text. ***Rely solely on the training curriculum when answering the questions.*** Do not rely on personal knowledge/experience, the policies and procedures of any agency, or instruction you received during training that does not correspond with the training curriculum text.

All information necessary to answer the questions is provided in the question wording. Do not read too much into the questions. If you find yourself asking, “what if...” then you are overthinking the question. Take the questions at face value and answer based on the training curriculum.

In addition, be careful not to over analyze the answer choices. The questions are not written to trick you. They are written to assess your knowledge of the training curriculum. Read each question and all answer choices before selecting your answer.

Do not allow yourself to become overwhelmed by the formatting of the questions. You may not have seen some of the question formats on the exams you took during basic recruit training, so be sure to take your time and read each question thoroughly.

Examples of exam formats are included on pages 3-4 of this document.

Will I receive an “official” grade report?

You will receive a preliminary/unofficial grade report when you leave the testing facility. You will not receive an “official” grade report. Your scores are stored in the officer records database and can be accessed by perspective employers via the database. This prevents any altering of paper grade reports by applicants.

If I fail the exam, can I see the questions I missed?

If you fail the exam, you can attend a review session. During the review session, you will be shown the questions you answered incorrectly, including the correct answer and the answer that you chose. In addition, you are able to submit a challenge to any question you think is invalid. However, in accordance with Rule 11B-30.012, F.A.C., challenges must be submitted within 120 days of your test administration date.

How many times can I take the exam?

All candidates are allowed three attempts to successfully complete the certification exam. If you are unsuccessful on all three attempts, you must repeat basic recruit training in order to be eligible to test again.

Equivalency candidates (i.e. Florida reinstatement, out-of-state, federal or military officers) who fail the exam three times must complete the full basic recruit training program.

How long do I have to pass the exam?

You have four years from the start date of your basic recruit training class to successfully complete the certification exam.

Equivalency candidates only: You have one year from your notification date to pass the exam. If the year expires without exhausting your three attempts at the exam, you can apply for an additional exemption from training. However, you have only three total attempts to pass the exam, regardless of how many exemptions from training you are granted. If you fail the exam three times, you must complete the full basic recruit training program before attempting the exam again.

Once I pass the exam, how do I become certified?

You are not certified upon successful completion of the exam. There are additional requirements for certification, including but not limited to, written application for certification, fingerprinting, completion of background check, and employment. Your employing agency will apply for your certification if you have not been certified previously. Your agency will receive your certificate of compliance and should distribute it to you upon receipt.

How are the questions on the exam formatted?

The questions below are provided only as examples of the format of questions included on the exam. These questions are not meant to be used as a study guide as they are no longer valid to the current training curriculum.

There may also be diagrams, charts, graphs, and/or photos accompanying a question.

Hint: The questions that ask “which statement is accurate” are simply true/false questions presented in a different format. One answer choice is true and the others are false.

Example 1

How should an officer's feet be positioned when employing the side step?

- A. shoulder-width**
- B. five inches apart
- C. completely together
- D. wider than shoulder width

Example 2

What defensive tactics technique interrupts a subject's concentration so that energy is redirected from the current focus?

- A. takedown
- B. distraction**
- C. snap back
- D. fluid shock

Example 3

When Officer Willis attempted to handcuff an inmate, he became involved in a close-quarter struggle. He employed a palm-heel strike to the inmate's chest, which interrupted the inmate's concentration and allowed Officer Willis to put some space between him and the inmate. What technique did Officer Willis use?

- A. takedown
- B. distraction**
- C. snap back
- D. fluid shock

Example 4

If an officer is dispatched to a bomb threat and dispatch is unable to provide all pertinent information (means of threat, time received, time of detonation, device recipient, etc.) prior to arrival, with whom should the officer speak as the best possible source of this information?

- A. bystander
- B. supervisor
- C. complainant**
- D. back-up officer

Example 5

Officer Alvarez arrived at a convenience store in response to a call from the store clerk. The clerk directed her to a man who was sitting on the floor. The man told her that he was diabetic and just felt dizzy. What should Officer Alvarez do initially to assist the man?

- A. lay him on his side to maintain an open airway
- B. encourage him to consume a drink rich in sugar**
- C. apply a cold compress to his neck and shoulders
- D. wrap him in a blanket to maintain his temperature

Example 6

Which statement, regarding giving testimony, is accurate?

- A. Resist the urge to fill silence with unsolicited testimony.**
- B. Professional demeanor includes witty comments and ridicule.
- C. Look at the defense attorney when answering the judge's questions.
- D. Bias and prejudice are acceptable and can be expressed in testimony.

Example 7

Which statement is accurate?

- A. Most active shooters have had previous arrests for violent crimes.
- B. Active shooters have historically been males and typically work alone.**
- C. An active shooter is usually quite social with no history of mental illness.
- D. Active shooter attacks are passive incidents that follow a similar pattern.

Example 8

The following elements must be documented to establish probable cause for which crime?

The suspect:

- intentionally used or installed an imaging device to secretly view, broadcast, or record the victim for his or her own amusement, entertainment, sexual arousal, gratification, profit, or for the purpose of degrading or abusing the victim, or
 - intentionally permitted the use or installation of an imaging device to secretly view, broadcast, or record the victim for the amusement, entertainment, sexual arousal, gratification, or profit of another or on behalf of another, or
 - viewed the body or the undergarments worn by the victim using an imaging device
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- A. assault
 - B. voyeurism
 - C. video voyeurism**
 - D. lewd or lascivious conduct