

RULE 6

PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS ^{1 2 3 4}

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¹ **Editor’s Note:** Commencing in 2004, as Commission Rules are amended, the number designations are being converted from Roman numerals to Arabic numerals.

² **Rule Annotation:** See also Rule 15 for provisions regarding examinations in general.

³ **Editor’s Note:** Amendments effective February 12, 2005, involved a significant reorganization and renumbering of sections contained in the prior version effective February 20, 2003. Also, effective February 12, 2005, Section 5 titled, *Preparation of Examination*, was rescinded, and the provisions were incorporated into Rule 15 § 2. The amendments of May 24, 2005 concern the lateral hiring of firefighters pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement. They derive from changes to Charter § 9.3.11 and § 9.5.5 approved in election of May 3, 2005.

⁴ **Charter Annotation:** Charter § 9.6.7, concerning transition provisions for the ranks of Radio Engineer and Superintendent of Radio Engineer in the Police Department, was repealed as a result of completion of the transition of these positions out of the Classified Service. Therefore, reference to these ranks was deleted from this Commission Rule 6 effective February 12, 2005.

Section 1. Promotional Vacancies Requiring Examination. ⁵

(Adopted February 12, 2005)

- A. Position vacancies in the Classified Service ranks, as referenced in subparagraphs B and C below, shall be filled through promotional examination by promotion from the next lower rank in the Classified Service of those listed on the appropriate Eligible Register. (See Section 8, Lines of Promotion, Schedules I and II.)
- B. Examinations for promotions within the Fire Department shall be given, as practicable, according to the following timetable, or more frequently if necessary:
 - 1. Engineer Examination:.....Every two years
 - 2. Lieutenant Examination:Every two years
 - 3. Captain Examination:.....Every two years
 - 4. Assistant Chief:Every two years
 - 5. Assistant Master Mechanic:As needed
 - 6. Master Mechanic:.....Not required * (See below.)
 - 7. Assistant Superintendent of Fire Alarm:As needed
 - 8. Superintendent of Fire Alarm:Not required * (See below.)

* By established practice, only one person holds the rank of Assistant Master Mechanic, or the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Fire Alarm, at any one time. It is from these ranks, respectively, that the ranks of Master Mechanic and Superintendent of Fire Alarm are filled. As a result, only one person at any one time is available, in the line of promotion, for promotion to the rank of Master Mechanic or to Superintendent of Fire Alarm. Therefore, a competitive examination is not required. However, should there ever be a circumstance where two or more persons hold the rank of the respective Assistant position, at the time of requisition for promotion, a competitive examination would be held.

- C. Examinations for promotion within the Police Department shall be given, as practicable, according to the following timetable, or more frequently if necessary:
 - 1. Sergeant Examination:Every two years
 - 2. Lieutenant Examination:Every two years
 - 3. Captain Examination:.....Every two years

Section 2. Examination Announcements. ⁶

(Amended March 26, 1987; November 15, 1989; October 13, 1995)

- A. Examination Announcements for promotion shall be posted in the office of the Commission, and in the human resources office of the branch of service in which the promotion is to be made, at least forty-five (45) days in advance of the date of such examination.

(Amended February 12, 2005)

⁵ **Editor’s Note:** Amends and incorporates an earlier section titled, *Vacancies Filled by Promotion*, amended October 13, 1995; and also a section titled, *When Given*, amended July 22, 1991, October 13, 1995.

⁶ **Editor’s Note:** Section number changed February 12, 2005.

B. Examination Announcements shall state the nature of the examination, the pass/fail score(s) if such have been established by the Commission, the point values to be given for the various phases of the examination, and the minimum qualifications, prerequisites, and or requirements for participation in the examination. An Examination Announcement shall also state the date on which the application period shall open, the date on which the application period shall close, and the approximate date and location of the administration of the examination components.
(Amended February 12, 2005)

C. The Examination Announcement and everything incorporated therein shall serve as the regulations of the examinations. The regulations of an examination shall have the same weight and authority as these Rules.

Section 3. Nature of Examinations. ^{7 8}

A. As provided by Charter § 9.3.1 and § 9.3.11(F), the components of all examinations for promotion shall be impartial and competitive and relate only to matters which shall test the qualifications of the persons examined, and shall be based on an examination process announced by the Commission.
(Amended October 13, 1995; February 12, 2005)

B. The Commission shall determine and state, at the time an examination for promotion is authorized, the nature of the examination which may include the following: (1) written test, (2) oral assessment, (3) practical test, (4) physical ability test, (5) video-based test, (6) ascertained merit, ⁹ (7) seniority in service, (8) assessment center, or (9) any combination of these, and (10) any other test deemed appropriate by the Commission. The Commission shall also determine and specify the point value, if any, which shall be given for each phase of the examination.
(Amended March 26, 1987; October 13, 1995; March 27, 1998; February 12, 2005)

⁷ **Editor’s Note:** Section number changed February 12, 2005.

⁸ **Case Law Annotation:** The examination may be oral and may include subjective questions to determine character, etc., but still be competitive. The examination must be administered and graded uniformly and according to instructions or the validly prepared examination will be invalidly administered. Civil Service Commission v. Frazzini, 132 Colo. 21, 287 P. 2d 433 (1955).

⁹ **Case Law Annotation:** The ascertained merit component may include or consist of an evaluation of a candidate’s qualifications, background, education, work history, disciplinary record, and experience as long as common criteria in ascertaining merit is employed to satisfy the requirements of the charter that the method of promotion is competitive and impartial. Spickard v. Civil Service Commission, 505 P.2d 31 (Colo. App. 1972).

Section 4. Administration of Examinations. ¹⁰

(Adopted February 12, 2005)

- A. Promotional examinations shall be provided and administered consistent with the general provisions regarding examinations contained in Commission Rule 15.
- B. The Commission shall control all examinations, including the content thereof and the provisions for notice, as prescribed in these rules. No classified member of the Denver Fire or Police Department shall be an examiner or assessor in any promotional examination.

Section 5. Ascertained Merit. ^{11 12}

(Adopted March 27, 1998)

- A. Ascertained merit will consist of an evaluation of one or more elements of a candidate's personnel record and/or related background qualifications.
(Amended October 27, 2000)
- B. The Commission shall state in the official announcement of the examination the point value, if any, which is to be given for the ascertained merit test phase.
(Amended October 27, 2000; February 12, 2005)
- C. The Commission shall state in the official announcement those elements of the candidate's personnel record and/or background that shall be used and evaluated.
(Amended October 27, 2000; February 12, 2005)
- D. Any such evaluation shall utilize common criteria to ensure that the method of examination is competitive and impartial.
(Amended October 27, 2000)
- E. Efficiency ratings may be used in the ascertained merit test phase. The Commission may also establish a minimum efficiency rating in order for candidates to participate in an examination, regardless whether an efficiency rating is used in determining ascertained merit. However, efficiency ratings may only be used in either circumstance if they were issued by the respective department in accordance with a uniform rating system and were subject to an internal department appeal process.
(Amended October 27, 2000; February 12, 2005)

¹⁰ **Editor's Note:** Amends and incorporates the provisions of a prior section, *Examinations*; Amended March 26, 1987; October 13, 1995; March 27, 1998.

¹¹ **Case Law Annotation:** See footnote (9) on page 6-3.

¹² **Editor's Note:** Section number changed February 12, 2005.

Section 6. Credit For Seniority. ^{13 14}

A. Credit for seniority shall be provided, calculated, and have such point value as the Commission shall determine and state in the official announcement of the examination, and as stipulated in this section. Credit for seniority shall be based on the length of continuous service in the rank immediately below the rank to be filled by promotion. Time spent on authorized paid leave, authorized unpaid family medical leave, and military leaves of absence shall be included in the length of continuous service. Time spent on other unpaid leaves of absence and/or on disciplinary suspension without pay, in an aggregate of more than 30 calendar days, shall not be included in the length of continuous service.

(Amended September 1987; October 13, 1995; October 27, 2000; January 24, 2003; February 12, 2005)

B. For the purpose of providing credit for seniority, continuous service is defined as the time in rank extending from the date of the classified member's most recent appointment to the rank. However:

(Adopted January 24, 2003; Amended February 12, 2005)

1. If as a result of a voluntary demotion a classified member who has been promoted reverts to a rank formerly held, the member's continuous service shall be defined as the sum of:
 - a. The time, prior to the promotion, in the rank formerly held;
 - b. The time in the promotional rank; and
 - c. The time in rank extending from the date of voluntary demotion.

2. If as a result of a disciplinary demotion a classified member who has been promoted reverts to a rank formerly held, the member's continuous service shall be defined as the sum of:
 - a. The time, prior to the promotion, in the rank formerly held; and
 - b. The time in rank extending from the date of disciplinary demotion.

3. If a member has been re-employed under the provisions of Charter § 9.4.3 the member shall retain the seniority he/she had at separation. Therefore, the member's continuous service shall be defined as the sum of:

¹³ **Case Law Annotation:** Pursuant to the settlement agreement in F.I.R.E. et al. v. Bach et al., credit for seniority for the position of Fire Lieutenant shall only be given for up to eight (8) years of service within the classified service of the Fire Department. The history of this case is as follows: The case was initially decided in F.I.R.E. et al. v. Bach et al., No. 78-K-119, (D. Colo. Sep. 24, 1981); it was then reversed and remanded in F.I.R.E. et al. v. Bach et al., Nos. 82-1612, 82-1613, 82-1687, (10th Cir. Apr. 3, 1984); and later settled through an Amended Settlement Agreement of August 14, 1987.

¹⁴ **Editor's Note:** Section number changed February 12, 2005.

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- a. The time in rank (immediately below the rank to be filled by promotion) prior to separation;
 - b. The time in any higher rank prior to separation [consistent with the provisions of subsections B (1) and B (2) immediately above, as applicable]; and
 - c. The time in rank following re-employment [and the time in any higher rank following re-employment, consistent with the provisions of subsection B (1) immediately above, if applicable].
- C. For the purpose of calculating credit for seniority for promotion to the rank of Sergeant in the Police Department, the examination announcement for the Sergeant rank shall provide that credit for seniority shall ultimately be based on a candidate's date of original appointment to the rank of Police Officer, irrespective of original appointment as a civilian, cadet, certified peace officer, or reserve Police Officer. No candidate for promotion to Sergeant shall be eligible to receive more credit for seniority than could be received by any other candidate who did receive original appointment, or who would have received original appointment, on the same date in the same calendar year (with no reductions in length of service), irrespective of the Charter provision under which the original appointment was received.¹⁵
(Adopted January 24, 2003; Amended May 24, 2005)
- D. For the purpose of calculating credit for seniority for promotion to the ranks of Lieutenant and Engineer in the Fire Department, the examination announcement for the Lieutenant and Engineer ranks shall provide that credit for seniority shall ultimately be based on a candidate's date of original appointment to the rank of Firefighter, irrespective of original appointment as a civilian or as a lateral hire through an intergovernmental agreement. No candidate for promotion to Lieutenant or Engineer shall be eligible to receive more credit for seniority than could be received by any other candidate who did receive original appointment, or who would have received original appointment, on the same date in the same calendar year (with no reductions in length of service), irrespective of the Charter provision under which the original appointment was received.¹⁶
(Adopted May 24, 2005)
- E. Points for seniority, if any, shall only be added to the total examination score for those candidates who have successfully completed/passed all phases of the examination.
(Adopted February 12, 2005; Paragraph letter changed May 24, 2005)

¹⁵ **Editor's Note:** The Charter § 9.3.5(I) [formerly § C5.59] previously contained provisions limiting eligibility for promotion to Sergeant in the Police Department for those receiving original appointment under the Charter provisions for "certified peace officer." Charter § 9.3.5(I) was repealed in the Charter revisions of May 6, 2003, with the prior understanding that limitations on eligibility for promotion to Police Sergeant for those appointed as certified peace officers would be provided in Commission Rule.

¹⁶ **Editor's Note:** This sub-section provides that a Firefighter receiving original appointment at a grade higher than 4th Grade, under Charter § 9.3.11(E)(iii) and § 9.5.5(B), will not have benefit of greater seniority due to achieving 1st Grade prior to the date he or she would have achieved 1st Grade had they been appointed under Charter § 9.3.11(E) and § 9.5.5(A). Charter § 9.3.11(E)(iii) and § 9.5.5(B) adopted election of May 3, 2005.

Section 7. No Award of Veteran Preference Points.

(Adopted February 12, 2005)

No veteran preference points shall be given in promotional examinations, pursuant to Article XII, Section 15 of the Colorado State Constitution.

Section 8. Lines of Promotion and Prerequisites. ¹⁷

A. The lines of promotion for the Fire and Police Departments for classifications/ranks that require an examination by the Civil Service Commission, together with the time in rank and/or grade required before a member is permitted to participate in a promotional examination, are listed in Schedule I and Schedule II of this section. A candidate's time in rank and/or grade, as used to determine eligibility to participate in a promotional examination, shall be calculated based upon a date that the Commission shall determine and state in the official announcement of the examination.

(Amended October 13, 1995; March 27, 1998; February 12, 2005)

B. With adequate notice to candidates, the Commission may establish additional prerequisites, beyond any minimum time in rank and/or grade, for participation in a promotional examination.

(Adopted February 12, 2005)

1. Such prerequisites may be based on one or more elements of a candidate's personnel record and/or related background qualifications, that may include but are not limited to education, training, certification, license, work history, disciplinary record, and/or experience.
2. Notice of any newly established prerequisite based on training, certification, and/or license shall be provided to potential candidates sufficiently in advance of its first inclusion in an announcement of examination to reasonably allow potential candidates adequate time and opportunity to obtain the prerequisite training, certification, and/or license.
3. Any prerequisite based on an educational requirement of a two-year or four-year college degree, or other specified college credit requirement, may only be established by Commission rule.
4. In determining whether a candidate possesses any established prerequisite the Commission shall utilize common criteria to ensure that the method of evaluation is competitive and impartial. (See also, Section 5, Ascertained Merit.)

¹⁷ **Editor's Note:** Section number changed February 12, 2005.

SCHEDULE I

FIRE DEPARTMENT - LINE OF PROMOTION

RANK PROMOTED TO	RANK/GRADE PROMOTED FROM	REQUIRED TIME IN RANK AND/OR GRADE
Assistant Chief	Captain	Must have held the rank of Captain continuously for one full year. ¹⁸
Captain	Lieutenant	Must have held the rank of Lieutenant continuously for one full year. ¹⁸
Lieutenant	Firefighter First Grade or Engineer	Must have held the rank of Firefighter First Grade or Engineer (or any combination thereof) continuously for one full year. ^{18 19} Any member appointed under an inter-governmental agreement must also have held the rank of Firefighter for 48 months.
Engineer	Firefighter First Grade	Must have held the rank of Firefighter First Grade continuously for one full year. ¹⁹ Any member appointed under an inter-governmental agreement must also have held the rank of Firefighter for 48 months.
Superintendent of Fire Alarm	Assistant Superintendent of Fire Alarm	None. Must currently hold the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Fire Alarm.
Assistant Superintendent of Fire Alarm	Fire Systems Technical Specialist I	Must have held the rank of Fire Systems Technical Specialist I continuously for one full year.
Master Mechanic	Assistant Master Mechanic	None. Must currently hold the rank of Assistant Master Mechanic.
Assistant Master Mechanic	Mechanic I	Must have held the rank of Mechanic I continuously for one full year.

(Amended February 12, 2005; May 24, 2005)

¹⁸ **Case Law Annotation:** Pursuant to the settlement agreement in *F.I.R.E. et al. v. Bach et al.*, the Commission shall only require members to hold the rank immediately below the ranks of Assistant Chief, Captain, and Lieutenant in the Fire Department continuously for one full year before testing for those positions. The history of this case is as follows: The case was initially decided in *F.I.R.E. et al. v. Bach et al.*, No. 78-K-119, (D. Colo. Sep. 24, 1981); it was then reversed and remanded in *F.I.R.E. et al. v. Bach et al.*, Nos. 82-1612, 82-1613, 82-1687, (10th Cir. Apr. 3, 1984); and later settled through an Amended Settlement Agreement of 14 August 1987.

¹⁹ **Charter Annotation:** Charter § 9.5.4 (B) - Classified members assigned to the position of Technician must hold the rank of Firefighter, First Grade. Consequently, time served as Technician counts as time served as Firefighter, First Grade.

SCHEDULE II

POLICE DEPARTMENT - LINE OF PROMOTION

RANK PROMOTED TO	RANK/GRADE PROMOTED FROM	REQUIRED TIME IN RANK AND/OR GRADE
Captain	Lieutenant	Must have held the rank of Lieutenant continuously for one full year. ²⁰
Lieutenant	Sergeant	Must have held the rank of Sergeant continuously for one full year. ²⁰
Sergeant	Police Officer, First Grade	Must have held the rank of Police Officer, for a period of forty-eight months ^{20 21} ; and must have held the rank of Police Officer First Grade continuously for a period of nine months. ²²

(Amended February 12, 2005)

²⁰ **Case Law Annotation:** Pursuant to the *Amended Memorandum Opinion and Order* of the court in *Ortiz v. Bach et al.*, Civil Action No. 75-A-734 (D. Colo. 1976), the eligibility requirements for promotion to the rank of Sergeant shall be no longer than four years (total time on the force), and that the time in rank prerequisite for taking the promotional exam for other officer positions shall be one year. The Court further ordered that the Commission modify its rules accordingly.

²¹ **Editor’s Note:** The Charter § 9.3.5(I) [formerly § C5.59] was repealed in the Charter revisions of May 6, 2003. It contained provisions limiting eligibility for promotion to Sergeant in the Police Department for those receiving original appointment under the provisions of Charter § 9.3.11(E)(i) for “certified peace officer.” The Charter section was repealed with the intent and understanding that the limitations on eligibility for promotion to Police Sergeant, for those appointed as certified peace officers, would be provided in Commission Rule. This limitation is accomplished by requiring minimum service of 48 months in the Rank of Police Officer, independent of the time in Grade.

²² **Charter Annotation:** Charter § 9.6.5 - Classified members assigned to the positions of Technician, Detective, or Corporal must hold the rank of Police Officer, First Grade. Consequently, time served as Technician, Detective, or Corporal counts as time served as Police Officer, First Grade.

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