

Information and Study Guide

for

Licensing Exam / Reciprocity Licensing Exam



**BOARD OF PEACE OFFICER
STANDARDS AND TRAINING**

Rev. 02/2025

INTRODUCTION

This study guide should provide a better understanding of what to expect and how to prepare for a MN POST Board peace officer licensing examination.

A licensing examination is utilized to confirm applicants have sufficient foundational knowledge and understanding of certain Minnesota statutes and rules, and law enforcement procedure.

The multiple-choice computer-based exam contains approximately 150 questions focused on: core competencies; foundational knowledge; performance of peace officer duties and tasks; and tools, techniques, and tactics. Applicants are allotted 3.5 hours to complete the exam. The in-person exam may be taken in Minnesota or at select sites in other states. Applicants must correctly answer at least 70% of the questions to pass the exam. When taking the exam, applicants must not have any personal items with them, including any electronics, documents, notes, or anything else that may assist with selecting the correct answers. Exam results are available immediately after exam completion.

Applicants who do not obtain a passing score will receive exam results showing how well they answered questions. The results are broken down into categories and topics. If an applicant has failed to pass the exam after three attempts, the applicant will be required to develop and complete a remedial plan before being permitted to take the exam again. These plans are expected to help applicants pass the exam on the next attempt. Applicants will work on the remedial plan with the POST Board's License and Testing Coordinator.

STUDY GUIDE

While preparing for the exam, and studying what is listed below, we recommend you also review the [PPOE Program - Learning Objectives](#). Minnesota statutes and rules may be found on the [Office of the Revisor of Statutes](#) website.

Areas of recommended study:

- CRIMINAL OFFENSE LEVELS – MSS 609.02
 - Petty Misdemeanor
 - Misdemeanor
 - Gross Misdemeanor
 - Felony
- U.S. Constitution – impact and restrictions on law enforcement
 - 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th and 14th Amendment
- CASE LAW
 - Tennessee v. Garner
 - Graham v. Connor
 - Terry v. Ohio
 - Miranda v. Arizona
- MN LEGAL DEFINITIONS – MSS 609.02
 - Violent Crime – MSS 609.1095
 - Domestic Abuse Act – MSS 518B.01
 - Domestic Assault and Family/Household Member – MSS 609.2242
 - Qualified Domestic Violence-Related Offense (QDRO)
 - Order for Protection (OFP) – including Ex-Parte OFP
 - Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (DANCO)
 - Harassment Restraining Order (HRO) – MSS 609.748
 - Harassment/Stalking – MSS 609.749
 - Criminal Sexual Conduct – MSS 609.342 – 609.3451
 - Neglect or Endangerment of a Child – MSS 609.378
 - Depriving Another of Custodial or Parental Rights – MSS 609.26
 - Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults – MSS 626.557
 - Victim Rights – MSS 611A.01 – 611A.021
 - Arraignment – MN Criminal Procedure Rule 5
 - Good Samaritan Law – MSS 604A.01
 - Coercion MSS 609.27
 - Direct Evidence versus Circumstantial Evidence
 - Arrest with or without a warrant – MSS 629.30 – 629.35
 - Search Warrant – MSS 626.14
 - Curtilage - the area immediately surrounding a dwelling. When considering whether something is within a dwelling's curtilage, courts consider four factors:
 - The proximity of the thing to the dwelling.
 - Whether the thing is within an enclosure surrounding the home.
 - What the thing is used for.
 - What steps, if any, the resident took to protect the thing from observation/access by people passing by.
 - Subpoena - a written order compelling an individual to give testimony on a particular subject, often before a court, but sometimes in other proceedings.
 - Contact versus detention versus arrest - The difference is in how much freedom of movement remains. In a contact, the freedom of movement of the person stopped remains complete. In a detention, it is temporarily limited. In an arrest, it is taken away.
 - Identifying and Responding to Certain Crimes – MSS 626.8451

- Data Practices Act – MSS 13.82
- Professional Conduct of Peace Officers – MSS 626.8457
- Right to Legal Counsel – MSS 481.10
- Terrorism – MSS 609.714 and 611A.51
- Crime Committed for Benefit of Gang – MSS 609.229
- RICO – RICO Act of 1970 (federal)
- Cyber Crime – MSS 609.87 – 609.8913
- Intelligence led policing
 - Intelligence-led policing attempts to identify potential victims and potential repeat offenders, then works in partnership with the community to provide offenders with an opportunity to change their behavior before being arrested for a more severe crime.
- STATUS OFFENSES – JUVENILES
 - Definition: An act or conduct that is declared by statute to be an offense but only when committed by a juvenile.
- JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM
 - Status Offense - An act or conduct that is declared by statute to be an offense but only when committed by a juvenile. Ex: Truancy, possession of tobacco, possession/consumption of alcohol.
 - Delinquent Child – MSS 260B.007, subd. 6
 - Juvenile Petty Offender – MSS 260B.007, subd. 16
 - Juvenile Traffic Offender – MSS 260B.225
 - Juvenile Certified to Adult Court – MSS 260B.125
 - Extended Jurisdiction Juvenile Prosecutions – MSS 260B.130
 - Capability of Children to Commit Crime – MSS 609.055
- COMMUNICATING WITH/ASSISTING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES OR MENTAL IMPAIRMENTS
 - Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DDs)
 - Developmental Disabilities (DDs): Long-term disabilities due to physical, mental, or combined impairments affecting major life activities (e.g., learning, moving, self-care).
 - Intellectual Disabilities (IDs): A subset of DDs with limited intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior difficulties (e.g., managing money, social interactions).
 - Severity: Can range from mild to severe; individuals may be high-functioning or require significant support.
 - Examples: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Down Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
 - Law Enforcement Interactions: Manipulation, victimization, disruptive behavior, domestic disturbances, wandering, medical emergencies.
 - Communication and Intervention Strategies:
 - Use de-escalation techniques.
 - Exercise patience; calm responses can minimize distress or aggression.
 - Consult family members or support persons.
 - Consider alternatives to custody; minimize trauma if arrest is necessary.
 - Avoid giving Miranda Rights without an attorney or advocate; ensure understanding.

- Mental Health Crisis
 - Definition: An event overwhelming an individual's coping mechanisms, causing extreme emotional, physical, mental, or behavioral responses.
 - Signs and Symptoms: Officers should recognize signs but not diagnose.
 - Law Enforcement Strategies:
 - Partner with mental health and community agencies for a holistic response.
 - Gather information from personal observations, family, and clinicians.
 - Ensure safety of all individuals involved.
 - Request backup and specialized assistance.
 - Use calming techniques: eliminate emergency lights/sirens, nonthreatening manner, slow movements.
 - Provide information on mental health resources.
 - Be familiar with legal requirements for involuntary psychiatric commitment.
 - Document interactions in detail.
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) – MSS 626.8469
 - Definition: Neurological and developmental disorder affecting interaction, communication, learning, and behavior.
 - Symptoms: Difficulty with communication/interaction, restricted interests, repetitive behaviors.
 - Variation: Wide range in type and severity of symptoms.
 - Autism-Informed Policing:
 - Recognition: Identifying signs of autism is crucial for appropriate response.
 - Common Behaviors: Impaired danger sense, wandering, overwhelmed by police presence, fear or curiosity towards uniforms/equipment, "fight or flight" reactions, delayed speech, lack of response to commands, repetitive behaviors, sensory issues, epilepsy.
 - Communication Techniques:
 - Be patient and give space.
 - Use simple, concrete sentences.
 - Allow time for processing and response.
 - Watch for frustration signs and reduce sources of stress.
 - Avoid quick movements and loud noises.
 - Do not touch unless necessary.
 - Use caregiver information for tailored response.
- USE OF FORCE
 - Authorized Use of Force – MSS 609.06
 - Authorized Use of Deadly Force – MSS 609.066
 - Duty to Intercede and Report – MSS 626.8475
- DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED (DWI) LAWS
 - Definition of DWI - MSS 169A.20
 - 4th Degree - MSS 169A.27
 - 3rd Degree - MSS 169A.26
 - 2nd Degree - MSS 169A.25
 - 1st Degree - MSS 169A.24

- Aggravating Factors - MSS 169A.03, subd. 3
- DRIVING PRIVILEGE CANCELLED – INIMICAL TO PUBLIC SAFETY
 - Definition: A driver's license is canceled because the driver is considered a risk to public safety.
 - Reasons for Cancellation:
 - DUI or DWI
 - Repeated driving offenses
 - Reckless driving
 - Physical or mental impairment
 - Failing a driver's test
 - Providing false information on application
 - Driving After Cancellation (DAC): Crime of driving with a canceled license.
 - DAC-IPS (Gross Misdemeanor): Most serious form of DAC charge.
 - Requirements for Reinstatement:
 - Chemical dependency treatment program.
 - Installation of an ignition interlock device.
 - B-Card Restriction (no alcohol consumption).
 - Penalties for DAC:
 - Jail sentence up to one year.
 - Fine up to \$3,000.
 - License suspension of at least 30 days.
- TED FOSS MOVE OVER LAW - MSS 169.18, subd. 11
- RACE-BASED PROFILING AND RELATED TOPICS – MSS 626.8471
 - Racial Profiling
 - Definition: Any action by law enforcement based on an individual's race, ethnicity, or national origin rather than their behavior or specific information that leads to identifying them as involved in criminal activity.
 - Pretextual Stop
 - Definition: Stops initiated for traffic violations with the actual purpose of investigating or searching for evidence of another, unrelated crime.
 - Differs from Racial Profiling: A pretextual stop uses a legitimate violation as a reason to investigate further, whereas racial profiling is based solely on race or ethnicity without behavior-based justification.
 - Credibility and Trust
 - Negative Effects: Racial profiling can severely damage law enforcement credibility and erode community trust.
 - Bias Perception: Leads to the perception of biased and unfair treatment, reducing cooperation from the community.
 - Officer Articulation
 - Importance: Officers must articulate valid reasons for vehicle stops to prevent perceptions of bias.
 - Handling Perceptions: Officers should be clear and transparent about the reasons for stops to maintain trust.
 - Hate Crimes – MSS 626.8451
 - FBI Definition: A criminal offense motivated by bias against race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.
 - Forms of Violence: Can include verbal violence (harassment, threats) and physical violence (bullying, sexual violence, murder, genocide).

- Reporting Requirements
 - MSS 626.5531 - Peace officers must report bias-motivated crimes to their department head, including detailed information about the offense and bias motivation.
 - Superintendent Role: The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension adopts reporting forms and collects data to ensure accurate reporting.
- Implicit Bias
- MN PREDATORY OFFENDER REGISTRATION SYSTEM
 - Registration – MSS 243.166 and 243.167
 - Notice – MSS 244.052
 - Release – MSS 244.053
- STRATEGIES AND TECHNIQUES FOR SAFELY TAKING A PERSON INTO CUSTODY
 - Safety Precautions
 - Approach with Caution
 - Every arrest may present danger, regardless of the offense.
 - Take all reasonable precautions to ensure officer safety.
 - Restraint of the Arrestee
 - Handcuff in accordance with training and agency policy.
 - Use front handcuffing or other approved devices for
 - Pregnant individuals.
 - Those with physical handicaps.
 - Individuals with behaviors consistent with mental illness or intellectual/developmental disabilities.
 - Injured individuals where standard handcuffing might aggravate injuries.
 - Other special circumstances.
 - Use multiple handcuffs if necessary to prevent injury.
 - Employ additional restraint devices for individuals violently resisting arrest or posing threats.
 - Position restrained individuals to assist breathing (e.g., on their side) and avoid chest, neck, or head pressure.
 - Search Incident to Arrest
 - Conduct a thorough search of the arrested person.
 - Seize and preserve any criminal evidence found.
 - Include areas within the arrestee's reach and control in the search.
 - Follow agency policy for strip and body cavity searches.
 - Protective Sweeps
 - Perform sweeps of premises or areas if there's reasonable belief of danger from third parties.
 - Post-Arrest Protection
 - Ensure the safety of the arrestee and protect:
 - The officer from the arrestee.
 - Victims and third parties from the arrestee.
 - The arrestee from self-injury or injury by others.
 - Prevent close proximity between victims and the arrestee, and keep bystanders away.

- Do not let the arrestee out of the officer's immediate presence until properly secured and transported.
 - Transporting a Person in Custody
 - Place suspects in the rear seat on the passenger side with the seat belt fastened, unless unsafe.
 - If feasible, transport female suspects with a female officer or a second officer.
 - Report the starting odometer reading, location, and destination via radio or cell phone at the start and end of transport.
 - Document any injury complaints and provide medical attention if requested.
- REQUIRED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING
 - Patrol Vehicles - MSS 169.752
 - Training - MSS 169.753
- TRAFFIC REGULATIONS
 - Speed Limits, Zones; Radar - MSS 169.14
 - Emergency Vehicle - MSS 169.17
 - Turning, Starting and Signaling – MSS 169.19
 - Pedestrian - MSS 169.21
 - Use of Wireless Communication Device - MSS 169.475
 - Vehicle Lighting - MSS 169.48
 - Lighting Exemption for Law Enforcement - MSS 169.541
 - Auxiliary Lights - MSS 169.56
 - Number of Lamps - MSS 169.63
 - Prohibited Lights - MSS 169.64
 - Seat Belt; Passenger Restraint System for Children - MSS 169.685
 - Seat Belt Use - MSS 169.686
 - Vehicle Registration - MSS 169.79
 - Proof of Insurance - Penalty - MSS 169.791 and MSS 169.797
 - License Revocation – No Proof of Insurance - MSS 169.792
 - Vehicle Insurance; Unlawful Acts - MSS 169.793
 - School Buses – MSS 169.444
 - Reckless or Careless Driving – MSS 169.13
 - Fleeing Peace Officer; Motor Vehicle – MSS 609.487
- COMMUNITY POLICING – MSS 626.8455
 - Community Partnerships - Collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement agency and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police.
 - Organizational Transformation - The alignment of organizational management, structure, personnel, and information systems to support community partnerships and proactive problem solving.
 - Problem Solving - The process of engaging in the proactive and systematic examination of identified problems to develop and evaluate effective responses.

SAMPLE EXAM QUESTIONS

Community policing links police effectiveness to what?

- a. Productive interaction with the community being served
- b. Interrelationships between cooperative police agencies
- c. Efficient utilization of existing personnel
- d. Optimized usage of advanced technology

The Fourth Amendment is best described as:

- a. Protects people from unreasonable searches and seizures by the government
- b. The right to bear arms
- c. Freedom from double jeopardy
- d. The right against self-incrimination

Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree is best defined as a person who engages in sexual penetration with another person if what circumstance exists?

- a. The actor is a foreign national
- b. The victim is a member of a fraternal organization
- c. The actor uses coercion to accomplish the act
- d. The actor's Body Mass Index (BMI) is 25 or greater than the victim's

What is the penalty for Underage Consumption While Driving, where the person has a blood alcohol (B.A.) less than .08?

- a. 4th degree DWI
- b. 3rd degree DWI
- c. Misdemeanor Underage Drinking and Driving
- d. No penalty as it is under the legal limit

Evidence that merely tends to incriminate a person is called what?

- a. Exculpatory evidence
- b. Prima Facie evidence
- c. Circumstantial evidence
- d. Corpus Delicti evidence