

I have been recognized as Officer of the Year twice during my law enforcement career. The first time was in 2008 when I was a Lieutenant with Robersonville Police Department. The second time was in 2015, with my current employer, ECU Health Police Department. I was working as the Lieutenant of Professional Standards.

In between that time, I obtained my Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate. Awards are based upon a formula which combines formal education, law enforcement or criminal justice officer training, and actual experience as a law enforcement or criminal justice officer.

Points are computed in the following manner:

Education – Each semester hour of college credit shall equal one point, and each quarter hour shall equal two-thirds of a point.

Training – Twenty classroom hours of Commission-approved law enforcement training shall equal one point. Commission-mandated BLET hours, Commission-mandated in-service law enforcement trainings, and non-law enforcement trainings are not credited towards a law enforcement officer's training point total. BLET hours and non-criminal justice training are not credited towards a criminal justice officer's training point total.

Experience – Only experience as a full-time, sworn, paid member of a law enforcement agency (for law enforcement professional certificates) and experience as a full-time, paid officer (for criminal justice professional certificates) or equivalent experience shall be acceptable for consideration.

To be eligible for one or more of the law enforcement professional awards, a law enforcement officer shall first meet the following preliminary qualifications:

- Holds general law enforcement officer certification OR has previously held general law enforcement officer certification, but is presently, by virtue of promotion or transfer, serving in a non-sworn position not subject to certification.
- Is not serving under a probationary certification, subject to suspension or revocation proceedings, or under investigation for possible decertification action by the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, the Company and Campus Police Program, or the NC Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission.
- Is familiar with and subscribes to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.
- Is a full-time, sworn (or has promoted or transferred to a non-sworn position not subject to certification), paid member of a law enforcement agency within the state.

To be eligible for the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate, a law enforcement officer should meet the following qualifications:

- Meets the qualifications to receive a Professional Award; and
- Has accumulated at least forty-eight (48) points and at least twelve (12) years of creditable experience; or
- Has accumulated at least sixty (60) points and at least nine (9) years of creditable experience; or
- Has an Associate Degree from an accredited institution; has accumulated at least thirty-six (36) points and at least nine (9) years of creditable experience; or
- Has a Baccalaureate Degree from an accredited institution; has accumulated at least twenty-four (24) points and at least six (6) years of creditable experience.
- Has a Graduate Degree from an accredited institution; has accumulated at least sixteen (16) points and at least four (4) years of creditable experience.