

## Pathway for non-POST Certified Applicants

- Meet minimum qualifications for employment
  - Associate's degree from an accredited college, technical college, or university  
OR
  - Completion of equivalent coursework (90 quarter hours or 60 semester hours) from an accredited college or university  
OR
  - Veterans of the United States Military who have a minimum of 4 years of active-duty military service and have received an Honorable Discharge
    - NOTE: Certificates, completed diploma programs and/or accumulated hours from a technical college, without an Associate's degree, do not qualify.
    - NOTE: Veterans must submit a copy of their DD214 and show proof of a high school diploma or GED which is required for POST certification.
    - NOTE: Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and meet all requirements for POST certification.
  
- In addition to the above minimum qualifications:
  - Applicants who are not POST Certified must pass the POST Entrance Exam to be considered for a Game Warden position. A copy of the test scores must be included with the application when applying for a Game Warden position.
  
- Meet legal requirements for employment
  - Be at least 21 years of age
  - Be a citizen of the United States
  - Be eligible to obtain a valid Georgia Driver's License at the time of appointment
  
- Successfully pass:
  - Physical Agility Test
  - Polygraph Exam
  - Board Interview
  - Medical Evaluation
  - Psychological Evaluation

- Once the candidate has been selected, the general training timeline for non-POST Certified new hires will be:
  - Hire Date: September 16
  - Begin 11-week training (also known as Basic Mandate) as required by the Peace Officers Standards and Training Council (POST) at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC)
    - Basic Mandate is the required training for POST Certification, which is required to become a sworn peace officer in Georgia
    - Once Basic Mandate is successfully completed, the cadet is POST Certified and can legally work as a sworn peace officer in Georgia
  - First week of January: Begin 14-week Advanced Game Warden Academy at GPSTC
    - The Advanced Game Warden Academy provides the specific training needed to successfully carry out the duties of Game Warden, such as the enforcement of game and fish laws, boating laws, environmental laws, and woodland and water operations (including search & rescue)
  - Cadets will live on-site at GPSTC for all 25 weeks of training, but will be allowed to leave the facility on most weekends
  - After the cadet has successfully completed the Advanced Game Warden Academy, 4-6 months of field training continues in the area of assignment under a Field Training Officer (FTO)
  - When field training is successfully completed, the new game warden begins regular duties in the county of assignment

For additional information, please contact the GA DNR law Enforcement Training Unit at (478) 993-4540.