



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Peter Hans, President

(Public Safety Memo PS18-05)

October 30, 2018

To: Chief Academic Officers
Senior Continuing Education Administrators

From: Tracy McPherson, Director, Public Safety Training Programs

RE: Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) Updates

This memo provides updates on the following related to Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) offered through Curriculum or Workforce Continuing Education:

- **Effective for courses starting on or after January 1, 2019, the minimum state-mandated hours for BLET is increasing to 640 hours** (please see details below about the impact to courses CJC-3938 and CJC-100); and
- **The Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission has voted to add the NROC EdReady™ Skill Inventory for English to the list of approved reading assessments for admission to BLET** (it has not yet been fully approved by the Rules Review Commission, so see details below before utilizing this assessment with BLET students).

BLET Hours, Effective January 1, 2019

The NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Commission (CJ Commission) has approved an increase in the state-mandated minimum hours for BLET from 632 hours to 640 hours, effective for any offering of BLET that starts on or after January 1, 2019. Additional details follow:

- **Reason for the Increase in Hours:** Two blocks of BLET are being increased by four hours each, for a total of eight additional hours. Four hours are being added to the Domestic Violence Response block to allow for additional time to conduct practical exercises. Four hours are being added to the Traffic Crash Investigations block to allow for new content. Various other revisions will also be effective January 1, 2019, but do not affect the length of the course. Questions about BLET curriculum content should be directed to Jennifer Fisher, NC Justice Academy, jfisher@ncdoj.gov.
- **Continuing Education BLET Courses:** To correspond to this change, the State Board of Community Colleges has approved an increase in hours for CJC-3938 Basic Law Enforcement Training, effective January 1, 2019. The new recommended hours for this Workforce Continuing Education course is 640, with a revised maximum of 768. This course revision was recently communicated to colleges via numbered memo CC18-055.

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- **Curriculum BLET Courses:** CJC-100 Basic Law Enforcement Training has not been revised, as the current NCCCS curriculum course is already at 640 hours. The NCCCS Curriculum Standard for C55120 Basic Law Enforcement Training also remains unchanged, as the current Curriculum Standard already allows for the new CJ Commission minimum standard. However, **colleges still must specifically incorporate the additional course hours/content mandated by the CJ Commission** as of January 1, 2019.

BLET Reading Admissions Standard – Use of NROC *EdReady*™ Skill Inventory for English

Current NC Administrative Code (NCAC) mandates that students entering BLET must score at or above the tenth-grade reading level using an acceptable assessment as defined in 12 NCAC 90B.0203, to include the use of the NC Diagnostic Assessment and Placement (NCDAP) assessment. A revision to this rule has been requested, as follows:

- A request has been made to the CJ Commission to add the **NROC *EdReady*™ Skill Inventory for English** to the list of acceptable reading assessments, but this request has not yet been officially approved by the Rules Review Commission (RRC) for implementation. Final approval is anticipated by January 1, 2019, but it is still being processed.
- The specific revision that has been requested to the NC Administrative Code follows (see underscore). As you will see, it does not eliminate any current option but adds a new one:

12 NCAC 09B .0203 ADMISSION OF TRAINEES (PROPOSED – NOT FULLY APPROVED**)**

(e) The school shall not admit an individual, including partial or limited enrollees, as a trainee in a presentation of the Basic Law Enforcement Training Course unless the individual, within one year prior to admission to the Basic Law Enforcement Training Course, **scores at or above mastery level on the NROC *EdReady*™ Skill Inventory for English** or places into course DRE 098 or above at a North Carolina Community College as a result of taking the Reading and English component of the North Carolina Diagnostic Assessment and Placement test as approved by the State Board of Community Colleges on October 17, 2014, (<http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/state-board-community-colleges/meetings/october-17-2014>), or has taken the reading component of a nationally standardized test within one year prior to admission to Basic Law Enforcement Training and has scored at or above the tenth grade level or the equivalent. For the purposes of this Rule:

- (1) Partial or limited enrollee does not include enrollees who hold, or have held within 12 months prior to the date of enrollment, general certification pursuant to 12 NCAC 09C .0304.
 - (2) A "nationally standardized test" means a test that:
 - (A) reports scores as national percentiles, stanines, or grade equivalents; and
 - (B) compares student test results to a national norm.
- If a college uses the NROC assessment before the revised rule becomes effective, students will not qualify for admission to BLET (and if this is discovered later during an audit, it would negate any training or certification received, as these students would be deemed as not meeting the CJ Commission admissions standard).
 - If your college has questions about acceptable BLET reading assessment options, please contact me at mcphersont@nccommunitycolleges.edu. If your college is a RISE pilot college, please contact me immediately if this situation is impacting your admissions process, as there may be some additional options that we can discuss.

C: Dr. Lisa Chapman, Susan Barbita, Dr. Wesley Beddard, Dr. J.W. Kelley, Margaret Robertson (NCCCS) Steven Combs, Michelle Schilling, Charminique Williams, Trevor Allen, Jennifer Fisher (NC DOJ) NCCCS BLET School Directors