

Rule 310

Examination Announcements and Applicants

Applicability: Rule 310 shall apply to all classes of the Uniformed Ranks of the San Francisco Fire Department.

Article I: Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

Article II: Applications and Notice of Examinations

Article III: Qualifications of Applicants

Rule 310

Examination Announcements and Applicants

Article I: Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

Applicability: Article I, Rule 310 shall apply to all classes of the Uniformed Ranks of the San Francisco Fire Department.

Sec. 310.1 Civil Service Commission Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Related to Examination Announcements and Application Procedures

It is the goal and policy of the Civil Service Commission to provide equal employment opportunity for all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, ethnicity, age, disability or medical condition, political affiliation, sexual orientation, ancestry, marital or domestic partner status, parental status, or other non-merit factors prohibited by law.

The Human Resources Director shall conduct outreach for the purpose of announcing upcoming examinations. Outreach shall include such procedures among others as periodic mailings, job fairs, and presentations to inform the public of the employment opportunities and the examination process within the civil service merit system.

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Article II: Applications and Notice of Examinations

Applicability: Article II, Rule 310 shall apply to all classes of the Uniformed Ranks of the San Francisco Fire Department.

Sec. 310.2 Examination Announcement

The examination announcement shall provide the qualifications, dates, duration of eligible lists, and other particulars regarding the examinations thereon announced. Applicants must be guided solely by the announcement of the examination(s) for which they apply. Not less than fifteen (15) business days prior to the issuance of this announcement, it shall be provided to the bargaining agent for review and comment.

Sec. 310.3 Protests and Appeals of Examination Announcements

Protests concerning the provisions of an announcement must be received by the Department of Human Resources within seven (7) business days from the issuance date. The Human Resources Director will rule upon protests and notify petitioners in writing. This decision is subject to appeal to the Civil Service Commission as provided elsewhere in these Rules.

Sec. 310.4 Reissuance of Examination Announcements

After considering protests submitted in accordance with this Rule, the Human Resources Director may reissue the announcement. When reissued, an examination announcement is not subject to the protest or appeal procedure.

Sec. 310.5 Official Time Periods

Examination announcements shall set forth time limits for determination of the qualifications of applicants.

Sec. 310.6 Qualifications of Applicants

310.6.1 Every applicant for entrance or promotional examination must possess and maintain the qualifications required by law and by the examination announcement. Experience not documented in accordance with Civil Service Commission Rules will not be recognized. Credit for out-of-class experience will only be allowed if recorded as provided elsewhere in these Rules.

Sec. 310.6 **Qualifications of Applicants (cont.)**

310.6.2 Except with permission of the Human Resources Director, no employee may participate in an entrance examination carrying a lower salary schedule than that of the employee's current class. No employee may participate in an examination for a class in which the employee has current permanent appointment status except with the approval of the Human Resources Director.

Sec. 310.7 **Application Time Periods**

310.7.1 An applicant is a person who has filed an application for examination within the time limits specified and under the conditions specified on the examination announcement for that rank.

310.7.2 Verification shall be the official time receipt of the Examination Unit of the Fire Department or of the Department of Human Resources. Examination announcements shall not be distributed after the end of the filing period.

Sec. 310.8 **Notice of Examinations**

Official notice of entrance and promotional examinations will be posted at the Fire Department Headquarters and the Department of Human Resources with copies sent to affected employee organizations. A copy of the posting shall be provided to the certified bargaining representative.

310.8.1 Notice of entrance examinations will be posted for a minimum period of five (5) workdays, and notice of promotional examinations will be posted for a minimum period of ten (10) workdays. The Fire Department will also issue a General Order notifying uniformed members of a promotional opportunity.

310.8.2 Requests for notice of filing dates for entrance examinations may be filed online through the Department of Human Resources website. Notifications shall be emailed at the inquirer's risk. Failure to receive a requested notification shall not result in any special consideration or remedy related to the examination process.

Sec. 310.9 **Application Custody**

Applications and supporting documents become the property of the Department of Human Resources when received. Return of such documents shall require the approval of the Human Resources Director.

Sec. 310.10 **False Statements by Applicants**

Significant false statements, whether intentional or unintentional, made or permitted by any applicant on the application or in the selection process shall be good cause for the exclusion by the Human Resources Director of such person from any examination, the removal by the Human Resources Director of the applicant's name from the eligible list, and other action under the jurisdiction of the Human Resources Director. Such action may be appealed to the Civil Service Commission. Significant false statements shall be good cause for a recommendation by the Human Resources Director to the Fire Chief for action up to and including discharge from the City and County service.

- 310.10.1** In accordance with its Charter authority, the Civil Service Commission may act on charges against an entry-level applicant when the appointing officer neglects or refuses to act.

Sec. 310.11 **Names Not to Be Made Public**

The names of applicants for any examination shall not be made public prior to announcement of the results of the examination. Names of participants who fail in any examination shall not be made public.

Sec. 310.12 **Change of Address**

In all cases of change of address after having filed an application for an examination, the Examination Unit of the Fire Department must be notified in writing separately for each class involved. Notice of change of address to the Post Office, the Department of Human Resources, the employee's current department and/or the Fire Department Assignment Office will not be a reasonable excuse for special consideration in case of failure to respond to any notice within time limits.

Sec. 310.13 **Correction of Clerical Errors in Examination Announcements**

Examination announcements may be corrected with respect to clerical errors, misprints and incorrect wording by the Human Resources Director, by posting notice of such corrections next to the original examination announcement. The issuance of examination announcements corrected under the provisions of this section shall not allow additional time for appeal of the substantive provisions contained in the original examination announcement.

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Article III: Qualifications of Applicants

Applicability: Article III, Rule 310 shall apply to all classes of the Uniformed Ranks of the San Francisco Fire Department.

Sec. 310.14 **Application for Examination**

Any person having the qualifications prescribed by these Rules and the terms of the examination announcement may submit himself or herself for any examination under conditions established by the Department of Human Resources.

Sec. 310.15 **Applicants for Entrance Positions**

Applicants for entrance positions shall be a minimum of nineteen (19) years of age at the time of the close of the application filing period, and a minimum of twenty (20) years of age at the time of appointment.

Sec. 310.16 **Recruitment of Candidates**

Recruitment shall be conducted to attract qualified applicants and to insure equal employment opportunity for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, ethnicity, age, disability or medical condition, political affiliation, sexual orientation, ancestry, marital or domestic partner status, parental status, or other non-merit factors prohibited by law. Where appropriate or needed, the Human Resources Director shall conduct outreach and recruitment programs, including cooperative efforts with community organizations, to attract qualified applicants. When there is underrepresentation of historically disadvantaged groups for a specific class or occupational category, the Human Resources Director shall review the pool of qualified applicants. Where the pool of applicants does not reflect the demographics of the relevant labor market, and upon consideration of factors such as the number of anticipated vacancies and the level of underrepresentation, the Human Resources Director may take such action as appropriate and legal.

Sec. 310.17 **Promotional Applicants**

Applicants for promotional examinations shall meet the requirements of the examination announcement under which they apply and be eligible to participate in an examination on a promotive basis as defined by the examination announcement.