



CITY OF ITHACA  
108 East Green Street Ithaca, New York 14850-5690

OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES / CIVIL SERVICE  
Telephone: 607 / 274-6539 Fax: 607 / 274-6574 E-mail: hrdept@cityofithaca.org

## RECEPTIONIST OPEN-COMPETITIVE EXAM NO. 65-747

APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL:

September 6, 2019

EXAMINATION WILL BE HELD:

October 19, 2019

**ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS:** Applications must be received by the City of Ithaca Human Resources Department no later than 4:30 PM EST on the last filing date indicated above. Postmarks are not accepted. All applications must be original applications, either hard copy or electronically submitted through our online application program. We do not accept faxed applications, e-mailed applications or photocopies of applications.

**APPLICATION MATERIALS REQUIRED:** An original City of Ithaca application, copy of high school transcript or general equivalency diploma (GED), and copy of driver license.

**VACANCIES:** Currently, there is one (1) vacancy in the Ithaca Housing Authority. The eligible list established as a result of this examination may be used to fill this vacancy and any future vacancies that may occur during the life of the eligible list.

**RESIDENCY:** Candidates must be legal residents of either Tompkins County or one of its six (6) contiguous counties (Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Schuyler, Seneca or Tioga) at least one month prior to the date of the examination. Preference in certification may be given to candidates who are residents of the municipality in which appointment is to be made, provided that the candidate is a resident of such municipality at the time of examination and remains a resident of such municipality continuously thereafter, up to and including the dates of certification and appointment.

**SALARY:** \$28,080 - \$30,160

**DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:** This position serves as the first point of contact with an agency or department and involves extensive face-to-face and telephone contact with the public. The work involves responsibility for the performance of routine clerical work and office functions related to the operation of a multiple phone line telephone console, including answering multiple phone lines, transferring calls to extension connections and greeting the public. Incumbents screen all incoming requests for information either in person or by telephone and by giving routine information, or directing requests to proper staff members. Additionally, employees in this class perform related clerical tasks such as, taking messages, sending and receiving faxes, pulling appropriate files, and accepting registrations, applications and fees for programs. The work is performed under direct supervision and in accordance with a prescribed routine outlined by an administrative level supervisor. Supervision over the work of others is not a responsibility of employees in this class. Does related work as required.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:** Possession of a valid New York State Class D driver license or a valid driver license equivalent to a New York State Class D driver license at the time of appointment and maintenance of said license for the duration of employment.

If you expect to complete the educational requirement within six (6) months of the date of examination, you can be admitted to this examination. If successful on the examination, you will not be certified for appointment until you have submitted proof of completion of the requirements to the Civil Service Commission. Proof must be submitted within eight months of the date of examination. Failure to do so will result in removal of your name from the eligible list.

**BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION:** Applicants may be required to undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

**SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION:**

The written examination will cover knowledges, skills and/or abilities in such areas as:

**1. Name and number checking**

These questions test for the ability to distinguish between sets of words, letters, and/or numbers that are almost exactly alike. Material is usually presented in two or three columns, and you will have to determine how the entry in the first column compares with the entry in the second column and possibly the third. You will be instructed to mark your answers according to a designated code provided in the directions.

**2. Operations with Letters and Numbers**

These questions test for skills and abilities in operations involving alphabetizing, comparing, checking and counting. The questions require you to follow the specific directions given for each question which may involve alphabetizing, comparing, checking and counting given groups of letters and/or numbers.

**3. Customer service**

These questions test for knowledge of techniques used to interact with other people, to gather and present information, and to provide assistance, advice and effective customer service in a courteous and professional manner. Questions will cover such topics as understanding and responding to people with diverse needs, perspectives, personalities, and levels of familiarity with agency operations, as well as acting in a way that both serves the public and reflects well on your agency.

**4. Receptionist practices**

These questions present you with various situations that might occur on the job, involving telephone calls and visitors. You will be expected to choose the best way to handle each situation.

The New York State Department of Civil Service has not prepared a test guide for this examination. However, candidates may find information in the publication 'General Guide to Written Tests' helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available online at: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>.

**NOTE:** Most Civil Service examinations do not require the use of a quiet, hand-held calculator or slide rule; however, candidates have the option of bringing a battery-operated or solar-powered calculator to the test room unless specifically notified that their use is prohibited. Devices with typewriter keyboards, spell checkers, Personal Digital Assistants, Address Books, Language Translators, Dictionaries, or any similar devices are prohibited. **USE OF CALCULATORS IS ALLOWED FOR THIS EXAM.**

**RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION - CANDIDATES WITH DISABILITIES - MILITARY MEMBERS:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Applicants whose religious beliefs or military service prevent their taking examinations on the scheduled date and candidates with disabilities who require special accommodations to take the test should indicate the need for special arrangements on their application. Candidates who are called to military service after filing an application should send requests for an alternate test date to the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department before the test date.

\_\_\_\_\_ Military Service Members: If you apply for an examination during the filing period but are on active military duty on the date the examination is scheduled, you may request a military makeup examination. Contact the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department for more information. If you are on active duty or discharged after the filing period has begun, you may apply for the examination up to ten days before the test date.

**SECTION 23.2 STATEMENT:** This examination will be prepared and rated in accordance with Section 23(2) of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of New York State Civil Service Law, Rules and Regulations dealing with the preparation and rating of examinations will apply to this examination.

**APPLICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED:** at the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department - 108 East Green Street - Ithaca NY 14850. Applications may also be downloaded from the City of Ithaca Human Resources Department webpage at [www.cityofithaca.org](http://www.cityofithaca.org).

**TIME AND PLACE OF THE EXAMINATION:** Approved candidates will be notified by mail regarding the time and place of the examination. If notice of approval or disapproval is not received three (3) days prior to the exam date, please call the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department at (607) 274-6539.

**MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY:** If you have applied to take a written test announced by either one or several local jurisdictions (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions no later than two weeks before the test date, so they can make arrangements for taking all tests at one test site. All examinations for positions in State government will be held at a State examination center.

**VETERAN'S CREDIT:** Veterans or disabled veterans who are eligible for additional credit must submit an application for veteran's credit with their application for examination or at any time between the dates of their application for examination and the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. Applications for veteran's credit are available from this office. Veteran's credits can only be added to a passing score on the examination.

Effective January 1, 1998, the State Constitution was amended to permit a candidate currently in the armed forces to apply for and be conditionally granted veteran's credit in examinations. Any candidate who applies for such credit must provide proof of military status to receive the conditional credit. No credit may be granted after the establishment of the list. It is the responsibility of the candidate to provide appropriate documentary proof indicating that the service was in time of war, as defined in Section 85 of Civil Service Law, and that the candidate received an honorable discharge or was released under honorable conditions in order to be certified at a score including veteran's credits.

**ADDITIONAL CREDIT FOR CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY:** In conformance with section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child of a firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty in this municipality, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for examination. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of two months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. However, no credit may be added after the eligible list has been established.

### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION**

1. Falsification of any part of the "Application for Employment" will result in disqualification.
2. Applicants must answer every question on the application form and make sure that the application is complete in all respects. Incomplete applications will be disapproved.
3. Candidates who wish to take more than one examination must complete the "Application for Employment" for each examination. If you are cross-filing for another examination to be held on the same date, please indicate this on the application and specify the examination title and number, and the jurisdiction offering the other examination.
4. Appointments from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept appointment. The duration of an eligible list may be fixed for a minimum period of one (1) year and a maximum period of four (4) years.
5. It is the responsibility of the candidate to notify the City of Ithaca Human Resources/Civil Service Department of any change in address. No attempt will be made to locate candidates who have moved.

Issued by: City of Ithaca Civil Service Commission  
July 26, 2019