

# TOMPKINS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

Inclusion Through Diversity



## PROMOTIONAL

Tompkins County Department of Human Resources Office  
125 E. Court Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
(607) 274-5526

**Tompkins County is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply**

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**TITLE:** Senior Account Clerk Typist (Promotional)

**EXAM NO:** 73549

**SALARY:** Depends upon Location: Tompkins County - \$21.15 per hour - 2020 Hire Rate

**EXAM DATE:** 02/29/20

**ISSUE DATE:** 01/13/20

**THE FINAL DATE TO FILE APPLICATIONS:** 01/28/20

**DATE THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM POSTING:** 03/01/20

**RESIDENCY WAIVED**

**THE USE OF A QUIET HAND-HELD CALCULATOR IS RECOMMENDED FOR THIS EXAMINATION.**

### **LOCATION OF POSITIONS/VACANCIES:**

There is currently one vacancy in the title of Senior Account Clerk Typist located at Tompkins County Highway Department. The eligible list resulting from this intergovernmental promotional examination may be used to fill any full-time, part-time or temporary vacancies that may occur during the life of the eligible list. There is an Open Competitive examination being held in conjunction with this promotional examination. Preference in appointment may be given to eligible promotional candidates.

### **QUALIFYING EXPERIENCE FOR TAKING THE EXAMINATION:**

This intergovernmental promotion examination is limited to current employees of the Tompkins County Departments, the Tompkins County Public Library, Tompkins-Cortland Community College, T-S-T BOCES, and all of the various Towns, Villages, School Districts and Special Districts under Tompkins County's jurisdiction. Promotional applicants must currently hold, and have held continuously **EITHER:**

- (a) One year of full-time (or the equivalent part-time) permanent and/or contingent permanent competitive class status in any entry level account clerical position, Administrative Assistant - Level 1 (or any other position/title that the Commissioner of Personnel determines to be qualifying); **OR**
- (b) Six months of full-time (or the equivalent part-time) permanent and/or contingent permanent competitive class status in the title of Administrative Assistant - Level 2 any other senior level clerical position which includes the performance of account clerical duties.

### **DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:**

This is moderately difficult clerical work involving the independent performance and supervision of a financial account and record keeping process. The work may require decision-making as to methods to be used and classification of records and

accounts. This specification encompasses two titles; Senior Account Clerk and Senior Account Clerk Typist. The main difference between the two is that a Senior Account Clerk Typist spends a substantial amount of time operating an alphanumeric keyboard such as a typewriter, word processor or personal computer in the performance of their duties. The incumbent works under general supervision and may supervise and train lower level clerical workers. This position differs from Account Clerk in that duties are more complex; level of responsibility is higher and supervisory responsibilities may be included. The incumbent will perform all related duties as required.

#### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

- Reviews a variety of more complex financial documents, classifies them and distributes items into a variety of accounts according to prescribed procedures and policies;
- Posts figures to appropriate accounts, makes all necessary adjustments in balances and verifies and reconciles balances;
- Renews status of accounts as adjustments are made and takes appropriate action as authorizing payment, issuing checks or preparing bills;
- Tracks audits and monitors a variety of accounts; verifies adjustments are made to correct allocations and issues reports as required;
- Supervises employees by assigning and reviewing completed work and instructing employees in specialized account keeping activities;
- Prepares more complex financial or statistical summary reports; checks for accuracy of computations and completeness or supervises the preparation of daily, weekly and monthly reports which are compiled into summary reports or claims for federal or state reimbursements;
- Prepares funds for deposit into book accounts; reconciles accounts and prepares reports from information; Contacts clients, vendors or other agencies to obtain additional information;
- Provide information orally or in writing in response to inquiries on status of accounts;
- Processes, sorts, indexes, records and files a variety of control records and reports, or supervises the process;
- May assist in preparation of figures and reports for use in budget preparation;
- Does more complex payroll transactions or may do payroll for entire department and prepare all related reports;
- Operates a calculator, check writing machine and other office related equipment;
- Senior Account Clerk Typists (working from a rough draft or from data which is personally developed) prepare accounting and financial statements, payrolls, statistical tabulations and data, form letters, memoranda, vouchers, reports, requisitions and other material using a typewriter, word processor or personal computer;
- May be required to edit and update web pages.

#### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

- Good knowledge of modern methods used in keeping and checking financial records and accounts;
- Good knowledge of office terminology, procedures, equipment and business English;
- Ability to plan, assign and supervise the work of account keeping and clerical assistants;
- Ability to make more difficult arithmetic computations involving fractions, decimals and percentage accurately;
- Ability to organize and maintain accurate records and files;
- Ability to analyze and organize data and prepare records and reports;
- Ability to understand and interpret complicated oral instructions and/or written directions;
- Ability to develop effective working relationships and deal diplomatically with the public;
- Ability to perform close, detail work involving considerable visual effort and strain; Integrity and good judgment are required;
- The employee's physical condition shall be commensurate with the demands of the position.

**Senior Account Clerk Typists** (in addition to the above) must possess the ability to operate an alphanumeric keyboard such as typewriter, word processor or personal computer (speed is not a significant factor).

Originally Created January 1, 1969

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#### **Complete Scope of the examination and Expanded subtest descriptions:**

Name and number checkhig

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.

#### Fundamentals of account keeping and bookkeeping

These questions test for a knowledge of basic principles and practices of account keeping and bookkeeping. The questions test for recognizing account keeping and bookkeeping terms, concepts and relationships; recording financial transactions; and solving elementary problems in account keeping and bookkeeping.

#### Arithmetic computation with calculator

These questions test for the ability to use a calculator to do basic computations. Questions will involve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. You may also be asked to calculate averages, to use percents, and to round an answer to the nearest whole number. You should bring with you a hand-held battery- or solar-powered calculator for use on this test. You will not be permitted to use the calculator function of your cell phone.

#### Working with office records

These questions test your ability to work with office records. The test consists of two or more sets of questions, each set concerning a different problem. Typical record keeping problems might involve the organization or collation of numerical data from several sources; maintaining a record system using running balances; or completion of a table summarizing data using totals, subtotals, averages and percents. You should bring with you a hand-held battery- or solar-powered calculator for use on this test. You will not be permitted to use the calculator function of your cell phone.

#### Test guide:

A Guide for the Written Test for Higher Level Account Clerical is available at the New York State website: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>. Candidates not having access to a computer or the internet may request copy of the test guide from the municipal civil service office conducting this examination using the contact information found elsewhere on this announcement.

#### SENIORITY:

One point will be added to each passing score for every five years of permanent classified service according to the following schedule:

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Less than one year      | 0 points |
| 1 year up to 6 years    | 1 point  |
| 6 years up to 11 years  | 2 points |
| 11 years up to 16 years | 3 points |
| etc. . .                |          |

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Falsification of any part of the "Application for Employment" will result in disqualification.

Accepted candidates will be notified when and where to appear for the examination. If you do not receive your notice to appear at least three days before the date of the written examination, call Tompkins County Department of Human Resources at 274-5526. If an application is disapproved, due notice will be sent. This department does not make formal acknowledgment of the receipt of an application or take responsibility for non-delivery or postal delay.

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.

**ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL, VETERANS OR DISABLED VETERANS** desiring to claim additional credit will request the Veterans Credits application form, at any time between the date of application for examination(s) and the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. You must meet the requirements set by NYS for these credits and they may be used only once. **YOU MAY NOT CLAIM ADDITIONAL CREDITS AFTER THE ELIGIBLE LIST HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. IT IS THE CANDIDATE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REQUEST THE VETERANS CREDIT APPLICATION FORMS AND TO SUBMIT THESE FORMS AND ANY SUPPORTING PAPERWORK BEFORE THE ELIGIBLE LIST IS ESTABLISHED.**

Tompkins County's written examinations are prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations, which deal with the rating and review of the examinations apply.

The duration of the eligible lists may be fixed for a minimum of one and a maximum of four years and may be extended beyond four years if there has been a restriction against the filling of vacancies in that title.

The candidates must complete a separate "Application for Employment" for each open-competitive and/or promotional examination that the candidate is eligible to take.

All experience required meeting the acceptable training and experience is full-time experience. (Part-time experience will be credited on a prorated basis).

Appointment from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept the appointment.

Tompkins County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. As part of its efforts to provide employment opportunities to the physically handicapped, Tompkins County Civil Service has adopted a rule permitting the employment of qualified physically handicapped persons without competitive examination (pursuant to Section 55 of Civil Service Law). If you meet the minimum qualifications for this position and wish to know more about this rule, please contact the Tompkins County Department of Human Resources Office.

Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, and solar or battery powered calculators. Devices with Typewriter Keyboards, Spell Checkers, Personal Digital Assistants, Address Books, Language Translators, Dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited. You may not bring books or other reference materials.

**CROSS-FILING - APPLYING FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS IN MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS WHEN EXAMINATIONS ARE SCHEDULED ON THE SAME DATE:** When applying for examinations across multiple jurisdictions - all of which are scheduled on the same day - you must submit a Tompkins County Cross-Filing Form. This form must be submitted no later than 4:30 PM on the final filing date of the examination. On this form, list each examination that you are taking and then tell us where you would like to sit. The purpose is to ensure that all of the test materials for the various examinations that you are taking will be available in one location. If you do not provide the cross-filing form to us by the final filing date, we cannot ensure that we can accommodate your desire to cross-file. If any of the examinations are State level examinations, you must sit at the State test center. You will still need to complete the Tompkins County cross-filing form. If sitting at the State site, the State will notify you of when and where to report for your examination(s) and you should bring all admittance letters to the State site. If you are not taking a State examination, bring all admittance letters to your chosen testing site. If you have any question please call Tompkins County Department of Human Resources Department (607) 274-5526. The Cross File form is located at <http://www.tompkins-co.org/personnel/CivilSrvForms/index.html>

**FOR RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS:** If special arrangements for testing are required, please indicate this on your application.

**ALL CANDIDATES FOR EMPLOYMENT FOR POSITIONS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOCES GOVERNED BY TOMPKINS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE MAY HAVE THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL REQUIREMENT. PER CHAPTER 180 OF THE LAWS OF 2000, AND BY REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, TO BE EMPLOYED IN A POSITION DESIGNATED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOCES AS INVOLVING DIRECT CONTACT WITH STUDENTS, A CLEARANCE FOR EMPLOYMENT FROM THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED.**

In conformance with Section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duties 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 firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duties 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.

**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.

TOMPKINS COUNTY PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT, 125 EAST COURT STREET, ITHACA, NY 14850