

OSWEGO COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL
46 EAST BRIDGE STREET
OSWEGO, NEW YORK 13126
PHONE: (315) 349-8367 + FAX: (315) 349-8254
oswegocounty.com/personnel

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

ACCOUNT CLERK

EXAMINATION NUMBER: 11041 (Open to the Public)
EXAMINATION DATE: Saturday, March 12, 2011
LAST FILING DATE: Wednesday, February 9, 2011 (Applications will **NOT** be accepted after this date)
EXAM FEE: \$15.00 (CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY) (FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE)

PAY RATE: County 2010 rate: \$12.77 per hour. Varies in other jurisdictions.

JOB DESCRIPTION: This is clerical work involving responsibility for performance of standard account-keeping practices in maintaining and checking financial accounts and records, including keyboarding. The incumbent works under direct supervision on routine assignments which are done in accordance with defined procedures; detailed instructions are provided for new or unusual assignments. The work is reviewed by observation, cross-checks, or by the immediate supervisor and by other steps in the account-keeping process. The incumbent does related work as required.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS AND VACANCIES: Candidates must be legal residents of Oswego County for a minimum of four (4) months prior to the date of the exam. Candidates who live outside Oswego County but within an Oswego County school district may apply to take the exam only for positions within their school district. Since the eligible list resulting from this exam will be used to fill vacancies in county departments, towns, villages and school districts under the jurisdiction of the Oswego County Director of Personnel, candidates who live outside the county may be certified only for positions within their respective school districts. Preference in appointment may be given to residents of the town, village or school district where the vacancy occurs. **NOTE:** The cities of Fulton and Oswego and their school districts are **not** under the jurisdiction of the Oswego County Director of Personnel.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diploma and one (1) year of experience maintaining financial accounts or records by posting figures to appropriate accounts, reconciling debits and credits, processing of payroll, vouchers and bills, and verifying calculations; **OR**
- B. Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diploma and six (6) credit hours in accounting, math, or closely related field, from a regionally accredited or NYS registered college, university, or business school; **OR**
- C. Two (2) years of experience maintaining financial accounts or records by posting figures to appropriate accounts, reconciling debits and credits, processing of payroll, vouchers and bills, and verifying calculations; **OR**
- D. An equivalent combination of experience and training as defined by the limits of "A", "B", and "C" above.

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, experience credited towards meeting the minimum qualifications must be paid work experience. Volunteer experience will only be credited if specified on the exam announcement.

SCOPE OF THE WRITTEN EXAM: The exam will consist of two parts: a written test and a database performance test (will be held at a later date). The written exam takes up to 3 hours and is designed to test for knowledge, skills, and/or abilities in such areas as:

1. Clerical operations with letters and numbers: These questions test your skills and abilities in clerical 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.

2. Arithmetic computation without calculators: These questions test your ability to do addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Questions may also involve fractions, decimals, averages, and percents. You may NOT use a calculator or any other type of calculating device to answer these questions or any other questions in the written test.

3. Arithmetic reasoning: These questions test your ability to solve an arithmetic problem presented in sentence or short paragraph form. You must read the problem, understand the situation presented, decide what must be done to solve it, and apply the appropriate arithmetic operation(s) in the appropriate order in order to determine the correct solution. Knowledge of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division is necessary. Questions may also involve the use of percents, decimals, and fractions.

Use of a calculator is **PROHIBITED** for this exam.

TEST GUIDE: The New York State Department of Civil Service has published an Entry-Level Account/ Audit Clerical Series Test Guide intended for candidate preparation use for this particular examination. This Test Guide contains important test related information as well as sample questions similar to the questions that will be used in this written test.

The New York State Department of Civil Service is making a copy of this Test Guide and other related information available on its Website at <http://www.cs.state.ny.us/testing/localtestguides.cfm>. In addition, a copy of this Test Guide is available upon request from the Oswego County Department of Personnel or may be downloaded from the web at <http://www.oswegocounty.com/personnel/studyguides.html>.

PERFORMANCE TEST: A qualifying performance test will be held at a later date, to be announced. The test will be administered on a conventional personal computer (PC) with a standard keyboard to perform various clerical tasks using a pre-established database. This test will consist of three parts, with a practice session immediately preceding the first two test sections. Your rating (pass/fail) on this test will be based on the amount of material completed and on the accuracy of that material. Candidates will only be called to the performance test if they passed the written test. The County reserves the right to test only those candidates who are needed to fill available vacancies. More specific information about the test will be supplied to all approved candidates before the test date.

WAIVERS: The database performance test may be waived for candidates who have qualified on a NYS prepared database clerk performance test within the past four years. Candidates requesting waivers must provide exam title, test date and, if the test was administered by an agency other than Oswego County, written notice from the testing agency stating exam date and test results within 14 days of the written exam.

CONTINUOUS RECRUITMENT: Applications are accepted continuously with exams being given as needed. When an exam is announced, applications for that date must be filed no later than the announced last filing date. The Department of Personnel reserves the right to terminate this special recruitment program at any time. Review of questions or appeal of ratings will not be allowed, as the opportunity for retest exists. Candidates may reapply to retake the written exam (6) six months after the date of their last written test.

ELIGIBLE LISTS: Successful candidates in this examination will have their names placed on the eligible list in the order of final scores, regardless of the date on which they filed or took the examination. The names of qualified candidates will remain on the eligible list for a minimum of one (1) year.

EXAM FEES: A non-refundable fee of \$15.00 is required for each separate examination for which you apply. The required fee must accompany your application. Please refer to the "Application for Exam or Employment" for information about fee waiver. Write the name of the exam(s) on your check or money order **payable to Oswego County** and submit the check or money order with your application. **Cash will not be accepted.** A \$20.00 charge will be imposed on checks returned for insufficient funds. You are urged to compare your qualifications carefully with the requirements for admission and file only for those examinations for which you are clearly qualified. No refunds will be made to applicants who are disqualified or fail to appear.

MULTIPLE EXAMS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY (CROSS-FILING):

- If you have applied to take exam(s) announced by another jurisdiction (county, city, state) scheduled on the same day as this exam, you must make arrangements (no later than two weeks before the date of the exam) to take all exams at one test site.
- If you have applied for both State and Local (county/city) government examinations, you must make arrangements to take all your examinations at the State examination center by calling toll free (877) 697-5627 (press 2, then press 1) no later than two weeks before the test date.
- If you have applied for multiple Local exams you must notify all local government civil service agencies with whom you have filed an application of the test site at which you wish to take your examination. For Oswego County examinations complete a "[Cross Filer Notification](#)" form, available at the Oswego County Department of Personnel or online at <http://oswegocounty.com/personnel/forms.html>, and send to Oswego County Department of Personnel, 46 East Bridge Street, Oswego, NY 13126 or FAX to (315) 349-8254 or call (315) 349-8367. If you are taking multiple exams on the same date with the Oswego County Personnel Department only, you do not have to file a cross filer form.

APPLICATION DEADLINE POLICY: Application/exam fee must be submitted to the Oswego County Department of Personnel before the close of business at 5:00 p.m. on the last file date listed on the Examination Announcement. Applications received via U.S. Mail will be accepted only if postmarked on or before the last file date. Applications that are received through inter-office mail or via facsimile after the last file date will not be accepted.

OSWEGO COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER.

ISSUED: December 21, 2010
Carol N. Alnutt
Director of Personnel

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Applications and additional information can be obtained at the Department of Personnel, Oswego County Office Building, 46 East Bridge Street, Oswego, New York 13126, or by calling 349-8367, or on the web at <http://www.oswegocounty.com/personnel>.
2. Applications postmarked after midnight of the **Last Filing Date** will not be considered eligible for this examination.
3. Falsification of any part of the "Application for Employment" will result in disqualification and possible legal action. Inquiries may be made as to character and ability and all statements made by candidates are subject to verification.
4. Applicants must answer every question on the application form. Incomplete applications will be disapproved.
5. Accepted candidates will be notified when and where to appear for exam. None will be admitted to the examination without the official admission notice. If an application is rejected, due notice will be sent. The department does **not** make formal acknowledgment of the receipt of an application.
6. If you have not received your notice to appear for the exam three days before the exam date, call 349-8367.
7. If special arrangements for testing are required (i.e. religious observance, disability), submit written request describing your needs with the application form.
8. Unless otherwise noted, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, 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.
9. Active service members, veterans or disabled veterans desiring to claim additional credit may submit an "Application for Veteran's Credit" prior to the establishment of the eligible list. Forms are available upon request at the Department of Personnel.
10. Military Service members on active duty on the exam date may request a military makeup exam, call 349-8367. Members on active duty or discharged during the exam filing period may apply for the exam up to ten days before the exam date.
11. Per Section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty are entitled to receive ten additional credits on an exam which may result in an original appointment in the municipality where the deceased parent served. Candidates eligible for additional credit should indicate this on their exam application.
12. Candidates who fail the examination, or who fail to appear for the examination as scheduled, will be eliminated from further consideration.
13. Under specific circumstances an alternate test date may be arranged in accordance with established policy. Your request and verifiable documentation should be submitted at least one week prior to the test date or in case of an emergency no later than 5:00 p.m. on the next business day following the test.
14. This examination is being prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations dealing with the rating of exams will apply to this examination.
15. Unless otherwise specified, the final rank order of the eligible list established as a result of the exam will be determined on the basis of the scores received on the written test, plus veterans and seniority credits where appropriate.
16. The eligible list will remain in force for at least one (1) year and may be extended by the Personnel Officer for a maximum of four (4) years. Changing conditions may make it necessary to certify future vacancies at higher or lower salaries than those announced.
17. Special Requirement for Appointment in School Districts and BOCES: 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.