



PROMOTION EXAMINATION

Examination No. & Title	Salary Grade	Beginning Salary	Non-Refundable Processing Fee (Waivers Available)
31-520020 Program Research Specialist 2	23	\$86,681	\$0
31-521020 Program Research Specialist 4	27	\$106,898	\$0

Multiple-Choice Test
To Be Held:
SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

Applications **MUST** Be Submitted
Online or Postmarked By:
AUGUST 5, 2026

You may be assigned to either Saturday or Sunday to take your test. You cannot request or change your scheduled day.

ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS AVAILABLE at <https://www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker>

Due to current testing space limitations, candidates may need to travel to a test site to take this examination. Candidates will be notified of their test site location on their admission notice.

Interdepartmental promotion examination open to all qualified employees of New York State.

For Promotion in State Departments, Facilities, and Agencies

1. Within Promotion Units 2. Within Entire Departments 3. To Other Departments

Minimum Qualifications: On or before September 19, 2026, you must be a qualified employee of New York State and have had three months of permanent competitive, non-competitive NY HELPS*, or 55-b/55-c service as shown below. If you have received a permanent appointment to a qualifying title listed and served provisionally** in that title immediately preceding your permanent appointment, such provisional service may be counted towards meeting the time in title required for this examination.

+For Exam No. 31-520020: Program Research Specialist 1, Program Research Specialist 1 (Agriculture), Program Research Specialist 1 (Criminal Justice), Program Research Specialist 1 (Economics Finance), Program Research Specialist 1 (Health Care Finance), Program Research Specialist 1 (Health Systems Analysis), Program Research Specialist 1 (Human Services), Program Research Specialist 1 (Medical Assistance), Program Research Specialist 1 (Public Health), or Program Research Specialist 1 (Transportation).

Applicants serving at the Trainee 1 and Trainee 2 levels of the Full Performance Level of the titles listed in the Minimum Qualifications are also considered qualifying.

+Due to the October 27, 2022, Title Structure Change: permanent competitive or 55-b/55-c service as a Program Research Specialist 2, Grade 18; Program Research Specialist 2 (Agriculture), Grade 18; Program Research Specialist 2 (Criminal Justice), Grade 18; Program Research Specialist 2 (Economics Finance), Grade 18; Program Research Specialist 2 (Health Care Finance), Grade 18; Program Research Specialist 2 (Health Systems Analysis), Grade 18; Program Research Specialist 2 (Human Services), Grade 18; Program Research Specialist 2 (Medical Assistance), Grade 18; Program Research Specialist 2 (Public Health), Grade 18; or Program Research Specialist 2 (Transportation), Grade 18 is also qualifying.

++For Exam No. 31-521020: Program Research Specialist 2, Program Research Specialist 2 (Agriculture), Program Research Specialist 2 (Criminal Justice), Program Research Specialist 3 (Criminal Justice), Program Research Specialist 2 (Economics Finance), Program Research Specialist 2 (Health Care Finance), Program Research Specialist 2 (Health Systems Analysis), Program Research Specialist 2 (Human Services), Program Research Specialist 2 (Medical Assistance), Program Research Specialist 2 (Public Health), or Program Research Specialist 2 (Transportation).

++Due to the October 27, 2022, Title Structure Change: permanent competitive or 55-b/55-c service as a Program Research Specialist 3, Grade 23; Program Research Specialist 3 (Agriculture), Grade 23; Program Research Specialist 3 (Criminal Justice), Grade 23; Program Research Specialist 3 (Economics Finance), Grade 23; Program Research Specialist 3 (Health Care Finance), Grade 23; Program Research Specialist 3 (Health Systems Analysis), Grade 23; Program Research Specialist 3 (Human Services), Grade 23; Program Research Specialist 3 (Medical Assistance), Grade 23; Program Research Specialist 3 (Public Health), Grade 23; or Program Research Specialist 3 (Transportation), Grade 23 is also qualifying.

Only the title or titles listed are qualifying.

If you were permanently appointed to a qualifying title on or before June 19, 2026, and have served continuously in this title since that date, you are eligible to file for this examination.

**If you were permanently appointed via the New York Hiring for Emergency Limited Placement Statewide (NY HELPS) program to a qualifying title in the non-competitive class on or before June 19, 2026, and have served continuously in this title since that date, you may apply for this examination.*

***If you were permanently appointed to a qualifying title and had provisional service in the same title immediately preceding the permanent appointment, such provisional service may be counted towards meeting the time in title required to apply for this examination. Your provisional appointment must have been on or before June 19, 2026, to qualify for this examination.*

Qualifying Experience For Appointment From The Eligible List: After one year of service at the Full Performance Level, successful candidates will be qualified for appointment from the eligible list.

Employees appointed via the NY HELPS program to a qualifying title in the non-competitive class will have their names restricted from appointment from the eligible list until their position is covered-in to the competitive class by action of the New York State Civil Service Commission or otherwise obtain permanent competitive status in the position.

If you have received a permanent appointment to a qualifying title listed and served provisionally in that title immediately preceding your permanent appointment, such provisional service may be counted towards meeting the time in title required for appointment from the eligible list.

Additional Requirements for Appointment:

1. **Background Investigation/Justice Center Review:** In some agencies, the names of all prospective employees **will:**
 - be checked against the Staff Exclusion List (SEL), maintained by the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs. Prospective employees whose names appear on the SEL as having been found responsible for serious or repeated acts of abuse or neglect will be barred from appointment and may have their names removed from the eligible list(s) for the title(s);
 - be investigated through a Criminal Background Check (CBC). You must report all convictions. Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor or any falsified or omitted information may bar appointment or result in removal after appointment. Each case will be determined on its own merits, consistent with the applicable provisions of state and federal law;**And may:**
 - be screened against the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR). Prospective employees whose names appear on the SCR may be barred from appointment.You are responsible for payment of all required fees.
2. **Medicaid and Medicare:** To be eligible for appointment and maintain employment, you cannot be listed as an excluded individual or entity on any of the Federal and/or State Medicaid and Medicare exclusion lists (or excluded from any other Federal or Federally assisted program). You may be barred from appointment, or your employment may be terminated at any time if you are listed as an excluded individual or entity on any of these lists (or excluded from any other Federal or Federally assisted program).

The Positions: These positions exist in multiple New York State agencies and are located statewide.

Duties: As a **Program Research Specialist 2**, you would independently perform research projects under minimal supervision, or be responsible for managing and directing research analysis and evaluation teams in support of complex program activities of an agency or major division of an agency. You would also supervise Program Research Specialists 1 and clerical staff.

As a **Program Research Specialist 4**, you would be responsible for managing and directing one of the State's largest research analysis and evaluation teams, with levels of subordinate supervisory staff, in support of complex program activities of an entire agency or a major and significant program area. You would also supervise lower-level Program Research Specialists (various parentheses) and staff.

Subject of Examination: To be considered for appointment to this title, you must pass the multiple-choice test . The multiple-choice test evaluates your knowledge, skills, and/or abilities in the following areas:	For Examination Nos.	
	31-520020	31-521020
1. Understanding and interpreting tabular material - These questions test your ability to understand, analyze, and use the internal logic of data presented in tabular form. You may be asked to perform tasks such as completing tables, drawing conclusions from them, analyzing data trends or interrelationships, and revising or combining data sets. The concepts of rate, ratio, and proportion are tested. Mathematical operations are simple, and computational speed is not a major factor in the test.	X	X
2. Preparing reports and official documents - These questions test for the ability to prepare reports and other official documents for use within and among governmental agencies, in legal or regulatory settings, or for dissemination to the public. Some questions test for a knowledge of grammar, usage, punctuation, and sentence structure. Others test for the ability to present information clearly and accurately, to use the proper tone, and to organize paragraphs logically and comprehensibly.	X	X
3. Descriptive and inferential statistics - These questions test for knowledge of statistical methods and techniques and their application. The questions will cover such areas as central tendency and variability, the normal distribution, hypothesis testing, statistical significance testing, probability, correlation and regression, parametric and nonparametric statistics, and analysis of variance. The questions are primarily conceptual, but you may be required to do some manipulation of data.	X	X
4. Research and experimental design - These questions test for knowledge of the concepts and techniques involved in the collection and interpretation of data, and the design and implementation of research studies. The questions cover such areas as sampling theory and methods, survey methods, and research and experimental design concepts. You will not be required to do any substantial manipulation of data.	X	X
5. Supervision - These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices employed in planning, organizing, and controlling the activities of a work unit toward predetermined objectives. The concepts covered, usually in a situational question format, include such topics as assigning and reviewing work; evaluating performance; maintaining work standards; motivating and developing subordinates; implementing procedural change; increasing efficiency; and dealing with problems of absenteeism, morale, and discipline.	X	
6. Administrative supervision - These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices involved in directing the activities of a large subordinate staff, including subordinate supervisors. Questions relate to the personal interactions between an upper level supervisor and their subordinate supervisors in the accomplishment of objectives. These questions cover such areas as assigning work to and coordinating the activities of several units, establishing and guiding staff development programs, evaluating the performance of subordinate supervisors, and maintaining relationships with other organizational sections.		X
7. Ensuring effective inter/intra agency communications - These questions test for understanding of techniques for interacting effectively with individuals and agencies, to educate and inform them about topics of concern, to clarify agency programs or policies, to negotiate conflicts or resolve complaints, and to represent one's agency or program in a manner in keeping with good public relations practices. Questions may also cover interacting with the staff of one's own agency and/or that of other agencies in cooperative efforts of public outreach or service.		X

Test Guide & Sample Test Material: A General Guide to Multiple-Choice Tests is available at <http://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>. If Sample Test Material is available for a subject area described above, it can be found at <http://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/sampletestmat.cfm>.

If you pass, your seniority credit(s), if any, will be included in the computation of your final score. Your final score on the eligible list will be determined after adding any Veterans' credits.

Credit For Seniority: Seniority is credited at the rate of one credit for each five-year period (or fraction thereof), excluding the first year of service.

Admission To The Test: If approved for a multiple-choice test, you will receive an admission notice which will indicate your assigned test date and the way your test will be administered. Your test may be administered with paper and pencil or online at a state test site. ***You cannot request to change your scheduled day or request a specific type of test administration.***

Applicants are required to have a Personal NY.gov account and keep their email address up to date. The Department of Civil Service and other state agencies will communicate with you through email correspondence. This may include notification of your application status, your test arrangements, examination results, and canvassing you for interest in appointment. It will be important for you to keep your email address, phone number, and mailing address current by logging into <https://www.cs.ny.gov/home/myaccount>.

How To Apply: *You will need a personal NY.gov ID to apply for these examinations. If you do not have a personal NY.gov account, please [create an account](#).*

- Online our Internet address is <http://www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker>; or
- Download an examination application [NYS-APP form](#); or
- Email cs.sm.examinfo@cs.ny.gov to request NYS-APP forms; or
- Obtain an NYS-APP form from a state agency or facility personnel/business office; or
- Request NYS-APP form by calling the Department of Civil Service in the Albany area at 518-457-2487 or toll free at 1-877-697-5627.

The NYS Department of Civil Service reserves the right to reject for lateness or to accept applications filed after the advertised filing period. All statements you make on your application are subject to investigation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NEW YORK STATE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER: It is the policy of the State of New York to provide for and promote equal opportunity employment, compensation, and other terms and conditions of employment without unlawful discrimination on the basis of age, race, color, religion, disability, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, veteran or military service member status, marital status, domestic violence victim status, genetic predisposition or carrier status, arrest and/or criminal conviction record, or any other category protected by law, unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification or other exception.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION: Most multiple-choice tests are held on Saturdays. If you cannot take the test on the announced test date, due to a conflict with a religious observance or practice, check the box under "Religious Accommodation." We will make arrangements for you to take the test on a different date (usually the following day).

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS IN TESTING: It is the policy of the Department of Civil Service, in accordance with the New York State Human Rights Law and the Americans with Disabilities Act, to provide qualified persons with disabilities equal employment opportunity and equal opportunity to participate in and receive the benefits, services, programs, and activities of the Department. It is the policy of the Department to provide such persons reasonable accommodations and reasonable modifications as are necessary to provide equal opportunity. Persons with disabilities who require an accommodation to participate in an examination must note this on their application. Further information is available from the Test Accommodation Unit of the Department of Civil Service at Testaccommodation@cs.ny.gov.

ADMISSION TO EXAMINATION: Notice to appear for the test may be conditional as review of applications may not be made until after the test. If you have not received your notice to appear for the multiple-choice test three days before the date of the test, email us at AdmissionNotices@cs.ny.gov. Please provide your first and last name, address, and the last four digits of your social security number, and we will provide you with the information you need to attend your multiple-choice test. If you have an issue other than not receiving your admission notice, please contact our office at (518) 474-6470 in the Albany area or toll free at 1-877-697-5627. Please leave a clear concise message and provide your first and last name, last four digits of your social security number and a daytime phone number.

TAKING STATE AND LOCAL EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY: If you have applied to take a multiple-choice test announced by either one or several local jurisdictions (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this multiple-choice test, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions no later than two weeks before the test date to make arrangements for taking all tests at one test site. All tests will be held at the state examination center. For your convenience, contact information for all local civil service agencies is available on our website at: <http://www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker/local.cfm>.

ELIGIBILITY FOR EXAMINATION: To be considered a qualified employee eligible to compete in this examination, you must be employed in, or on leave from, the specified department or agency on a permanent or contingent permanent basis in the competitive class, or in the non-competitive class or labor class if specifically noted on this announcement (or be on an appropriate preferred list), and have the specified time in the specified title or salary grade. You may not compete in a test for a title if you are permanently employed in that title (unless you are still on probation) or in a higher direct line of promotion.

CELL PHONES OR ELECTRONIC/COMMUNICATION DEVICES AT THE TEST SITE: The use of cell phones, beepers, headphones, or any electronic or other communication devices at your personal testing site or in the test room, hallways, restrooms, building, grounds, or other areas, except as expressly authorized by the Department of Civil Service, could result in your disqualification.