

The following information is from the Secretary of State's Website. A link to the site is provided under the Links section to the left of this page.

How do I become licensed as a private investigator in Georgia?

Licenses in Georgia are issued only to companies. The company must have an individual, either the owner, a partner, or an officer of the corporation or LLC, who is qualified by experience or education to be the holder of the license for the company. If you are interested in opening your own company, please refer to the [Company License Information](#) on the Secretary of State's website for specific details regarding qualifications and requirements.

What are the experience and education requirements for qualifying for a private detective company license?

Briefly, the experience required is two years, either in law enforcement, or as a registered private detective employed by a licensed private detective company. The education required is a four-year degree from an accredited college or university in Criminal Justice, or a related field of study.

What study materials are available to prepare for the exam?

No study materials are provided by the Board, other than the [Georgia Law](#) and [Board Rules](#).

I am not interested in opening my own company; I just want to work as a private investigator for a company. What requirements do I have to meet to be employed as a private investigator?

If you are interested in becoming employed as an investigator with a licensed company, you may be hired by a company without an experience requirement by the Board, if you are at least 18 years of age, and you meet the minimum requirements established by the State Licensing Board, as detailed in [O.C.G.A. 43-38-7](#). The company is responsible for your training by a Board-approved instructor; however, you may attend Board-approved training classes on your own prior to being hired by a licensed company. The company is also responsible for submitting an [Application for Employee Registration](#) on your behalf within 30 days of your hiring.

How do I get a list of all training instructors in the state?

You may obtain a complete list of active training instructors by accessing the Secretary of State's [License Verification](#) page. Choose the Board, License Type, and the Status from the drop-down menus, then click the Search button. You may also purchase a roster of active training instructors by completing the [Roster Request Order Form](#).

I am a veteran law enforcement officer. Do I have to take the exam to become licensed as a private detective or security company?

All applicants must take the exam for Private Detective &/or Security. There are no exceptions.

What are the fees for getting a license?

Please refer to the [Fee Schedule](#) on the Secretary of State's website for a current listing of the various fees.

When will I know if I am approved to take the Private Detective &/or Security Exam?

Once the Board approves candidates for examination, the approved candidates will be notified by the Exam Section within two weeks of the scheduled exam date. The notification will specify the date, time, and place of the exam, as well as any instructions for the candidate. Candidates who were not approved for the exam will be notified within two weeks after the State Licensing Board meeting.

When is the next Private Detective &/or Security Exam?

Please refer to the [Examination Information](#) page of the Secretary of State's website for exam dates and information.