

## **25 NCAC 01I .2002      TYPES OF APPOINTMENTS AND DURATION**

(a) Probationary Appointment: The probationary period is an essential extension of the selection process and provides the time for effective adjustment of the new employee or elimination of those whose performance will not meet acceptable standards. Probationary appointments are administered as follows:

- (1) The agency shall require a probationary period for:
  - (A) Individuals receiving original appointments to permanent positions;
  - (B) Employees accepting a position in a different agency in the same county or in another county that is subject to G.S. Chapter 126. This applies to those who have already achieved career status; and
  - (C) Individuals being rehired following a 31 day break in service may be required to serve a probationary period as set out in Subparagraph (2).
- (2) Individuals being rehired may be required to serve a probationary period if:
  - (A) the essential duties and responsibilities of the position into which the employee is being rehired are significantly different from those of the position held at the time the employee left; or
  - (B) in the judgment of the employing agency, a new probationary period is justified based on previous employment history and the specific reasons for the new probationary period are communicated to the employee in the job offer.
- (3) Employees with career status who serve a new probationary period as set out in Part (a)(1)(B) of this Rule shall be returned to career status upon successful completion of the new probationary period;
- (4) The length of the probationary period shall not be less than three nor more than nine months of either full-time or part-time employment. The length is dependant upon the complexity of the position and the rapidity of progress made by the particular individual in the position. If the desired level of performance is not achieved within nine months after appointment, the employee shall be separated from service unless in trainee status; an employee with a trainee appointment is expected to make a satisfactory progress, but is not permanent until he has completed the training period;
- (5) At any time during a probationary period an employee may be separated from service for causes related to performance of duties or for personal conduct detrimental to the agency without right of appeal or hearing. The employee must be given notice of dismissal, including reasons; and
- (6) Employment in a temporary appointment may be credited toward the probationary period at the discretion of the appointing authority. Employment in an intermittent or emergency appointment shall not be credited toward the probationary period.

(b) Trainee Appointment: A trainee appointment may be made to a position in any class for which the specification includes special provisions for a trainee progression leading to a regular appointment. Trainee appointments are administered as follows:

- (1) An individual who possesses the acceptable training and experience for the class may not be appointed as a trainee;
- (2) The specification for each class in which a trainee appointment is authorized will define the minimum qualifications for the trainee appointment and the minimum qualifications for a regular probationary appointment. It is expected that the individual will progress through supervised experience to a minimum level of satisfactory performance in the position during a period of time indicated by the difference between the amounts of experience required for the two types of appointments. This limit does not include time spent on educational leave or additional time required to participate in a work-study program designed to meet educational requirements for the class. An employee may not remain on a trainee appointment beyond the time he meets the educational and experience requirements for the class. After the employee has successfully completed all educational and experience requirements he shall be given probationary or permanent status in the position or shall be separated. If the period of the trainee appointment equals or exceeds nine months, the employee must be given permanent status or be separated at the completion of the trainee period;
- (3) If an employee with permanent status in another class accepts a trainee appointment, the permanent status will be waived for the duration of the trainee appointment. The employee can regain permanent status either through successful completion of the trainee appointment, by reinstatement to the class in which he previously held status, or by transfer to a position in a class for which he/she would have been eligible based on previous permanent status; and

- (4) A former employee who does not meet the minimum requirements of the class to which he is being appointed shall be given a trainee appointment. All requirements for the trainee appointment must be satisfied prior to attaining permanent status.
- (c) **Permanent Appointment.** A permanent appointment is an appointment to a permanently established position when the incumbent is expected to be retained on a permanent basis. Permanent appointments follow the satisfactory completion of a probationary or trainee appointment, or may be made upon reinstatement of a qualified employee. Permanent appointments do not confer career status. Career status is achieved only when the conditions set out in G.S. 126-1.1 are met. Continuous service creditable toward career status shall be transferred when an employee accepts a position in an agency subject to the State Human Resources Act in the same county or in another county.
- (d) **Time-Limited Appointment.** A time-limited appointment may be made to:
- (1) a permanent position that is vacant due to the incumbent's leave of absence and when the replacement employee's services will be needed for a period of one year or less; or
  - (2) to a permanent position that has an established duration of no more than two years. Such appointment shall not be made for less than six months. If at the end of the two year time-limited appointment, the work is expected to continue and the position becomes permanent, the employee shall be given a permanent appointment. A time-limited appointment is distinguished from a temporary appointment by the greater length of time, and from the regular permanent appointment by its limited duration.
- (e) **Temporary Appointment.** A temporary appointment may be made to a permanent or temporary position. The appointment shall be limited to a maximum duration of 12 months.
- (f) **Pre-Vocational Student Appointment.** This appointment is to be used to enable students to gain practical knowledge of their particular occupational area of interest. A suitable plan for training under close supervision must be developed for the individual. In the case of a co-operative, work study, internship, or similar appointment, the time schedule for work must be determined. The basis of eligibility and selection for such an appointment shall be outlined in a formal plan developed by the participating agencies for each type and level of student involvement. Upon successful completion of their training, individuals may be considered for any vacant position for which qualified.
- (g) **Emergency Appointment:** An emergency appointment may be made when an emergency situation exists requiring the services of an employee before it is possible to identify a qualified applicant through the regular selection process. Emergency appointments are administered as follows:
- (1) When it is determined that an emergency appointment is necessary, all other requirements for appointments will be waived;
  - (2) An emergency appointment may be made for a period of up to 60 work days (consecutive or non-consecutive), or a total of 480 hours; and in pay status.
  - (3) Any one individual may not receive successive emergency appointments with the same department or agency. At least three calendar months must elapse after the conclusion of the emergency appointment before that department or agency can give the same individual another emergency appointment.
- (h) **Appointment of Incumbents in Newly-Covered Programs:**
- (1) Upon extension of State Human Resources Act requirements to a program, position, or group of positions, the incumbent(s) may be appointed with permanent status in his classifications under any of the following circumstances:
    - (A) The employee is qualified for reinstatement on the basis of previous permanent status in a comparable position; or
    - (B) The employee has at least three months of satisfactory service in the program or agency, as certified by the appointing authority, and the appointing authority recommends that the employee be granted permanent status;
  - (2) If the agency fails to grant permanent status within nine months from the initial coverage then the incumbent must be terminated. Employees given trainee appointments will be given permanent status consistent with other trainee appointments; and
  - (3) Incumbents who have less than three months of service with the agency shall be continued with no status until they are granted permanent status or terminated as required in this Rule. Employees with more than three months but less than nine months services in the agency may be continued without status until nine months have elapsed. At the end of nine months, however, the incumbent must be granted permanent status or terminated.
- (i) **Work-Against Appointment.** When qualified applicants are unavailable and there is no trainee provision for the classification of the vacancy, the appointing authority may appoint an employee below the level of the regular classification in a work-against situation. A work-against appointment is for the purpose of allowing the employee to

gain the qualifications needed for the full class through on-the-job experience. The appointee must meet the minimum training and experience standard of the class to which initially appointed. A work-against appointment may not be made when applicants are available who meet the training and experience requirements for the full class, and for the position in question.

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 126-4.  
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Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. August 20, 2016.