



**SENIOR OFFICE SPECIALIST I**  
**EXAM #DEC-10-08 (OC)**  
**ONEIDA COUNTY ANNOUNCES**  
EXAMINATION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED CONTINUOUSLY**

**A NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE PROCESSING FEE**  
**MUST ACCOMPANY EACH APPLICATION**  
**\$15.00 MONEY ORDER ONLY -- PAYABLE TO ONEIDA COUNTY**

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**EXAM DATES:** THIS EXAM WILL BE SCHEDULED PERIODICALLY. CANDIDATES WITH APPROVED APPLICATIONS FOR THIS EXAM WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL OF THE NEXT SCHEDULED EXAM DATE.

**STARTING SALARY/RANGE:**                      \$23,863                      Oneida County Government  
Other Civil Divisions May Vary

**VACANCIES:** The eligible list, established as a result of this examination, will be used to fill any appropriate vacancies which may occur in these titles under the jurisdiction of the Oneida County Commissioner of Personnel.

**RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT:** **NONE** - When preference in certification is given to residents of a municipality pursuant to subdivision 4-a of Section 23 of the Civil Service Law, an eligible must have been a resident of such municipality for at least one month prior to the date of certification in order to be included in a certification as a resident of such municipality and must be a resident of such municipality at the time of appointment.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates must meet minimum qualifications at time of application.

Either:

- (A) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college, business college, or secretarial school with an Associate's Degree in secretarial science, office management, office technologies, word processing, business administration, business management, communications or a related field; **OR**
- (B) Graduation from high school or possession of a high school equivalency diploma **AND** two (2) years of experience in the performance of office and clerical tasks, which shall have involved typing/keyboarding.

**NOTES:**

- 1. Verifiable part-time experience will be pro-rated toward meeting full-time experience requirements.
- 2. If qualifying under (A) above, candidates must submit a copy of transcripts showing degree area and date degree conferred with application.
- 3. Further information may be requested from candidates to verify academic qualifications.

**DUTIES:** The work of this class involves the performance of moderately difficult clerical and office tasks requiring the exercise of independent judgment. Duties in this class may involve public contact and/or work of a confidential nature. The incumbent performs related work as required.

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**PC-ADMINISTERED TEST:** The test will be administered on a personal computer (PC). Candidates need no prior knowledge of computers in order to take the test. The test uses a simple point-and-click system that is thoroughly explained through an animated instruction program. Candidates will be given a sample test on which to practice before the actual test begins. This test is designed to evaluate knowledge, skills, and/or abilities in such areas as:

**1. SPELLING:**

These questions test for the ability to spell words that are used in written business communications.

**2. GRAMMAR, USAGE, PUNCTUATION:**

The grammar and usage questions test for the ability to apply the basic rules of grammar and usage. The punctuation questions test for a knowledge of the correct placement of punctuation marks in sentences.

**3. KEYBOARDING PRACTICES:**

These questions test for a knowledge of preferred practices in such areas as letter format, capitalization, hyphenation, plurals, possessives, word division, word and figure style for numbers, and common proofreading marks. In addition, you will be given a passage to proofread and asked questions about how to correct the errors in the passage.

**4. OFFICE RECORD KEEPING:**

These questions evaluate your ability to perform common office record keeping tasks. 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 data from several sources; scheduling; maintaining a record system using running balances; or completion of a table summarizing data using totals, subtotals, averages and percents.

**5. OFFICE PRACTICES:**

These questions test for a knowledge of generally agreed-upon practices governing the handling of situations which stenographers, typists, and secretaries encounter in their work, as well as a knowledge of efficient and effective methods used to accomplish office tasks. The questions will cover such topics as planning work flow; setting priorities; dealing effectively with staff, visitors, and callers; filing and retrieving information; safeguarding confidentiality; using office equipment; and making procedural decisions and recommendations which contribute to a well-managed office.

**CALCULATORS ARE ALLOWED:** Unless specifically prohibited, candidates are permitted to use QUIET, hand-held, solar- or battery-powered calculators ONLY. Devices with typewriter keyboards, such as cell phones, computers or devices which can be hooked up to a computer, spell-checkers, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries and any similar devices are **PROHIBITED**.

**ELIGIBLE LISTS:** Candidates who meet the qualifications, and pass 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 test. The names of qualified candidates will remain on the Eligible List for one year. Appeal of ratings will not be allowed, as the opportunity for re-test exists.

**RETEST POLICY:** Retest for this continuous recruitment examination is permitted after six months.

**TERMINATION OF THE PROGRAM:** Oneida County Department of Personnel reserves the right to terminate this special recruitment program at any time, and re-establish a program of periodic testing for this title.

**TEST GUIDE:** A "Guide to Taking the Examination for the Senior Stenographer/Senior Typist Series" is available on the New York State Department of Civil Service website: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm> .

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**EMERGENCY CANCELLATION OF EXAMINATIONS:** Tune to – Spectrum News; WUTR; WKTU; Radio Stations 96.1, 96.9, 97.9. Check website for more listings: [www.ocgov.net/oneida/personnel/csexam](http://www.ocgov.net/oneida/personnel/csexam).

1. **APPLICATIONS:** Candidate must complete a separate Oneida County Application for Civil Service Examination or Employment for each examination or position. NO E-MAILED OR FAXED APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Applicants must answer every question on the application and make sure that the application is complete in all respects. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE DISAPPROVED. All applications shall be filed with the Oneida County Department of Personnel. Applications received after the last filing date will be rejected.
2. **ADDRESS CHANGE:** Failure to notify this office of a change of address may result in disqualification for examination or certification for appointment following examination. No attempt will be made to locate candidates who have moved.
3. **RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS/MILITARY/DISABILITY:** Please indicate on your application if special exam arrangements for testing are needed. See instruction F on application.
4. **ALTERNATE TEST DATES:** See Alternate Test Date Policy. This policy is available on our website.
5. **VETERANS:** See instruction G on application.
6. **ADMISSION NOTICE:** Applications are reviewed for qualifying status. If your exam application is disapproved, you will be notified of the reason and given an opportunity to amend your application. All amendments to applications are due by the amendment due date listed on your disapproval letter. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE AN ADMISSION LETTER THREE (3) DAYS BEFORE THE EXAM DATE, CALL: (315) 798-5726. Collect calls will not be accepted.
7. **ELIGIBLE LISTS:** Appointments from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept appointment. The duration of an eligible list may be fixed for a minimum period of one (1) year and a maximum period of four (4) years. Changing conditions may make it advisable to certify to future vacancies at higher or lower salaries than those announced.
8. **FOREIGN EDUCATION:** High school from other than U.S. schools may be verified by a transcript and against college-entry requirements in the corresponding country. Applicable documentation must be submitted. If your degree and/or college credit was awarded by an educational institution outside of the United States and its territories, you must provide independent verification of equivalency. A list of acceptable companies providing this service may be obtained in person from the Oneida County Department of Personnel, by mail (include a self-addressed, stamped envelope) OR on the New York State Department of Civil Service web site: [www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker/degrees.cfm](http://www.cs.ny.gov/jobseeker/degrees.cfm). You will be responsible for the required evaluation fee.
9. Federal and State Law prohibit discrimination because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, marital status or genetic predisposition or carrier status.
10. This examination is being prepared and rated in accordance with section 23(2) of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Law, Rules, and Regulations dealing with the preparation and rating of examinations, as well as establishment and certification of eligible lists for positions in the classified service, will apply to this examination.
11. **ADDITIONAL CREDIT:** In conformance with section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, **children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duty** 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 a firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duty 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.
12. **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.
13. **APPLICATION FEE WAIVER:** A waiver of the application fee will be allowed if you are unemployed and primarily responsible for the support of a household. In addition, a waiver of the application fee will be allowed if you are determined eligible for Medicaid, receiving Supplemental Security Income payment, receiving Public Assistance (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance) or are certified Job Training Partnership Act/Workforce Investment Act eligible through a State or local social service agency. **All claims for application fee waiver are subject to verification. If you can verify eligibility for application fee waiver, complete a Request for Application Fee Waiver and Certification form and submit it with your application. The form is available on our website as well as Oneida County Department of Personnel, 800 Park Avenue 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Utica, NY 13501. You may also call (315) 798-5726 or write to the Oneida County Department of Personnel to request a copy.**
14. **EXAMINATION ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Failure to appear for two (2) consecutive examinations administered by Oneida County Civil Service within an 18 month period will result in disqualification from future examination for a two year period, per Oneida County Civil Service Rule IX.

ONEIDA COUNTY EXAM ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE ACCESSED ON OUR WEBSITE: [www.ocgov.net](http://www.ocgov.net).

**\*\* ONEIDA COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER \*\***