

	Administrative Regulation	
	Policy#	3.3
	Effective:	09/25/2020
	Revised:	02/07/2025
PROBATIONARY PERIOD		Owner:
		Human Resources

Note: Terms in **bold** and *italics* throughout this policy are defined below.

PURPOSE:

The ***probationary period*** serves as an opportunity for department leadership to support new employees in their transition ensuring they integrate successfully into their roles while demonstrating the necessary competencies, work habits, and collaboration skills.

SCOPE:

This regulation applies to all new hires, ***transfers, promotions***, and demotions. Represented employees should refer to their respective collective bargaining agreements for additional terms.

POLICY:

All appointments are subject to a probationary period. This period helps employees adjust to their roles and ensures they meet work standards. The probationary period is a supportive process designed to help employees:

- (1) Learn about the City, their department, and their role.
- (2) Understand performance expectations and successfully meet them.
- (3) Receive guidance and feedback to help them succeed.

The probationary period allows both employee and department leadership to determine if the role is a good fit.

PROCEDURE:

Step 1: Probationary Period Requirements

- A. New hires, rehires, department transfers, and promotions serve a probationary period.
- B. Employees must meet all performance and conduct expectations by the end of probation.
- C. Employees transferring within the same department may serve a probationary period if required by the department director, the Human Resources Director, and the City Manager.

1. This requirement must be communicated at the time of job offer.
2. Employees who are reclassified do not serve a probationary period.
- D. Employees who are demoted may serve a probationary period if required by the department director, the Human Resources Director, and the City Manager.
 1. This requirement must be communicated at time of appointment.

Step 2: Length of Probationary Period

- A. New Hires & Rehires: 12 months
- B. Promotion & Transfers: 6 months
- C. Any service interruptions during probation will not count towards total probation period.

Step 3: Evaluations

- A. Department leaders should meet with the new employee during their first week to set goals and expectations.
- B. Ongoing feedback should be clear, specific, and focused on strengths and areas for improvement.
- C. Formal reviews should occur:
 1. At the midpoint of the probation period.
 2. At the end of probation.
 3. Both reviews should provide ***constructive feedback***.

Step 4: Addressing Performance Issues

- A. If an employee does not meet expectations the department leader should:
 1. Consult with Human Resources for guidance.
 2. Determine if an extension of the probationary period is appropriate. Probation periods will generally not extend beyond an additional six (6) months. Extension must be documented in writing.

Step 5: Termination During the Probation

5.1. New Hires & Rehires:

May be dismissed at any time if continued employment is not in the best interest of the City.

5.2. Current Employees:

If they fail probation following a promotion or transfer, they may be dismissed for cause.

5.3. Return to Previous Position:

If a promoted or transferred employee does not pass probation, they may return to their previous job provided the position is still available and operationally feasible.

Step 6: Grievance Rights

Employees serving an initial probation period, including extensions, may not grievance disciplinary actions, layoffs, or termination decisions.

DEFINITION:

(1) *Constructive Feedback:*

Refers to clear and supportive guidance to help employees improve.

(2) *Probationary Period:*

A working test period where the employee must demonstrate their ability to meet job expectations.

(3) *Promotion:*

A change of employee from one position to another within the same or a different classification, provided the positions share the same salary range.

RESOURCES:

Administrative Regulations:

1. [Disability Accommodations](#)
2. [Equal Employment Opportunity](#)
3. [Open Door Policy](#)
4. [Performance Reviews](#)
5. [Recruitment and Selection](#)