

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health: Delegated Examining FAQs

Delegated Examining (DE) helps federal agencies like the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) identify the best candidates from submitted employment applications and determine which ones should be referred to hiring managers for consideration.

What is the difference between DE and merit promotions?

DE allows a federal agency to examine applicants for a competitive service position that is open to all U.S. citizens, including those currently employed by the federal government. DE is typically designated to help federal agencies fill “hard-to-fill” positions.

A merit promotion is not open to the public—rather, it is open to individuals who are in the competitive service, have competitive status, or are eligible under special hiring authorities (such as the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998).

What is a high-level merit promotion?

This designation indicates that the job opening is only available to current federal employees or applicants who are eligible under special hiring authorities. A job opening with a high-level merit promotion designation is not open to the public.

Who is allowed to apply to a DE position?

All U.S. citizens are eligible to apply to a DE position.

If I am a veteran, what is my disability status?

Your veteran disability rating is designated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and is based on the severity of your disability. Once you have your disability rating, you may be eligible to apply for specific job openings and roles. There are three types of veterans’ preferences:

- Disabled (10-point preference eligible)
- Non-disabled (5-point preference eligible)
- Sole survivorship (0-point preference eligible)

For more information, learn about the [special hiring authorities](#) and the [federal hiring process and opportunities available](#) for veterans.

If I am a veteran, what is my preference category?

- CPS—Disability rating of 30% or more (10 points)
- CP—Disability rating of at least 10% but less than 30% (10 points)
- XP—Disability rating less than 10% (10 points)
- TP—Preference eligible with no disability rating (5 points)
- SSP—Sole Survivorship Preference (0 points)
- [Vets—OPM.gov](#)

If I am a military spouse, what is my DE status?

If you are a military spouse, you may be eligible to apply using a non-competitive process if you are:

- A spouse of an active-duty member of the armed forces.
- A spouse of a service member who is 100% disabled due to a service-related injury at the time of separation from military service.
- A spouse of a service member killed while on active duty.

You are no longer eligible if you remarry.

For more information, learn about the [special hiring authorities available to military spouses](#) and about the [federal hiring process and opportunities available to military spouses and military family members](#).

What documents are required to apply for a DE position?

The documents required for application may vary based on the position. Please review the “required documents” section in the job announcement for more information.

Current federal employees may need to provide a notification of personnel action form (SF-50). If you are applying as a veteran, then you may be required to submit documents such as a certificate of release from active duty (DD-214) or an application for 10-point Veterans’ Preference (SF-15). If you are applying as a military spouse, then you may be required to submit documents such as a marriage certificate, a copy of your spouse’s active military records, a certificate of release or discharge from active duty (DD-214), or a report of casualty (DD-1300).