



**NIAGARA COUNTY  
CIVIL SERVICE  
111 Main Street – G2  
Lockport, New York 14094**

*Malcolm A Needler  
Personnel Officer*

(716) 438-4071

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

**If you applied for this exam last year, you do not need to re-apply**

### **No 68-250 Examination Open to the Public**

**County Salary: \$25.53 - \$29.96  
Varies by municipality**

The examination will be held to establish an eligible list used to fill Administrative Assistant and Confidential Assistant vacancies that may occur in various agencies under the jurisdiction of Niagara County Civil Service during the life of the list. **The list established from this exam will supersede any existing list for this title.**

**RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS:** Candidates must have been legal residents of Niagara County for at least one (1) month immediately preceding the date of the written examination and such residency must continue until the time of appointment. **Preference in appointment may be given to successful candidates who have been residents of the municipality in which the appointment is made. Non-residents may be required to become a resident of the appointing municipality if local law so states.**

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates must meet the following on or before the date of the written exam. **If you do not meet these qualifications, your application will be disapproved and your filing fee will not be refunded.**

1. Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with a Bachelor's degree in a business-related field and two (2) years of full-time paid clerical, administrative or office management experience which shall have involved maintaining computerized financial records in a database or spreadsheet application and preparing reports. One (1) year of qualifying experience must have included supervision and/or responsibility for the direction of an organizational segment; **OR**
2. Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or one accredited by the New York State Board of Regents to grant degrees with an Associate's degree in a business-related field and four (4) years of full-time paid clerical, administrative or office management experience which shall have involved maintaining computerized financial records in a database or spreadsheet application and preparing reports. One (1) year of qualifying experience must have included supervision and/or responsibility for the direction of an organizational segment; **OR**
3. Graduation from high school or possession of an equivalency diploma and six (6) years of full-time paid clerical, administrative or office management experience which shall have involved maintaining computerized financial records in a database or spreadsheet application and preparing reports. One (1) year of qualifying experience must have included supervision and/or responsibility for the direction of an organizational segment.

**DUTIES:** The work involves responsibility for performing highly complex duties and administrative support tasks to further the overall work of the department or program assigned by handling the details of the business office management procedures, collecting information and data for administrative studies and determinations and making recommendations of methods for handling a wide variety of administrative problems. Specific tasks vary depending on the functional area and program objectives of the agency to which the employee is assigned. Incumbents typically serve as a personal secretary to a department head relieving them of administrative and business detail and resolving day-to-day operational problems. The Administrative Assistant position is characterized by substantial contact with agency clients and/or the general public to explain program services, requirements, etc., by managing complex records systems. The incumbent will be responsible for entering and retrieving information from a computer database/ spreadsheet and query and generate reports as required to support technical and professional staff involved in a program. This is important office management and liaison work performed under the general supervision of an administrator with considerable leeway allowed for the use of independent judgment in carrying out the details of the work. Supervision may be exercised over the work of clerical subordinates. Does related work as required.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY OR POSTMARKED BY THE FILING DEADLINE.  
YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE DISAPPROVED IF PAYMENT IS NOT RECEIVED BY THE FILING DEADLINE.**

**FILING DEADLINE**

**JANUARY 11, 2021**

A **non-refundable \$15.00 application fee** is required.  
Apply and pay online or submit a check or money order  
payable to: **Niagara County Civil Service**

**ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED: December 14, 2020**

**EXAMINATION DATE**

**MARCH 6, 2021**

**NOTICE TO CANDIDATES:** The use of calculators is **RECOMMENDED**. Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, solar or battery powered calculators. Devices with typewriter keyboard such as computers, spell checkers, personal digital assistants, address books, language translators, dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited. **Cell phones and smart watches are prohibited.**

**DRUG SCREENING:** Applicants may be required to undergo a drug-screening test to determine suitability for appointment in accordance with local policies. Applicants who test positive may be restricted from future certification.

**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.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR APPOINTMENT IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOCES:** Per chapter 180 of the Laws of 2000, and by Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, to be employed in a position designated by a school district or BOCES as involving direct contact with students, a clearance for employment from the State Education Department is required.

**FEE WAIVERS:** Waivers for the filing fee must be completed in full and submitted with required documentation or your application will be disapproved.

**SUBJECT OF EXAMINATION:** There will be a written test which you must pass in order to be considered for appointment. The written test will be designed to test for knowledge, skills, and/or abilities in such areas as:

1. **Preparing written material:** These questions test for the ability to present information clearly and accurately, and to organize paragraphs logically and comprehensibly. For some questions, you will be given information in two or three sentences followed by four restatements of the information. You must then choose the best version. For other questions, you will be given paragraphs with their sentences out of order. You must then choose, from four suggestions, the best order for the sentences.
2. **Understanding and interpreting written material:** These questions test for the ability to understand and interpret written material. You will be presented with brief reading passages and will be asked questions about the passages. You should base your answers to the questions **only** on what is presented in the passages and **not** on what you may happen to know about the topic.
3. **Office management:** These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices of planning, organizing and controlling the activities of an office and directing those performing office activities so as to achieve predetermined objectives such as accomplishing office work within reasonable limits of time, effort and cost expenditure. Typical activities may include but will not be restricted to: simplifying and improving procedures, increasing office efficiency, improving the office work environment and controlling office supplies.
4. **Supervision:** These questions test for knowledge of the principles and practices employed in planning, organizing, and controlling the activities of a work unit toward predetermined objectives. The concepts covered, usually in a situational question format, include such topics as assigning and reviewing work; evaluating performance; maintaining work standards; motivating and developing subordinates; implementing procedural change; increasing efficiency; and dealing with problems of absenteeism, morale, and discipline.
5. **Working with office records:** These questions test your ability to work with office records. 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 numerical data from several sources; maintaining a record system using running balances; or completion of a table summarizing data using totals, subtotals, averages and percents. **You should bring with you a hand-held battery- or solar-powered calculator for use on this test.** You will **not** be permitted to use the **calculator** function of your **cell phone**.

The New York State Department of Civil Service has not prepared a test guide for this examination. However, candidates may find information in the publication 'General Guide to Written Tests' helpful in preparing for this test. This publication is available on line at: <https://www.cs.ny.gov/testing/testguides.cfm>.

**CANDIDATES NOTE:** You are responsible for completing all sections of the official application. To receive credit for experience on a job, basic information such as address, name and title of supervisor, hours in the work week, final salary, and duties performed by you, must be shown. Be very specific in explaining experience that will qualify you for the position sought. Ambiguity and vagueness will not be resolved in your favor. **EACH SEPARATE SHEET ATTACHED TO THE APPLICATION MUST BE SIGNED.**

**MULTIPLE EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME DAY:** If you have applied to take a written test announced by either one or several local jurisdictions (county, town, city) scheduled to be held on the same test date as this written test, you must notify each of the local jurisdictions no later than two weeks before the test date, so they can make arrangement for taking all tests at one test site. All examination for positions in State government will be held at a State Examination Center.

**COLLEGE CREDITS MUST BE VERIFIED WITH AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT.** If you have listed college or special courses on your application it will be necessary for you to submit an official transcript or special course certificate. **Documents can be submitted electronically or in hardcopy format but must be on official letterhead or stationary. If these documents are not on file prior to canvassing/certification for vacant positions, your name will not be canvassed/certified and your name will be removed from consideration for all appointments.**

This examination will be 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 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.

Please review [IMPORTANT EXAMINATION INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES](#)