



Vision, Hearing, and Spinal Screening Program (VHSS) Military, Military Spouses, and Veterans Provisional Certificates

Background

Senate Bill 1818, 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025 requires VHSS to issue a military service member, a military veteran, or a military spouse a provisional certificate upon submission of a completed application. To qualify, the applicant must hold a current screener certificate in good standing from another jurisdiction with certification requirements substantially equivalent to Texas.

Preparing to Apply

Please have the following information ready to submit with the application:

- Contact information (first and last name, address, phone number, email address);
- Documentation of military status (military service member, military veteran, or military spouse);
- Type of certification request (Basic: Vision, Hearing, and/or Spinal Screening Certification; Instructor: Vision, Hearing, and/or Spinal Screening Certification);
- Proof of current out-of-state certification for the screener certificate type for which you are applying; and
- Relevant credentials and experience.

Application Process

Complete an online application (Qualtrics survey). [Official Live Link](#)

Applicants will receive a provisional screener certificate after submitting a complete application. The approximate application turnaround time is 3 business days to receive a provisional certificate. The provisional certificate is valid while the applicant's out-of-state credentials are reviewed by the program. The process from complete application receipt to a final full certification determination is approximately 60 business days. An issued provisional certificate expires on the earlier of:

- (1) the date the agency approves or denies the provisional certificate holder's license application; or
- (2) the 180th day after the date the provisional certificate was issued.

VHSS will issue a full vision, hearing, or spinal screening certificate after verifying the applicant's out-of-state screener certificate and determining the training program is sufficiently similar to the VHSS training program. VHSS may contact the applicant to request additional information.

If the criteria are met:

- A VHSS staff member will provide the applicant with Texas-specific screening information including screening manuals and reporting requirements; and
- VHSS will issue a full certificate valid for five years.



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

If the criteria are not met:

- VHSS will notify the applicant via email that the certificate application is denied, and the provisional certificate is no longer valid effective the day after the email is sent; and
- VHSS will direct the applicant to Texas screener certification training opportunities in their area.

Questions

Contact VHSS Customer Service at vhssprogram@dshs.texas.gov.