

OREGON LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION

Alcohol Service Permits

OLCC's alcohol service permits are designed to ensure that eligible, trained people sell, serve or mix alcohol at licensed businesses that allow on-premises alcohol consumption responsibly and in compliance with Oregon's liquor laws.

Responsible alcohol service

Serving alcohol is serious business. Responsible alcohol service ensures that Oregon restaurants, bars, clubs and taverns watch out for the safety of their customers, neighbors, and communities. A decision to sell or refuse alcohol sales to underage customers or intoxicated persons can literally be a life-or-death decision. Oregon law recognizes the importance of responsible alcohol service by requiring an alcohol service permit for people who mix, sell or serve alcohol to customers at on-premises licensed businesses where customers can legally drink alcoholic beverages. People who manage alcohol servers are also required to have a permit. Servers must be at least 18 years old, but are limited in their duties until they are 21. Currently, there are approximately 158,000 valid alcohol service permit holders (permittees) in Oregon. This year the OLCC expects to process more than 36,000 service permit applications.

Application process

A person applies for a permit by completing an application form that includes identifying information and questions about any criminal or drunk-driving convictions the applicant may have. People who have not previously had an alcohol service permit application denied or a service permit canceled are allowed to work as alcohol servers as soon as they have completed an application and it has been endorsed by their employer. The employer is responsible for immediately sending the completed application and \$23 fee to the OLCC. If a person is not currently employed but wants to apply for a permit, they can bring the completed application to their local OLCC office along with the \$23 fee and an OLCC employee can endorse the application.

Background checks

The OLCC reviews applicants for eligibility requirements, and conducts background checks to verify that applicants have accurately reported their criminal history. Not every person qualifies for an alcohol service permit. People who have recent or multiple convictions for driving under the influence of intoxicants (DUI), violating liquor laws, felony drug crimes, felony crimes of violence, or felony driving-while- suspended or revoked may not qualify for a service permit. In addition, persons who have a habit of abusing alcohol or controlled substances may not qualify for a permit, unless they can establish that they are no longer using these substances, and are participating in or have completed a state-approved alcohol or drug treatment program, and have completed

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The mission of the OLCC is to promote the public interest through the responsible sale and service of alcoholic beverages.

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any parole or probation requirements. If the OLCC proposes to deny an application, the applicant has the right to an administrative hearing to contest the agency's action.

Alcohol server education course and test

All applicants must take an OLCC-approved alcohol server education course - in person or online - and pass a test no later than 45 days after the OLCC receives their application. The course teaches students about Oregon's alcohol service laws and covers key concepts of responsible alcohol sales and service, including recognizing signs of intoxication, checking identification, and preventing alcohol sales to minors and intoxicated persons. At the end of the course, students demonstrate their knowledge of the course materials by taking a scored exam. Applicants now have the option of taking the course and exam at a live in-class format or online.

Results and renewals

Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements for a permit, take the alcohol server education course, and pass the exam are issued an alcohol service permit. The permit is valid for five years from the date of completion of the alcohol server education course. Applicants who have taken and passed the initial class within the past seven years may renew their service permit by either repeating the initial class or taking a renewal course. The passing exam score is higher for a renewal course.

Public safety

The alcohol server education course increases an alcohol server's awareness of the problems associated with alcohol over-service and abuse, and gives the server information and skills needed to sell and serve alcohol responsibly. Trained servers are less likely to sell to minors or intoxicated persons, and are better able to detect and prevent alcohol-related problems. Permittees who violate liquor laws are subject to OLCC administrative penalties. These penalties range from written reprimands to fines, or the suspension or cancellation of a service permit. Eligibility requirements for holding a permit help the OLCC ensure that people who serve alcohol are likely to follow alcohol laws and rules. As a result, the vast majority of OLCC-licensed businesses sells alcohol safely and responsibly, and they don't create problems for their customers, neighbors or communities.