

30-Day Master Electrician Exam Prep Checklist

A day-by-day NEC 2026 study plan for both portions of the Master electrician exam — open book, National Electrical Code. Print it, check it, pass it.

The Four-Week Structure

- Week 1: NEC Knowledge Foundations — Register for both portions, prepare your NEC 2026, and master the definitions, theory, services and service-equipment knowledge at the top of the KNOW blueprint.
- Week 2: NEC Knowledge, Remaining Areas — Feeders, branch circuit conductors, wiring methods, equipment and devices, motors, control devices, special occupancies and renewable energy: the rest of the ten KNOW subject areas.
- Week 3: Calculations Foundations — The 125% continuous-load rule, service/SDS sizing, feeder and branch-circuit calculations, wiring-method calcs and Motors & Generators, per the CALC blueprint.
- Week 4: Simulations & Mock Exam — Full-length CALC and KNOW simulations, open-book navigation speed drills, targeted weak-area review from your mistake log, and a complete mock exam on day 30.

Week 1: NEC Knowledge Foundations: Register, Code Setup & Core Articles (TX-MST-KNOW)

Register for both exam portions, get your NEC 2026 ready, and build the definitions, theory, services and service-equipment knowledge the NEC Knowledge portion tests first.

Day 1: Register & Review the Official Exam Requirements

- & Confirm you meet TDLR's master electrician eligibility — a Texas journeyman license held for at least 2 years plus 12,000 hours of on-the-job training under a Texas-licensed master electrician — and that your TDLR application is approved.
- & Register with PSI and schedule both portions of the Texas Master electrician exam: TX-MST-KNOW and TX-MST-CALC.
- & Note the official format: NEC Knowledge (75 items in 150 minutes — 70 scored + 5 unscored pretest) and Calculations (33 items in 170 minutes — 30 scored + 3 unscored), both open book (NEC 2026) and both scored at 70% to pass.

Day 2: Take a Full Diagnostic Quiz

- & Log in to Master Electrician Practice and take one full diagnostic quiz spanning the ten NEC Knowledge subject areas.
- & Record your scores by subject area to identify weak areas before you start.
- & Review every wrong answer and read the provided NEC 2026 code references.

Day 3: Prepare Your NEC 2026 Code Book

- & Get the soft-bound NEC 2026 — the code edition permitted at the Texas test center.
- & Install manufacturer tabs for every chapter so you can flip to Chapter 2, the Chapter 9 tables, or the motor tables in Article 430 in seconds.
- & Learn the overall map: Ch. 1 General, Ch. 2 Wiring & Protection, Ch. 3 Wiring Methods & Materials, Ch. 4 Equipment for General Use, Ch. 5 Special Occupancies, Ch. 6 Special Equipment, Ch. 7 Special Conditions, Ch. 8 Communications, Ch. 9 Tables.

Day 4: Definitions, Theory & Plans (7 scored KNOW items)

- & Work through the key defined terms in Article 100: ampacity, bonding jumper, branch circuit, feeder, grounded conductor, grounding electrode, dwelling unit, continuous load, and raceway.
- & Review basic electrical theory: Ohm's law, series and parallel circuits, power ($P = V \times I$), and Article 90 scope and purpose.
- & Take a 15-question definitions quiz on Master Electrician Practice with the code open.

Day 5: Services & Service Equipment (11 scored KNOW items)

- & Study Article 230: service disconnecting means location (230.70), number of disconnects (230.71), and minimum size of service conductors (230.42).
- & Understand the difference between service conductors, service-entrance conductors and feeders, plus service equipment rating (230.79).
- & Complete 20 service questions with the code open — this subject area carries the most weight on the entire exam.

Day 6: Separately Derived Systems & Grounding (part of Services/SDS)

- & Master grounding for separately derived systems in 250.30 and the grounding electrode system in 250.50–250.53.
- & Study Table 250.66 sizing of the grounding electrode conductor and 250.122 equipment grounding conductor sizing.
- & Complete 15 SDS and grounding questions — expect these to appear under the Services/SDS banner on both portions.

Day 7: Week 1 Review & Timed Navigation Drill

- & Revisit your diagnostic scores from Day 2 — which subject areas need the most work?
- & Run a timed open-book navigation drill: 20 lookups across Articles 90–250, each under 45 seconds, index-first.
- & Log every lookup you missed and the exact section you should have flipped to.

Week 2: NEC Knowledge: Feeders, Branch Circuits, Wiring Methods & Remaining Areas (TX-MST-KNOW)

The rest of the KNOW blueprint: feeders, branch circuit conductors, wiring methods, equipment, motors, control devices, special occupancies and renewable energy.

Day 8: Feeders (4 scored KNOW items)

- & Study 215.2 (minimum feeder size) and 215.3 (feeder overcurrent protection).
- & Review Article 225 requirements for outside branch circuits and feeders.
- & Take a 15-question quiz on feeders and services with the code open.

Day 9: Branch Circuit Conductors (11 scored KNOW items)

- & Review 210.19 and 210.20: minimum conductor size and overcurrent protection for branch circuits.
- & Study 210.8 (GFCI protection) and 210.12 (AFCI protection) — memorize where each is required.
- & Complete 20 branch-circuit questions — this subject area ties with Services/SDS for the biggest share of the KNOW portion.

Day 10: Wiring Methods & Materials (7 scored KNOW items)

- & Review Article 300 general wiring methods: protection of conductors, supports, and splices.
- & Study Article 310: conductor ampacity and the 60°C/75°C/90°C columns in the ampacity tables, plus adjustment factors for ambient temperature and bundling.
- & Take a 20-question quiz on wiring methods and ampacity.

Day 11: Equipment & Devices (8 scored KNOW items)

- & Review 404.14 (switch ratings) and Article 406 (receptacle ratings, tamper-resistant and GFCI receptacle rules).
- & Study Article 408 panelboard requirements: 408.30 and 408.36 overcurrent protection.
- & Complete 20 questions on devices and panelboards.

Day 12: Motors & Generators (7 scored KNOW items)

- & Learn motor circuits: 430.22 (conductor sizing), 430.52 (branch-circuit short-circuit protection), and 430.102 disconnects.
- & Know how to use the motor full-load current tables (430.248, 430.250) — they anchor most motor questions.
- & Complete 20 questions — expect motor questions on both exam portions.

Day 13: Control Devices, Disconnecting Means & Special Occupancies (3 + 8 scored KNOW items)

- & Study control devices and disconnecting means: 430.102–430.109 motor disconnects and controller requirements, plus the general disconnecting means rules in Article 230.
- & Get a working overview of Chapter 5 special occupancies: Article 500 hazardous locations basics and Article 517 health care facilities.
- & Take a 15-question quiz on control devices and special occupancies.

Day 14: Renewable Energy & Week 2 Review (4 scored KNOW items)

- & Review Article 690 solar photovoltaic systems basics and Article 625 electric vehicle supply equipment.
- & Take a 40-question mixed open-book quiz covering Days 8–13 content.
- & Log every missed question and its code reference; spend 1 hour on your weakest topic from this week.

Week 3: Calculations Foundations: Services, Feeders & Conductors (TX-MST-CALC)

Switch to the Calculations blueprint: the 125% continuous-load rule, service/SDS sizing, feeder and branch-circuit calculations, conductor ampacity and fill.

Day 15: Calculations & Theory Basics (2 scored CALC items)

- & Learn the TX-MST-CALC blueprint: Services/SDS (8 scored items), Motors & Generators (6), Branch Circuit Calculations & Conductors (4), Feeders (3), plus the smaller areas — 30 scored items total.
- & Master the 125% continuous-load rule, and remember that all conductors are considered copper unless the question says otherwise.
- & Set up your non-programmable calculator and review Ohm's law and the power formulas cold.

Day 16: Services & SDS Calculations (8 scored CALC items)

- & Practice service-entrance conductor sizing per 230.42: 100% of the noncontinuous load plus 125% of the continuous load.
- & Work service disconnect rating problems (230.79) and separately derived system sizing and grounding calculations.
- & Solve 10 service/SDS problems step by step with the code open — the biggest area on the CALC portion.

Day 17: Feeder Calculations (3 scored CALC items)

- & Practice minimum feeder ampacity per 215.2: 125% of the continuous load plus 100% of the noncontinuous load.
- & Apply feeder overcurrent protection per 215.3 and select feeder conductors from the Article 310 tables.
- & Solve 10 feeder problems covering the CALC format.

Day 18: Branch Circuit Calculations & Conductors (4 scored CALC items)

- & Practice branch-circuit conductor sizing per 210.19 using the 60°C, 75°C and 90°C columns.
- & Apply the terminal temperature limits from 110.14(C) and the small-conductor rules in 240.4(D).
- & Solve 10 branch-circuit sizing problems.

Day 19: Wiring Methods, Equipment & Devices Calculations (2 + 2 scored CALC items)

- & Practice box fill per 314.16 and conduit/raceway fill using the Chapter 9 tables and notes.
- & Review voltage drop basics and the equipment/device calculation questions (the two scored CALC items for Equipment & Devices).
- & Solve 10 fill and wiring-method problems — these are classic CALC questions.

Day 20: Motors & Generators Calculations (6 scored CALC items)

- & Use the motor full-load current tables (430.248, 430.250) per 430.6(A)(1) and size branch-circuit conductors per 430.22 (125% of the full-load current).
- & Practice branch-circuit short-circuit and ground-fault protection sizing per 430.52 with the standard ratings in 240.6.
- & Solve 12 motor problems — Motors & Generators is the second-biggest area on the CALC portion.

Day 21: Week 3 Review & Timed CALC Drill

- & Take a 25-item timed CALC drill (80 minutes, open book) covering Services/SDS, Feeders, Branch Circuits, Motors and the one-item areas (Control Devices, Special Occupancies, Renewable Energy).
- & Double-check every demand factor and 125% application in your review.
- & Log every miss with its code reference and redo the problems you got wrong.

Week 4: Full Simulations, Weak-Area Review & the Day-30 Mock Exam

Two full-length portion simulations, targeted weak-area drills, code-navigation speed work — then a complete mock exam on day 30.

Day 22: Full TX-MST-CALC Simulation

- & Take a full-length Calculations simulation: 33 items, 170 minutes, open book, no interruptions.
- & Use only your NEC 2026 and a non-programmable calculator; aim for 70%+ on the 30 scored items.
- & Review every miss afterwards and log the reference.

Day 23: Calculations Weak-Area Review

- & Review your CALC simulation results and re-drill Services/SDS and Motors problems — the two areas that carry 14 of the 30 scored CALC items.
- & Target sub-2-minute lookup-plus-math per calculation problem.
- & Redo every missed calculation until you can solve it without peeking at the answer.

Day 24: Full TX-MST-KNOW Simulation

- & Take a full-length NEC Knowledge simulation: 75 items, 150 minutes, open book, no interruptions.
- & Mark questions you guessed on and come back to them.
- & Review every miss; target 70%+ overall on the 70 scored items.

Day 25: NEC Knowledge Weak-Area Review

- & Review your KNOW simulation results and re-drill Branch Circuit Conductors and Services — the two 11-item subject areas.
- & Run timed index-first navigation drills in your weak articles; a full lookup should take under 45 seconds.
- & Re-tab or re-highlight any sections you kept hunting for.

Day 26: Open-Book Navigation Speed Drills

- & Drill 40 mixed lookup questions across all ten KNOW subject areas, timed, code open.
- & Goal: every lookup under 45 seconds with the right section on the first or second flip.
- & Log your slowest article groups and drill them again after a short break.

Day 27: Weak-Area Review from the Full Mistake Log

- & Revisit the mistake log you have kept since Day 1 and identify your 2–3 worst subject areas across both portions.
- & Spend the day on targeted practice in exactly those areas — no new general content.
- & Ask the AI Tutor to explain any code requirement that still does not click.

Day 28: Light Review & Mistake Log Consolidation

- & No new content. Skim your notes and mistake log only.
- & Rehearse the numbers cold: the 125% continuous rule, the standard ratings in 240.6, and which article owns which topic (230 services, 250 grounding, 430 motors).
- & Review the day-30 mock plan and how you will split the two portions.

Day 29: Rest & Exam-Day Prep

- & No studying beyond light review — let the material consolidate.
- & Prepare exam-day materials: photo ID, TDLR approval notice, soft-bound NEC 2026 with tabs, and a non-programmable calculator.
- & Go to bed early. Aim for 8 hours of sleep.

Day 30: Final Mock Exam Day

- & Sit the full mock back to back with a short break: TX-MST-KNOW (75 items, 150 minutes) then TX-MST-CALC (33 items, 170 minutes) — open book, strictly timed, no interruptions.
- & Score yourself at 70% on each portion's scored items, just like the real exam.
- & Review every miss, then schedule your real exam at PSI — you are ready.

Tips for Maximizing This Checklist

1. Consistency over intensity: Studying 2 hours every day is vastly more effective than cramming 8 hours on weekends.
2. Always study with the code open: Both exam portions are open book — every practice question is also a navigation drill.
3. Track your weak areas: After every quiz and simulation, log the articles you got wrong. Spend the next day reviewing them.
4. Simulate real exam conditions: In Week 4, run simulations in a quiet room with no phone, a strict timer, and only your NEC 2026 and calculator.
5. Use the Master Electrician Practice AI Tutor: When a code requirement does not click, ask the AI Tutor to explain it in plain language.

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