

BERGEN COUNTY LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY INSTITUTE  
POLICE, FIRE, AND EMS ACADEMIES  
281 CAMPGAW ROAD MAHWAH, NJ 07430

**BECOMING A CORRECTIONS OFFICER IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

Becoming a Corrections Officer in New Jersey is an extremely difficult task to accomplish. The rewards are worth the effort and sacrifice. An applicant begins by taking the NJ Department of Personnel (DOP) Civil Service test that is administered every other year. Your score, in addition to some other factors, will determine whether or not you will be contacted via writing from an agency in reference to filing paperwork for an application or interview process; this is called your certification. Once an applicant is certified by an agency, they will usually meet with an agency representative to fill out an employee application packet. If at that time, the agency is still interested in the applicant, a background check will be started on the applicant.

The next step in the process will be for the applicant to produce original documentation in reference to birth certificates, academic records, driving records, residency records, etc. Team of detectives will verify ALL information provided by the applicant. If moved forward the applicant will next undergo a series of physical, mental and psychological examinations in which ALL tests must be passed. The final step in this process is for the applicant to be officially hired by the agency and sent to the Bergen County Law & Public Safety Institute (Police Academy). While at the Academy, the new Correction Officer recruit will undergo an extensive physical training program, along with an intense defensive tactics and academics program.

Daily the recruit will be tested on their physical and mental capabilities. Some of the physical aspects include but are not limited to: warm-up exercises, running, push-ups, crunches and weight lifting. Academics that the recruit must learn include information on laws governing NJ, use of force, fire-arms laws and weapons techniques, First Responder, communication skills, report writing, how to use a PR-24 (protect and restrain) baton, and much more.

Defensive tactical skills are taught weekly to show the recruit the many different ways to defend one's self with limited potential injury. These skills start with basic kicking, punching, moving and simple exercises to help strengthen body muscle, and then move on to more complicated techniques. Eventually, all of these skills are put together as recruits learn to defend themselves in situations such as jail cell extractions. These are only some of the skills that a Correction Officer recruit will be taught and expected to become proficient in by graduation. Some other classes that the recruits of the Bergen County Law & Public Safety Institute (Police Academy) have to attend include: firearms laws and qualifications with a pistol (handgun) as well as a shotgun, both during daylight and nighttime hours, proper documentation classes, use of force, title 2C ( laws governing NJ), title 10A (laws governing prisons in NJ), how to use a side-handled and ASP baton, handcuffing, etc. Becoming a Correction Officer is an exciting career. There is a great deal of room for advancement and opportunity in different divisions as well as good pay and benefits packages. If you are willing to work hard and have a career that is extremely rewarding then Correction Officer is a career worth pursuing.

NJ Civil Service Commission: <http://www.nj.gov/csc/>