



COUNTY OF BERGEN  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
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## **ALTERNATE ROUTE**

The Alternate Route selection process will begin in February 2019. This process will be for the selection of qualified candidates for the July 2019 and January 2020 Basic Course for Police Officer training classes.

Please see the below announcement for all information pertaining to orientation, applying and testing.

We encourage you to continue making yourself a better candidate through education, community service and physical fitness training. Law Enforcement is a noble profession and we are looking for outstanding candidates to compete for the positions. Good luck to all who apply

The Bergen County Law and Public Safety Institute provides an alternate route program for our July 2019 and our January 2020 basic police class.

We will begin the selection process in February 2019. Only 240 applications will be taken for the exam. We will begin taking the applications after both orientations are completed.

Applications will be given out at the orientation which will be conducted at the Bergen County Law and Public Safety Institute. Please review the following information:

Do not call the academy all of your questions will be answered about the alternate route program during orientation

### **Defined**

In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:17B-69.1, an Alternate Route candidate is a person who does not hold a probationary or temporary appointment as a police officer, but who is seeking such an appointment. An Alternate Route candidate may enroll in the Basic Course for Police Officers provided that he or she:

(1) meets the general qualifications for a police officer set forth in N.J.S.A. 40A:14-122, and such other qualifications as the Commission may deem appropriate; and

(2) applies to and is accepted by a Commission approved school for admission to a police training course. Entrance Requirements: Alternate Route applicants must meet the standards required under N.J.S.A. 52:17B-69.1, including the general qualifications for a police officer as set forth pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:14-122:

(1) is a citizen of the United States;

(2) is sound in body and of good health sufficient to satisfy the board of trustees of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System of New Jersey as to his eligibility for membership in the retirement system;

(3) is able to read, write and speak the English language well and intelligently;

(4) is of good moral character, and has not been convicted of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude.

The Commission has established an education standard for Alternate Route applicants, requiring a minimum of 60 academic credits earned (prior to the application date) from a regionally accredited or Middle States accredited college or university, in order to be considered for admission to the Alternate Route Program.

The Police Training Commission recognizes the contributions and sacrifices made by military veterans for the safety, security and freedom of our society. Qualified veterans must successfully complete every component of the selection process with a minimum qualifying score. An individual who has served in the military but is not a qualified veteran as defined by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and who is otherwise qualified, but has not earned 60 college credits, may substitute two years of full time, active duty military service, or a combination of college credits and full time active duty military service to satisfy the education requirement.

The following selection criteria shall be implemented by schools that participate in the Alternate Route Program. Each element shall be graded on a pass-fail basis with the exception of the written test and the structured interview. Candidates shall be ranked after the interview phase of the selection process. Final ranking will be a combination of the written score (60% of overall grade) and the structured interview (40% of overall grade). The interview will take the physical fitness performance test score into account. A ranking list shall be maintained by each school, clearly designating where each candidate placed on the eligibility list.

Remember as stated earlier every applicant must attend a mandatory orientation prior to applying to the Bergen County Alternate Route Program. This orientation will explain all the necessary steps of the Alternate Route process. **The applicant must attend either Saturday February 23, 2019 at 9 am OR Monday February 25, 2019 at 7pm. These orientations will be take place at the police academy. There is no registration necessary for the Orientation, just show up in proper attire.**

**The first 240 applications will be accepted starting on Thursday February 28, 2019 between the hours of 9 am and 3 pm. No applications will be accepted prior to Thursday morning.**

When dropping off the application you will need:

- Your completed application
- Certified Check or Money Order
- Printed out Proof of your completion of a minimum of 60 College Credits and or DD214

All candidates will be required to take the written exam and the top 40 will take the physical ability test:

Written Test - Monday March 11th at 7:00 pm – No one will be granted entrance after 6:45 pm

**ONLY THE TOP 40 ON THE WRITTEN WILL TAKE THE PHYSICAL ABLILITY TEST**

Physically Ability Test – Wednesday March 27th at 10 am. Dress to exercise.

This test is based on the Police Training Commission standards. The test will consist of sit-ups, push-ups, vertical jump, 300 meter dash and 1.5 mile run.

This is a statewide mandate and applies to all Police Training Academies in New Jersey.

Interview- will be for the top 30 applicants on the written test that successfully passed the physical ability test. We anticipate the interview dates to be in late March to early April.

A structured scoring system of your performance on the physical ability test will be counted towards your Interview score. The better you perform, the more points you will receive. A copy of the scoring breakdown will be available when you drop off your application.

Only those candidates chosen for the Alternate Route Program will be required to take the following tests:

- Psychological Exam
- Medical Exam
- Drug Test
- Background Investigation

The testing process is competitive for the few seats available. We anticipate 5 Alternate Route Trainee slots available to each class Summer 2019 and Spring 2020. The numbers of slots available are contingent on the number of recruits in the academy and the Bergen County Law and Public Safety Institute reserves the right to set their own limit in accordance with the Police Training Commission Alternate Route Policy.

The above policy is a state wide policy as determined by the Police Training Commission.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (<http://www.msche.org/>) has an Institution Directory [http://www.msche.org/institutions\\_directory.asp?txtRange=b](http://www.msche.org/institutions_directory.asp?txtRange=b)