

Basic Course for County Correction Officers

Essex County Police Academy

A career as a **County Correctional Police Officer in New Jersey** requires professionalism, discipline, sound judgment, physical fitness, and a commitment to public safety. Officers are entrusted with maintaining the safety and security of correctional facilities while protecting fellow officers, staff, inmates, and the public.

Newly appointed County Correctional Police Officers are required to successfully complete a training program approved by the **New Jersey Police Training Commission (PTC)**.

The **Essex County Police Academy Basic Course for County Correction Officers** provides recruits with the academic knowledge, practical skills, physical conditioning, and professional foundation necessary to begin a career in county corrections.

Becoming a County Correctional Police Officer

The hiring process is conducted by the individual employing agency and may vary depending upon the agency and applicable Civil Service requirements.

For Civil Service jurisdictions, prospective candidates may be required to participate in the applicable examination and certification process administered by the **New Jersey Civil Service Commission**.

Candidates selected to continue in an agency's hiring process may be required to successfully complete several stages, which can include:

- Employment application and document review
- Comprehensive background investigation
- Verification of education, employment, residency, driving, and other records
- Medical examination
- Drug screening
- Psychological evaluation
- Physical fitness assessment
- Additional examinations or interviews required by the employing agency

Candidates who successfully complete the employing agency's selection process may be appointed as County Correctional Police Officers and subsequently enrolled in an approved Police Training Commission academy.

Academy Training

Once appointed and enrolled at the **Essex County Police Academy**, recruits enter a structured and demanding training environment designed to prepare them for the responsibilities associated with working in a county correctional facility.

Training combines **academic instruction, physical conditioning, defensive tactics, firearms training, practical exercises, scenario-based training, and professional development.**

Recruits are evaluated throughout the Academy and must successfully satisfy all applicable Police Training Commission and Essex County Police Academy requirements.

Areas of Instruction

Training may include instruction and practical exercises in areas such as:

- Professional development and ethics
- New Jersey criminal law
- Correctional law and procedures
- Constitutional and legal issues
- Use of force
- Defensive tactics
- Firearms training and qualification
- Officer safety and survival
- Handcuffing and restraint techniques
- Searches and contraband control
- Inmate supervision and management
- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Report writing and documentation
- Emergency medical response
- Suicide awareness and prevention
- Crisis intervention
- Security procedures
- Emergency response
- Cell and facility operations
- Physical conditioning
- Practical and scenario-based exercises

The curriculum and required instructional hours are established in accordance with current **New Jersey Police Training Commission requirements.**

Physical Training

Physical conditioning is an important component of recruit training.

Recruits participate in a structured physical training program intended to develop the strength, endurance, mobility, and overall fitness necessary to perform the duties of a correctional police officer.

Physical training may include cardiovascular conditioning, calisthenics, strength and endurance exercises, defensive tactics, and other job-related physical activities.

Recruits are expected to arrive at the Academy physically prepared to participate in the program and must satisfy all applicable physical training and performance requirements.

Defensive Tactics and Officer Safety

Recruits receive extensive instruction in defensive tactics and officer-safety principles.

Training progresses from fundamental movement and control techniques to more advanced practical applications. Recruits learn techniques intended to safely control resistant individuals, apply restraints, protect themselves and others, and appropriately respond to incidents within a correctional environment.

Practical training may incorporate realistic scenarios designed to evaluate a recruit's ability to apply learned skills while exercising appropriate judgment, communication, teamwork, and adherence to use-of-force requirements.

Firearms Training

Recruits receive firearms instruction in accordance with applicable Police Training Commission standards.

Training includes firearms safety, legal considerations, proper handling, marksmanship, judgment, and required qualification courses. Recruits must successfully satisfy all applicable firearms training and qualification standards.

Academic Standards

The academic portion of the program is demanding. Recruits are responsible for learning and retaining a substantial amount of information relating to New Jersey law, correctional procedures, officer safety, use of force, communication, report writing, and other subjects necessary to perform their duties.

Written examinations, practical examinations, skills assessments, and other evaluations are administered throughout the program.

Recruits must successfully meet all applicable **academic, physical, firearms, practical skills, attendance, conduct, and performance standards** required for graduation.

Registration

Enrollment in the Basic Course for County Correction Officers is coordinated through the recruit's **appointing law enforcement or correctional agency**.

Important Registration Notice

Individuals cannot register themselves for this course. Recruits must first be appointed by an authorized agency and registered for Academy training by their employing agency.

Law enforcement and correctional agencies seeking to enroll recruits should contact the **Essex County Police Academy** for current class schedules, application materials, enrollment requirements, and submission deadlines.

A Career in County Corrections

Serving as a County Correctional Police Officer provides an opportunity to build a career in public safety while developing valuable experience in security operations, investigations, emergency response, supervision, and leadership.

The profession demands **integrity, professionalism, discipline, accountability, and respect**. Individuals willing to accept those responsibilities and successfully complete the hiring and training process can pursue a challenging and rewarding career serving the people of New Jersey.