

Alternate Route Program

Essex County Police Academy

The **Alternate Route Program**, established pursuant to **N.J.S.A. 52:17B-69.1**, provides qualified individuals interested in pursuing a career as a law enforcement officer with the opportunity to attend a certified New Jersey police training academy **at their own expense and prior to being hired by a law enforcement agency**.

The Essex County Police Academy's Alternate Route Program is designed for highly motivated individuals who are prepared to meet the academic, physical, professional, and ethical standards required of New Jersey law enforcement officers.

Successful completion of the Alternate Route Program **does not guarantee employment** with a law enforcement agency. However, graduates who successfully satisfy all applicable Police Training Commission requirements will have completed a certified Basic Course for Police Officers and may pursue employment with an eligible municipal, county sheriff's, or campus police department.

A graduate's eligibility for appointment under the Alternate Route Program is generally valid for a period of **three (3) years from the date of graduation**, subject to applicable New Jersey law and Police Training Commission requirements.

Information regarding upcoming Alternate Route Program application periods, testing dates, deadlines, and enrollment opportunities will be posted on the **Essex County Police Academy website** and through other appropriate public announcements.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants seeking admission to the Essex County Police Academy Alternate Route Program must meet all applicable requirements established by New Jersey law and the New Jersey Police Training Commission.

Applicants must:

- Be a **citizen of the United States**.
- Be of sound body and good health sufficient to satisfy applicable requirements for membership in the **Police and Firemen's Retirement System of New Jersey (PFRS)**.
- Be able to **read, write, and speak the English language well and intelligently**.
- Be of **good moral character** and meet all applicable background and character requirements for appointment as a New Jersey law enforcement officer.
- Be a **resident of the State of New Jersey** at the time of entry into the Academy.
- Possess and maintain a **valid New Jersey driver's license**.

- Be at least **18 years of age** and meet the applicable maximum-age requirements established by New Jersey law.
- Meet the applicable **educational and/or military service requirements** for admission to the Alternate Route Program.

Education / Military Service Requirement

An applicant must demonstrate that he or she possesses the education or qualifying military experience required under applicable New Jersey law and Police Training Commission standards.

This may include completion of at least **60 college credits** from an appropriately recognized institution or qualifying **active military service**, subject to current Police Training Commission requirements.

Selection Process

Admission to the Essex County Police Academy Alternate Route Program is **competitive**. Meeting the minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee selection or admission.

The selection process may include:

- Application and preliminary eligibility review
- Written examination
- Physical fitness/agility assessment
- Oral interview
- Comprehensive background investigation
- Medical examination
- Drug screening
- Psychological evaluation
- Any additional testing, documentation, or screening required by the Essex County Police Academy or New Jersey Police Training Commission

Applicants must successfully complete **each phase of the selection process** and remain eligible throughout the application and Academy process.

Important Notice

Applicants accepted into the Alternate Route Program are responsible for applicable **tuition, fees, uniforms, equipment, supplies, and other expenses** associated with attending the Academy.

Participation in or graduation from the Essex County Police Academy Alternate Route Program **does not constitute an offer or guarantee of employment** by Essex County or any other law enforcement agency.

All eligibility standards, admission requirements, testing procedures, and program requirements are subject to applicable New Jersey statutes, regulations, and **New Jersey Police Training Commission** policies in effect at the time of application and enrollment.

Application Information

When the Essex County Police Academy opens an Alternate Route Program application period, information regarding **applications, deadlines, testing dates, program costs, and required documentation** will be posted on the Academy's website.

Please do not submit application materials until an official Alternate Route Program application period has been announced by the Essex County Police Academy.