

Basic Course for Police Officers

Essex County Police Academy

The **Basic Course for Police Officers (BCPO)**, approved by the **New Jersey Police Training Commission (PTC)**, is designed for individuals who have been appointed as police officers by an authorized New Jersey law enforcement agency.

The course provides recruits with the knowledge, skills, physical conditioning, practical training, and professional standards necessary to perform the duties and responsibilities of a New Jersey police officer. Recruits must successfully complete the prescribed course of study and satisfy all applicable Police Training Commission requirements as a condition of certification.

The Essex County Police Academy is committed to providing a disciplined and professional training environment that prepares recruits to serve their agencies and communities with **integrity, professionalism, accountability, and respect.**

Registration

Enrollment in the Basic Course for Police Officers is completed **through the recruit's appointing law enforcement agency.**

Law enforcement agencies may request a complete application and registration package from the Essex County Police Academy. All required forms, documentation, and supporting materials must be completed and submitted to the Academy **no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled start of the class**, unless otherwise directed by the Academy.

Important Registration Notice

Individuals may not register themselves for the Basic Course for Police Officers. All recruits must be appointed and registered by an authorized law enforcement agency.

Submission of an application package does not constitute final acceptance into the class. All recruits must satisfy applicable eligibility, medical, documentation, and Police Training Commission requirements prior to enrollment.

Required Areas of Study

The Basic Course for Police Officers includes comprehensive classroom instruction, practical exercises, scenario-based training, physical conditioning, and performance evaluations in areas prescribed by the New Jersey Police Training Commission.

Required areas of instruction include:

- Professional Development
- Criminal Justice System
- Police-Community Relations
- Criminal Law
- Legal Requirements of Arrest, Search and Seizure
- Evidence
- Use of Force
- Communications
- Vehicle Operations
- Emergency Medical Care
- Weaponry
- Unarmed Defense
- Patrol Concepts
- Traffic
- Criminal Investigation
- Physical Training
- Agency Training

Course Standards

Recruits are expected to successfully meet all **academic, physical fitness, firearms, practical skills, attendance, conduct, and performance standards** established by the New Jersey Police Training Commission and the Essex County Police Academy.

Recruits are also expected to demonstrate the discipline, professionalism, integrity, judgment, and ethical conduct required of a New Jersey law enforcement officer throughout their Academy training.

Failure to satisfy applicable Academy or Police Training Commission requirements may result in remedial training, disciplinary action, or removal from the training program, as permitted by applicable policies and regulations.

Agency Information

Law enforcement agencies seeking to enroll a newly appointed officer should contact the **Essex County Police Academy** for current class dates, availability, application materials, submission requirements, and additional enrollment information.

All registration and enrollment correspondence must be coordinated through the recruit's appointing law enforcement agency.