

Becoming a Correctional Police Officer in New Jersey

Updated July 2025

A career as a County Correctional Police Officer (CCPO) in the State of New Jersey is both challenging and rewarding. The path requires dedication, physical and mental resilience, and a commitment to public service. However, the benefits—professional growth, job stability, excellent pay, and the ability to serve your community—make it a career worth pursuing.

Visit: <https://info.csc.nj.gov/jobspec/01400.htm> to learn more about the title of *County Correctional Police Officer*.

Step 1: Civil Service Examination

The first step toward becoming a CCPO is taking the New Jersey Civil Service Commission's (CSC) Law Enforcement Entry Examination (LEE). This competitive test is typically offered every other year, and scores are valid for a two-year period (or until list is exhausted).

Your exam results—along with veteran status, residency, and other factors—will determine your ranking on a certified list of eligible candidates. When an agency begins hiring, candidates from this list may be contacted to begin the application process.

Candidates can only apply during open application windows (announced via CSC website and job postings).

Each testing cycle uses a single test to rank applicants for many different law enforcement titles, and you can apply for multiple positions on the same test.

Visit: www.nj.gov/csc to apply or learn more about testing schedules.

Step 2: Application and Background Process

If selected for further consideration, candidates will be asked to complete an extensive pre-employment process, which includes:

- **Application Packet Submission:** Includes employment history, references, and personal background.
- **Background Investigation:** Conducted by trained investigators to verify all submitted information.
- **Interviews:** May include personal interviews and panel interviews.

Step 3: Medical & Psychological Testing

Applicants must successfully pass the following evaluations:

- Medical Examination
- Psychological Evaluation
- Drug Screening
- Vision and Hearing Tests

These assessments ensure that all candidates are physically and mentally capable of handling the demands of the role.

Step 4: Physical Fitness Assessment

All County Correctional Police Officer candidates must pass a standardized Physical Training Assessment before entering the academy per the New Jersey Police Training Commission. This is a pass/fail test.

Minimum Requirements (2025):

- 1.5 mile run: 19 minutes or less
- 300 meter sprint: 84 seconds or less
- Vertical jump: 12.5 inches or higher
- Push-ups: 19 in one minute
- Sit-ups: 22 in one minute

Step 5: Police Academy Training

Once hired by an agency, recruits are enrolled in a New Jersey Police Training Commission (PTC)-certified Basic Course for County Correctional Police Officers. For Bergen County recruits, this training is held at the Bergen County Law & Public Safety Institute in Mahwah, NJ.

Academy Training Includes:

- Physical Conditioning & Defensive Tactics
- Use of Force and De-escalation Training
- Title 2C & 10A Laws (NJ Criminal & Correctional Law)
- Firearms Training (Day & Night Qualifications)
- Emergency Response & First Responder Certification
- Communication and Report Writing
- Cell Extraction and Prisoner Control Tactics
- Handcuffing, Baton (PR-24 and ASP) Use, and Restraint Techniques

Recruits are held to high standards in both academic performance and physical readiness. Daily testing, strict structure, and intensive drills ensure that every graduating officer is prepared for the challenges of the profession.

Why Choose a Career in Corrections?

County Correctional Police Officers in New Jersey benefit from:

- Competitive salary and step increases
- Comprehensive health and retirement benefits
- Union representation and job security
- Promotional opportunities in specialized units and ranks
- The honor of serving and protecting the public

If you're willing to work hard, remain disciplined, and be a part of something bigger than yourself, County Correctional Police Officer is a career with purpose, pride, and progress.

For more information and application resources, visit:

New Jersey Civil Service Commission

www.nj.gov/csc

Civil Service Test Waiver for Law Enforcement Titles

As of January 2022, New Jersey law allows certain entry-level law enforcement hires to be exempt from taking the Civil Service Law Enforcement Entry Exam (LEE) under N.J. Stat. § 11A:4-1.3.

For opportunities with the Bergen County Sheriff's Office, you may wish to follow the below social media accounts:

<https://www.facebook.com/bergencountysheriff/>

https://www.instagram.com/bergen_county_sheriff/

For testing exempt opportunities in counties other than Bergen contact those agencies to see for more information.