



BECOMING A POLICE OFFICER IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Becoming a Police Officer in the state of New Jersey is an extremely difficult task to accomplish; however, the rewards immensely beneficial and worth the sacrifice. The process begins when an applicant takes the NJ Department of Personnel (DOP) **Civil Service**. The test is scored along with thousands of additional applicants' tests throughout the entire state of NJ. Your score, in addition to some other factors, will determine whether or not you will be contacted via writing from an agency in reference to filing paperwork for an application or interview process; this is called your certification.

Another type of testing process is called a **Chiefs Test**. This test is administered by each individual agency that is not a civil service department. A "Chiefs Test" agency can set the prerequisites on their application as they see fit. An example would be requiring a four year college degree or sixty college credits combined with military service. These agencies will require you to take a written exam, a physical fitness test and sit through several oral interviews in order to get hired.

For law enforcement, there are also other options with state and federal agencies in addition to prosecutor's offices within the state.

Once an applicant is certified by an agency, they will usually meet with an agency representative to fill out an employee application packet. If at that time, the agency is still interested in the applicant, a background check will be started on the applicant.

The third way of becoming a police officer is through the **Alternate Route** process. The Alternate Route Program is a program which the recruit pays their own way through the police academy. The process is similar to the Chiefs Test. There is a limited number of recruits allowed into each class so the testing process is extremely competitive. We tell individuals to expect to pay upwards of approximately \$5285. This price includes the tuition, medical testing, psychological testing, drug testing, uniforms, books and ammo. We will assist you with job placement but there are no guarantees. You must be hired within 3 years of your graduation date.

NJ Senate Bill No. 3672 SYNOPSIS: Permits exemption from civil service examinations the requirement for entry-level law enforcement officers, sheriff's officers, State and county correctional police officers; permits hiring or appointment of such officer under certain conditions and makes appropriation. You may contact a civil service department to inquire about them participating in this program.

The next step in the process will be for the applicant to produce original documentation in reference to birth certificates, academic records, driving records, residency records, etc. The extensive background investigation has now begun and a team of detectives will verify ALL information provided by the applicant, to verify that the applicant is of good sound character. If all is well with the applicant, a series of physical, medical and psychological examinations will be conducted and ALL tests must be passed.

The final step in this process is for the applicant to be officially hired by the agency and sent to the Bergen County Police Academy. While at the police academy, the new recruit will undergo an extensive physical training program as well as an intense defensive tactics and academics program in which the recruit will be tested every day on their physical and mental capabilities. Some of the physical aspects include but are not limited to: warm-up exercises, running, push-ups, crunches and calisthenics, to name just a few.

Academics that the recruit must learn include information on laws governing the state of NJ, use of force, fire-arms laws and weapons techniques, First Responder, communication skills, report writing, how to use a ASP baton, firearms qualification, Oleoresin Capsicum and much more.

Becoming a Police Officer is an exciting career. There may be room for advancement and opportunities in different divisions, as well as, good pay and benefits packages for you and your family. If you are willing to work hard and have a career that will pay off, Police Officer is definitely a career worth shooting for.

The following are some resources for you may utilize:

NJ Civil Service Commission nj.gov/csc

NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police njsacop.org

Police App policeapp.com

Bergen County Police Academy (Alternate Route Program) bergencountypoliceacademy.net

Physical Fitness Requirements

The Pre-Academy Entry Physical Agility Testing requirements for all NJ Police Training Commission Academies.

This is a PASS / FAIL event.

The events and minimum scores to pass are:

- **Vertical jump of 12.5 inches or more**
- **22 sit-ups in 1 minute or less**
- **300-meter run in 84 seconds or less**
- **19 push-ups in 1 minute or less**
- **1.5 mile run in 19:00 or less**