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BECOMING A CORRECTION OFFICER IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Becoming a Correction Officer in the state of New Jersey is an extremely difficult task to accomplish; however, the rewards are worth the sacrifice.

This process begins when an applicant takes the **NJ Department of Personnel (DOP) Civil Service** test that is administered every other year and scores are kept on file for two years. 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.

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 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 background interview has now begun its more extensive search and a team of detectives will verify ALL information provided by the applicant to verify that the applicant is of good sound character.

If the applicant is acceptable to this point, the applicant will undergo a series of physical, mental and psychological examinations in which 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 Academy. While at the Academy, the new Correction Officer 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 weight lifting, to name just a few.

Academics that the recruit must learn include information on laws governing the state of NJ, use of force, firearms laws and weapons techniques, first responder, communication skills, report writing, how to use a PR-24 (protect and restrain) baton, defensive tactics, cell extractions, and much more.

Some other classes that the recruits will have to attend include: firearms laws and qualifications with a pistol (hand-gun) as well as a shotgun, both during daylight hours and nighttime hours, training to extract violent prisoners who are unwilling to leave their cell blocks, proper documentation classes, use of force, title 2C (laws governing the state of NJ), title 10A (laws governing prisons in the state of NJ), how to use a side-handled baton as well as an ASP baton, handcuffing etc.

In conclusion, becoming a Correction Officer is an exciting career, but it not for everyone. You must be prepared to work holidays, weekends and various shifts. Correction Officers are public figures who must be able to withstand abusive language, at

times, take orders and set an example for those whom you serve. There is a great deal of room for advancement and opportunity 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, Correction Officer is definitely a career worth seeking.

Job Announcements and information can be found on sources such as:

- NJ Civil Service Commission www.nj.gov/csc
- NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police www.njsacop.org (under the Standards & Professional Services tab – police exam schedule)
- Your local newspaper

Physical Fitness Requirements

The Pre-Academy Entry Physical Agility Testing video on YouTube will fully explain and demonstrate the physical fitness testing requirements for all Academies, providing both the proper method and improper method to perform each exercise.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QajrRGIBIPk>

This is a PASS / FAIL event.

The events and minimum scores to pass are:

- 1.5 mile run in 15:55 or less
- 300 meter run in 70.1 seconds or less
- Vertical jump of 15 inches or more
- 24 push-ups in 1 minute or less
- 28 sit-ups in 1 minute or less