

Correctional Officer

Career Profile

Roles & Responsibilities

Correctional Officers oversee incarcerated people who are awaiting trial or serving time in a jail or correctional facility. Correctional Officers are responsible for enforcing rules, searching for contraband, and inspecting facilities to ensure the safety of all employees and inmates. Employment for this career is expected to increase by 5% through 2020.

Similar Job Titles

- Detention Officer
- Deputy Corrections Officer
- Jail Transport Officer

Work Environment

The majority of Correctional Officers work for federal, state, and local governments as well as private correctional facilities. Correctional Officers usually work 8 hour shifts, 5 days per week on rotating shifts. Since prison security is required 24 hours per day, Correctional Officers work around the clock including holidays and weekends.

Training Requirements

Working in corrections can be stressful and dangerous and requires special training. Correctional Officers must complete a training academy and often need a degree, work experience or a combination of the two. In many cases, industry certifications are needed as well.



Program at a Glance

SJVC's Corrections program includes the Academy and gives you training in the follow areas:

- Firearms Use
- Arrest & Control techniques
- Weaponless Defense
- Criminal Law
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Report Writing

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition, Correctional Officers, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/protective-service/correctional-officers.htm> (visited June 12, 2012).