

Correctional Officers



WHAT THEY DO

Guards inmates in penal or rehabilitative institutions in accordance with established regulations and procedures. May guard prisoners in transit between jail, courtroom, prison, or other point. Includes deputy sheriffs and police who spend the majority of their time guarding prisoners in correctional institutions. Belongs to the Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security cluster and the Corrections Services pathway.

SKILLS YOU NEED

Basic Skills:

- Reading Comprehension
- Active Listening
- Writing
- Speaking
- Mathematics
- Critical Thinking
- Active Learning
- Learning Strategies
- Monitoring

Transferable Skills (applicable in other careers):

High level

- Providing protective services

Medium level

- Collecting information about laws and regulations
- Compiling and cataloging written information
- Coordinating worker activities
- Working as a member of a protective service team

Workplace Skills:

High level

- Social Perceptiveness

Medium level

- Complex Problem Solving
- Coordination
- Instructing
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Negotiation
- Persuasion
- Service Orientation
- Time Management

Additional skills for this occupation may be found at <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/career-exploration-resources>

Source: <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

IS THIS FOR YOU?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model) by people who tend to succeed in this career:

- **Realistic**—You are “doer”. You like physical activities and projects. You like to find the answers to problems by doing hands-on work instead of talking about solutions.
- **Enterprising** – You are a “persuader”. You like to sell things or ideas. Prestige and power are important to you. You like to use your language skills to convince other people of your ideas.
- **Conventional**—You are an “organizer”. Keeping things neat and organized is important to you. You like working with charts and reports, and work well with power and authority.
- **Social**—You are a “helper”. You like being around people and helping them with problems. Socializing is fun for you.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

- **Relationships** – It's very important to you that you have friendly co-workers. You would like to be of service to others without compromising your sense of right or wrong.
- **Support**—It's very important to you to know the company stands behind the workers and has competent, considerate and fair management.

Aptitudes reflect a person's ability to acquire skills and knowledge. The following aptitudes are important for success in the career:

- **General Learning Ability**
- **Manual Dexterity**

ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2012 Estimated Employment	2022 Projected Employment	2012-22 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total, All Occupations	1,758,205	1,955,480	197,275	1.1	61,665
Protective Service Occupations	22,335	24,270	1,930	0.9	845
Correctional Officers & Jailers	3,130	3,275	140	0.4	95

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

2015 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Average Wage	Average Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Experienced Wage	Experienced Salary
Total, All Occupations	19.77	41,122	9.55	19,858	24.88	51,755
Protective Service Occupations	20.57	42,788	10.18	21,170	25.77	53,596
Correctional Officers & Jailers	22.42	46,637	16.26	33,825	25.50	53,043

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education	Work Experience	Job Training
High School Diploma	None	Moderate-Term On-The-Job

A high school diploma or graduation equivalency degree is required by all employers. The Federal Bureau of Prisons requires entry-level correctional officers to have at least a bachelor's degree; 3 years of full-time experience in a field providing counseling, assistance, or supervision to individuals; or a combination of the two. Some State and local corrections agencies require some college credits, but law enforcement or military experience may be substituted to fulfill this requirement. All institutions require correctional officers to be at least 18 to 21 years of age, be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, and have no felony convictions. Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0> and <https://secure.ihaveaplaniowa.gov/>

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	3
Locating Information	4
Reading for Information	4

This ACT-developed credential demonstrates achievement and a certain level of workplace employability skills. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6).

Source: <http://www.act.org/workkeys/analysis/occup.html>

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

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PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

(Where are Correctional Officers Employed?)

State Government
Local Government

Source: <http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections-0>