

Correctional Officers



OVERVIEW

Guard 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 Correction Services career cluster and the Law and Public Safety career pathway.

DOES THIS DESCRIBE YOU?

Work Interests involve descriptive categories (compatible with Holland's Model) attributed to success in this career:

- **Realistic**—Involves work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions; often dealing with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery.
- **Enterprising** – Involves starting up and carrying out projects; often leading people and making business decisions that sometimes require risk.
- **Conventional**—Enjoy following set procedures and routines developed through higher authority; includes working with data and details more than with ideas.

Work Styles depict worker characteristics conducive for this career:

- **Integrity**
- **Stress Tolerance**
- **Self Control**
- **Attention to Detail**
- **Dependability**

Work Values are associated with aspects of work that provide satisfaction in this career:

- **Relationships**—Provide service to others in noncompetitive environment.
- **Support**—Management backing.
- **Independence**—Autonomy; working on your own.

Aptitudes reflect an ability to acquire skills and knowledge for success in this career:

- **Oral Comprehension**
- **Oral Expression**
- **Problem Sensitivity**
- **Speech Clarity**
- **Speech Recognition**

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE NEEDED

Basic Skills:

- Social Perceptiveness
- Active Listening
- Speaking
- Critical Thinking
- Monitoring

Technology Skills:

- Data Base Management System Software
- Data Base User Interface and Query Software
- Office Suite Software
- Word Processing Software

Knowledge:

- Public Safety and Security
- Law and Government
- English Language
- Clerical
- Administration and Management

ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2014 Estimated Employment	2024 Projected Employment	2014-24 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total, All Occupations	1,795,100	1,949,240	154,140	0.9	58,145
Protective Service Occupations	22,265	23,745	1,475	0.7	670
Correctional Officers & Jailers	3,145	3,275	130	0.4	100

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

2017 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Mean Wage	Mean Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Exp Wage	Exp Salary
Total All Occupations	20.93	43,539	10.09	20,991	26.35	54,813
Protective Service Occupations	20.55	42,744	10.11	21,028	25.77	53,603
Correctional Officers & Jailers	23.64	49,171	17.23	35,832	26.85	55,841

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-employment-and-wages>

EDUCATION & TRAINING

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

A high school diploma is required for most correctional officer positions however many positions increasingly require (especially at the federal level) a bachelor's degree or comparable postsecondary training. Relevant experience may substitute for education. Sources: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections> and https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_education_training_system.htm

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level	Minimum Skill Level	Maximum Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	3	3	5
Locating Information	3	3	5
Reading for Information	4	3	5
Applied Technology	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Business Writing	3	2	4
Workplace Observation	3	2	3
Listening for Understanding	2	2	2

An ACT assessment-based credential issued in determining essential work skills needed for employment success across industries and occupations. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6 & higher). Source: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/workkeys-for-employers/assessments.html>

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

This workforce product was funded by a grant by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner. This publication was produced by the Labor Market and Workforce Information Division of Iowa Workforce Development. Updates, revisions, and/or corrections made periodically. Inquiries may be directed to Brent Paulson at 515.281.3439 or Brent.Paulson@iwd.iowa.gov. Visit www.iowalmi.gov to obtain the latest workforce data and trends including this document. Published 9/2017.

PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

(Where are Correctional Officers Employed?)

State Government
Local Government

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