



Correctional Officers In California

A Correctional Officer (CO) is an entry level State civil service peace officer with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). COs are responsible for protecting the public, staff, and inmates in a multitude of areas inside and outside the prison walls. A CO position with CDCR offers an individual an opportunity to grow, a different challenge each day, and a feeling of accomplishment.

Special Emergency Response Teams (SERT)
SERT teams respond to emergency situations inside the institutions as well as working in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies, if the need arises. Individuals on the SERT teams receive training with special weapons and are in excellent physical shape.



Dog Handler
Dog handlers and their dogs complete an eight week, two-part training session—the first session is for protection training and the second session is for narcotics detection training. The dogs are used mostly to detect narcotics inside the institutions.

Visit our web site
www.cdcr.ca.gov

Email our Recruiters
recruit@cdcr.ca.gov

To obtain an application for
the position of Correctional Officer
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**Work Towards a
Safer California**

Correctional Officer



**California
Correctional Careers**

Correctional Officers

Who can be a CO?

To be eligible to compete in the CO examination, you must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- Be at least 21 years old
- No felony convictions
- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident alien who is eligible for and has applied for U.S. citizenship before filing for the CO examination
- Graduate from a U.S. high school or have a GED or advanced degree
- History of law abiding behavior—this is critical when applying for a peace officer position such as CO

What does a CO do?

A CO works many different jobs, which may vary from day to day. In the course of a day, a CO may:

- Supervise inmates in housing areas
- Respond to the scene of a disturbance or emergency
- Visually survey institutional grounds from an armed tower or central security area
- Listen and watch for unusual sounds or sights that may indicate illegal activity

- Work as an entrance gate officer and search visitors and vehicles for contraband
- Maintain security and conduct periodic counts of inmates
- Write incident reports
- Transport inmates to court or medical facilities in the community
- Control inmates to court or medical facilities in the community
- Control inmate movement within the institution
- Perform searches of inmates and their living quarters or work assignment locations

What kind of training do COs complete?

Academy

Each CO cadet must first successfully complete a 16-week Basic Correctional Officer Academy (BCOA).

Apprentice Program

This two-year apprenticeship program combines on-the-job training with required course work taught at the institution.

What opportunities are available to COs?

COs work in many different locations—from inside institution walls, to rural conservation camps, to transporting prisoners from institution to institution and more.

After completing the probationary period, any CO may be considered for specialized assignments, such as:



relating to inmate crimes and may be assigned as an evidence officer, institutional photographer, tool control officer, or lead investigator during criminal proceedings (which would include working with the local District Attorney's office).

Where are the institutions located?

Currently, there are 33 Adult institutions throughout the state ranging from Pelican Bay near the Northern California coast to Calipatria near the Mexico border. Most prisons are located in rural areas.



Transportation

Inmates are transported from the reception centers to their permanent institution or to other institutions for medical care and reassignment. Inmates are also transported to or from other states. COs on the transportation teams play an important role in safely transporting California's inmate population.

Camp Officers

Camp officers are responsible for the safety, security and welfare of CDCR inmates in a rural camp setting. They work in conjunction with the Department of Forestry or other agencies during emergencies such as wildland fires, floods, and earthquakes by supervising inmate crews throughout the state.

Rangemaster/Armorers

Rangemasters/Armorers train and requalify CDCR peace officers in the proper use and handling of departmental firearms and chemical agents; they also maintain, service and repair departmental firearms.

Security and Investigations

Security and Investigations officers gather information

What are the pay and benefits?

The CDCR's pay for COs is very competitive with other law enforcement agencies and is among the highest pay for COs in the U.S. COs receive health, dental, and vision benefits. COs also earn vacation leave, sick leave, and holiday credits.

Upon permanent appointment to the CO position, individuals are enrolled in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and become members of the State Peace Officer/Firefighter safety retirement category.

