

# Now Hiring Correctional Officers

**\$7,500** Sign-on bonus

## Level I Institutions:

Goodman, Livesay, Manning, Palmer

**Base Salary: \$34,480**

## Level II Institutions:

Allendale, Camille Graham, Evans, Kershaw, Leath, MacDougall,  
Ridgeland, Trenton, Turbeville, Tyger River, Wateree River

**Base Salary: \$35,777**

**After 6 months: \$36,946**

## Level III Institutions:

Broad River, Kirkland, Lee, Lieber, McCormick, Perry

**Base Salary: \$37,813**

**After 6 months: \$38,982**

## Cadets

(18-20 yrs. old)

**Level II: \$31,049**

**Level III: \$32,907**

*Cadet converts to  
correctional officer  
at age 21.*



Call & ask for  
a recruiter

## BENEFITS

- 13 paid holidays per year*
- 3 weeks of annual leave accrued yearly*
- 3 weeks of sick leave accrued yearly*
- 15 days of military leave per year*
- Unlimited paid overtime available*
- Police Officers Retirement System (PORS)*
- Student Loan Forgiveness Program (SLFP)*
- VA OJT & apprenticeship programs*



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
*Safety, Service, and Stewardship*

[JoinSCDC.com](http://JoinSCDC.com)

# Correctional Officer Frequently Asked Questions

## **What are the requirements to be a correctional officer?**

Applicants considering a position as a correctional officer need a high school diploma or GED and a valid driver's license. No prior correctional or law enforcement experience is required. Correctional officers also need to be at least 21 years of age. SCDC has some cadet positions available for persons 18-20 years of age. There is no age maximum. If offered employment, applicants must pass a physical examination, which includes a drug test and a tuberculosis test.

## **I'm intimidated by the prospect of working in an institution. What advice do you have?**

Corrections is a team, and SCDC staff will help you along the way. Every new correctional officer goes through four weeks of paid training at the SCDC Training Academy in accordance with CLEE guidelines, which includes academic instruction and on-the-job training. Working in corrections is not what is portrayed in the movies or on TV, which is often sensationalized for dramatic effect. Officers and staff are charged with providing a secure and productive rehabilitative environment for the inmate population. Our mission at SCDC is Safety, Service, and Stewardship, and our employees help ensure that we accomplish our mission daily.

## **Is it safe to work in a prison environment?**

Safety is our top priority, and we strive to maintain a secure working environment for our staff and inmate population. If a situation becomes dangerous or has the potential to become dangerous, you have been given the tools and training to appropriately respond to those situations per SCDC Policies and Procedures.

## **Can I bring a cell phone, laptop, or tablet into the prison with me?**

SCDC does not allow the entry of personal cell phones, laptops, PDAs, or tablets into the institutions. Additionally, smartwatches, such as Apple watches or Fitbit devices, are not permitted for wear inside the institutions. Every institution has a mainline, which can be used to make and receive calls in case of an emergency.

## **What if I am not a big/strong person?**

Physical traits like these are at the bottom of the list when it comes to what we look for in correctional employees. Communication skills and a positive attitude are the most important qualities of a valuable SCDC team member. If you can communicate effectively and respectfully, we would love for you to join our team. In addition to communication, following and implementing the proper security procedures that keep our institutions and communities safe is of crucial importance.

## **I have a criminal background; can I be an officer?**

All applicants must pass a criminal background check. Most criminal offenses will not prevent you from being hired. Please be advised that if you were convicted of a crime with a maximum allowable sentence of one year or more or a fine of \$1,000, we may not employ you as a cadet/correctional officer. If you have questions about your specific case, contact our recruiting office at [employment@doc.sc.gov](mailto:employment@doc.sc.gov) or 803-896-1649.

## **Is there room for career advancement as a correctional officer?**

SCDC has countless opportunities for long-term career planning and advancement. There are supervisory and management positions available throughout SCDC, which includes promotional opportunities within security ranks. SCDC also has positions on special teams available, including the Rapid Response Team (RRT), Special Operations Response Team (SORT), Situation Control (SITCON), Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), and search teams, that provide additional job skills, room for personal and professional growth, and bonus opportunities.

## **Why should I become a correctional officer at SCDC?**

Corrections is a challenging, yet rewarding, career field that allows you to serve your community and others. Officers work closely with inmates and have the unique opportunity to make a positive impact in their lives by maintaining a safe environment and supporting their rehabilitation, so they can be productive members of society upon their release. SCDC careers also have a comprehensive employee benefits package that takes care of you and your family.