



## Research Methods

Statute review via Quorum and state code

## Findings and Analysis

Every state in the CSG South region requires correctional officers to be certified through their state law enforcement training body, and most clearly state that those requirements extend to local correctional officers. States usually allow a one-to-two-year grace period for cadets to obtain their certification after being hired as correctional officers. This type of certification enhances retirement benefits by allowing eligibility for hazard pay, higher pension multipliers (where applicable), and law enforcement retirement plans, rather than the standard state employee plans. Table 1 details each CSG South member state’s requirements.

Table 1. CSG South Member State’s Correction Officer Certification Requirements

State	Certification / Training Requirement	Hours / Duration	Legal Citation	Applies to County/Municipal (Non-Sworn) Officers?
Alabama	Training at approved academy; lateral equivalency allowed	480 hours	Ala. Admin. Code r. 650-X-11-.01; 650-X-11-.04	Not clearly specified
Arkansas	Basic Correctional Officer Training (BCOT)	240 hours (6 weeks)	12 CAR § 1-114	Not clearly specified
Florida	Basic Correctional Academy	445 hours	Fla. Stat. § 943.13	Not clearly specified
Georgia	Basic Correctional Officer Training (BCOT) required	240 hours	Ga. Code Ann. § 35-8-24	Yes (applies broadly, including jail officers)
Kentucky	Two-phase training requirement	160 hours	Ky. Rev. Stat. § 15.380	Not clearly specified
Louisiana	Completion of Basic Corrections Academy (Level II or III)	~5–7 weeks	La. Rev. Stat. § 40:2404.2	Not clearly specified
Mississippi	Certification required by Board on Jail Officer Standards and Training	Not specified	Miss. Code Ann. § 45-4-9	Yes (explicitly applies to jail officers)
Missouri	Pre-service academic and practical training	280 hours	Mo. Rev. Stat. § 217.105	Not clearly specified
North Carolina	Detention officer training + firearms training	~160 hours	12 N.C. Admin. Code 09G .0411	Yes (applies to detention officers)
Oklahoma	Basic Correctional Officer Training through CLEET	Not specified	57 Okla. Stat. Ann. § 562	Not clearly specified
South Carolina	Class II local correctional officer training	~3 weeks	S.C. Code Regs. § 37-005(B)(1)	Yes (explicitly local correctional officers)



# SOUTH

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<b>Tennessee</b>	Completion of training through TN Corrections Institute	Not specified	Tenn. Code Ann. § 41-1-116	Yes (applies to local jail personnel)
<b>Texas</b>	Basic County Corrections Course	Not specified	Tex. Gov't Code § 411.1994	Yes (explicitly county corrections officers)
<b>Virginia</b>	Basic + field training required within 12 months	400 + 200 hours	6VAC20-100-20	Yes (applies to jail officers)
<b>West Virginia</b>	State-certified training within 12 months of appointment	200 hours	W. Va. Code § 7-14B-9	Yes (applies to county correctional officers)