

Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists

SOC: 21-1092 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$64,520

Median Salary

92,300

Employment

+3.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 6.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■ Work-Life Balance

6.3/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	4.0/10	Investigative	5.8/10
Artistic	7.0/10	Social	9.2/10
Enterprising	5.0/10	Conventional	5.8/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Critical-thinking skills, Decision-making skills, Interpersonal skills, Organizational skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists supervise and support **individuals placed on probation or released from correctional facilities**. They monitor compliance with court orders, develop rehabilitation plans, and provide guidance to reduce recidivism. Their work is critical in the criminal justice system, public safety, and offender rehabilitation.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy law enforcement, counseling, and helping people reintegrate into society.

What Do Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists Do?

These professionals assess, monitor, and guide individuals in the justice system to ensure compliance and promote rehabilitation.

Common responsibilities include:

- Interviewing and assessing clients to determine needs and risks
- Developing and implementing supervision and rehabilitation plans
- Monitoring client behavior through meetings, home visits, or electronic monitoring
- Providing counseling, support, and referrals to social services
- Preparing reports for courts, attorneys, or correctional agencies
- Enforcing rules, conditions of probation, and legal requirements
- Collaborating with law enforcement, social workers, and community organizations

Key Areas of Probation and Correctional Work

Professionals may specialize in specific populations or functions:

- Supervision and Monitoring: Ensuring compliance with probation or release conditions
- Rehabilitation and Counseling: Assisting clients with education, employment, and behavioral programs
- Risk Assessment and Case Management: Evaluating clients and planning interventions
- Legal and Court Reporting: Documenting progress and preparing case reports
- Community and Social Services Coordination: Connecting clients with resources and support systems

Skills and Abilities Needed

Probation officers and correctional treatment specialists combine legal knowledge, counseling, and analytical skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and professional training:

- Bachelor's Degree (minimum): Criminal justice, social work, psychology, or related field
- Internships or Field Experience: Practical experience in probation, corrections, or social services
- State Certification or Licensing: Required for probation or correctional positions
- On-the-Job Training: Learning agency policies, case management systems, and intervention techniques
- Continuous Learning: Staying updated on criminal justice laws, behavioral programs, and counseling methods

Where Do Probation Officers and Correctional Treatment Specialists Work?

They are employed in organizations that manage criminal justice and rehabilitation programs:

- Courts and Judicial Agencies
- Correctional Facilities
- Probation and Parole Departments

- Community and Social Service Agencies
- Government Law Enforcement Organizations

Work environments include offices, correctional facilities, courtrooms, and community settings.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires strong interpersonal, analytical, and ethical skills. Officers must manage challenging individuals, enforce legal requirements, and provide guidance for rehabilitation while maintaining safety.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Are interested in criminal justice and rehabilitation
- Can work with diverse and challenging populations
- Have strong communication and problem-solving skills
- Are ethical, patient, and empathetic
- Want a career supporting public safety and offender rehabilitation

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in criminal justice, social work, psychology, or related fields
- Volunteer or intern in probation, corrections, or social service programs
- Develop communication, counseling, and conflict resolution skills
- Learn about criminal law, court procedures, and case management
- Explore certification or training programs for probation or correctional work

Probation officers and correctional treatment specialists supervise, guide, and support individuals in the justice system, promoting rehabilitation, compliance, and public safety.

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/probation-officers-and-correctional-treatment-specialists.htm>