

# Education Today / Career Tomorrow

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## Law Enforcement

Citizens depend on law enforcement officers to protect their lives and property. There are many different options when considering a career in Law Enforcement.

Police officers have general duties, including regular patrols and responding to calls for service. They direct traffic, investigate burglaries, and perform first aid.

University and public school police are examples of special police agencies.

Some police officers specialize in diverse fields, such as fingerprint

identification. Others work with special units, such as special weapons and tactics (SWAT).

Sheriffs and deputy sheriffs enforce the law on the county level.

State police officers arrest criminals statewide, patrol highways, and enforce motor vehicle laws and regulations.

Detectives are investigators who gather facts and collect evidence for criminal cases.

FBI agents are the Government's principal investigators, responsible for national security.

Law Enforcement personnel are usually scheduled to work 40-hour weeks, but paid overtime is common. Shift work is necessary because protection must be provided around the clock.

From traffic stops to emergency situations, Law Enforcement is a demanding and rewarding career.

Source:  
*The Occupational Outlook Handbook*

## Job Outlook Money Matters

Job opportunities in most local police departments will be excellent for qualified individuals.

Law Enforcement is an attractive career because the job is challenging and involves personal responsibility.

The benefits are also appealing. An officer may retire with a pension after 25 years of service, allowing them to pursue a second career.

A security-conscious society and concern about drug-related crimes contributes to the increasing demand for police services.

**Career:** Law Enforcement Officer

**Job Description:** Duties of a Law Enforcement Officer include conducting investigations, making arrests, testifying in court, responding to calls, taking necessary action at the scene of crime or disturbance, and completing reports, forms and routine paperwork.

**Salary:** \$34,410 - \$112,031 annually

For more information on how to start your career in Law Enforcement, please contact:

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## Education Needed

To begin a career in Law Enforcement, candidates must be U.S. citizens, at least 21 years of age but less than 37 years of age at the time of appointment, and must meet rigorous physical and personal qualifications.

Physical examinations for entrance into law enforcement often include tests of vision, hearing, strength, and agility. Eligibility for appointment usually depends on performance in competitive written examinations and previous education and experience.

In larger departments, where the majority of law enforcement jobs are found, applicants usually must have at least a high school education, and some departments require one to two years of college coursework.

Because personal characteristics such as honesty, sound judgment, integrity, and a sense of responsibility are especially important in law enforcement, candidates are interviewed by senior officers, and their character traits and backgrounds are investigated.

Before their first assignments, officers go through a period of training. Candidates should enjoy working with people and meeting the public.



*It's a Matter of Perspective*

### Teacher

### Student

"Public Service in an essential part of our society. Because of this, the job outlook in Law Enforcement is always positive. A student who is interested in providing this service will find success. We prepare our students for their future careers, meaning we train them for all aspects of the job. We cover everything from statutory requirements to moral conduct." - Pat Proudler

"I worked for years as a New York City Police Officer and after that, a NYC Fireman. I now plan to re-enter the Law Enforcement field. Manatee Technical Institute's Law Enforcement program provides a great foundation to build upon. The course is extremely professional, well run, and offers top-of-the-line facilities. I believe this is an amazing beginning for my future in Law Enforcement." - James O'Brien

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