

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

Police officers protect lives and property.

Typical duties:

- Respond to emergency and non-emergency calls
- Patrol assigned areas
- Conduct traffic stops and issue citations
- Search databases for vehicle or other records and warrants
- Obtain and serve warrants for arrests, searches, and other purposes
- Arrest people suspected of committing crimes
- Collect and secure evidence from crime scenes
- Observe the activities of suspects
- Write detailed reports and complete forms
- Prepare cases for legal proceedings and testify in court as needed

## **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS**

Police officers must:

- Be a US citizen
- Be at least 21 years of age OR reaching that age by academy completion
- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Possess a valid Ohio Driver's License
- Have no felony convictions
- Pass a drug screen, background check, and physical fitness standards

## **PAY**

\$76,290 median annual wage (\$36.68 per hour) as of May 2024

## **JOB OUTLOOK**

4% (as fast as average) 2023-2033

## **EDUCATION/TRAINING**

Police and detective applicants must have at least a high school diploma or equivalent, although some federal agencies and police departments may require that applicants have completed college coursework or a college degree. Many community colleges and four-year colleges and universities offer programs in law enforcement and criminal justice.

Candidates for law enforcement appointments usually attend a training academy before becoming an officer. Training includes classroom instruction in state and local laws and constitutional law, civil rights, and police ethics. Recruits also receive training and supervised experience in subjects such as patrol, traffic control, firearm use, self-defense, first aid, and emergency response.

## **IMPORTANT SKILLS**

- **Communication skills** to speak with people and to communicate details in documenting an incident
- **Empathy** to understand people in their community
- **Good judgment** to determine the best way to solve problems
- **Leadership skills** to help in emergencies
- **Perceptiveness** to anticipate people's reactions and understand why they act a particular way
- **Physical stamina** to pass required tests for entry into the field and to do the job
- **Physical strength** to physically apprehend suspects and to assist people in dangerous situations
- **Physical fitness** to pass tests to enter the field and keep up with demands of the job

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

### **DIRECTORY OF PEACE OFFICER BASIC TRAINING ACADEMIES IN OHIO**

[www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Law-Enforcement/Ohio-Peace-Officer-Training-Academy/Directory-of-Peace-Officer-Basic-Training-Academie](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Law-Enforcement/Ohio-Peace-Officer-Training-Academy/Directory-of-Peace-Officer-Basic-Training-Academie)

## ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

### **CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

#### **CLEVELAND HEIGHTS POLICE ACADEMY**

Qualifies students to take the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification test required to become a Peace Officer.

[www.clevelandheights.gov/366/Cleveland-Heights-Police-Academy](http://www.clevelandheights.gov/366/Cleveland-Heights-Police-Academy)

#### **CLEVELAND POLICE ACADEMY**

A 7 ½-month program, Monday-Friday which qualifies the student to take OPOTC test.

[www.clevelandohio.gov/city-hall/departments/public-safety/public-safety-careers](http://www.clevelandohio.gov/city-hall/departments/public-safety/public-safety-careers)

#### **CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Tri-C's Basic Police Academy* is offered full-time daytime (24-week) or part-time evening (36-week) on Tri-C's Western Campus. Program consists of more than 740 hours and prepares students for the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) exam. Additional advanced training certifications are available.

Twenty-four credit hours from the Basic Police Academy Program can be applied toward an *Associate of Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice with concentration in Basic Police Academy*.

[www.tri-c.edu/workforce/public-safety/law-enforcement/basic-police-academy/index.html](http://www.tri-c.edu/workforce/public-safety/law-enforcement/basic-police-academy/index.html)

#### **POLARIS CAREER CENTER**

A 740-hour program that prepares candidates to protect and serve their communities for a variety of police, safety, natural resource, or parks and recreation law enforcement officer positions. The program prepares students for the OPOTC exam.

[www.polaris.edu/o/pcc/page/police-academy](http://www.polaris.edu/o/pcc/page/police-academy)

### **LAKE COUNTY**

#### **LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Basic Police Academy* is a full-time, day program offered once per year. Its curriculum includes all topics required by the OPOTC. Students earn 18 credit hours that can be applied towards an Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice.

[www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/basic-police-academy](http://www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/basic-police-academy)

### **LORAIN COUNTY**

#### **LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*LCCC Police Academy training* consists of approximately 900 hours of instruction, preparing students for OPOTC certification. Classes are generally scheduled daytime Monday through Friday. Students earn 36 hours of college credit and are eligible to receive a one-year technical certificate.

[www.lorainccc.edu/human-social-services/public-safety/lccc-police-academy/](http://www.lorainccc.edu/human-social-services/public-safety/lccc-police-academy/)

### **SUMMIT COUNTY**

#### **AKRON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*Free, in-house training* including 24 weeks at the Akron Police Department Training Academy (OPOTA Courses) and 13 weeks of "hands-on" Field Training accompanied by a training officer.

[online.akronohio.gov/Recruit/More.html](http://online.akronohio.gov/Recruit/More.html)

#### **KENT STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE ACADEMY**

*Basic Peace Officer Training Academy* is offered on the *Twinsburg or Trumbull Campus* either during the day, or evenings and weekends. Classes start three times per year. College credits earned through this program can be applied toward an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Criminology & Justice Studies (Peace Officers Training Academy concentration).

[www.kent.edu/policeacademy](http://www.kent.edu/policeacademy)

#### **UNIVERSITY OF AKRON POLICE ACADEMY**

*Police Academy* providing over 711 hours of basic training and preparing each cadet to pass the Ohio State Peace Officer's Certification Exam.

[www.uakron.edu/police-academy/](http://www.uakron.edu/police-academy/)