

JOB DESCRIPTION

Police officers protect lives and property. Typical duties are:

- Responding to emergency and non-emergency calls
- Patrolling assigned areas
- Conducting traffic stops and issuing citations
- Searching databases for vehicle or other records and warrants
- Obtaining and serving warrants for arrests, searches, and other purposes
- Arresting people suspected of committing crimes
- Collecting and securing evidence from crime scenes
- Observing the activities of suspects
- Writing detailed reports/completing forms
- Preparing cases for legal proceedings and testifying in court as needed

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Police officers must:

- Be a US citizen
- Be at least 21 years of age OR reach 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 screening, background check, and physical fitness standards

PAY

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

JOB OUTLOOK

3% (as fast as average) 2024-2034

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/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, 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/ATTRIBUTES

- 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 apprehend suspects and to assist people in dangerous situations
- Physical fitness to pass tests for entry into the field and keep up with job demands

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

CADET PROGRAMS - Offered by some cities and sheriff's offices, such as:

- www.lakecountyohio.gov/sheriff/lake-county-sheriffs-office-explorers-program/ or
- willoughbyohio.com/departments/police/

ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

CITY OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS POLICE DEPT

Police Academy: Qualifies students to take the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification exam required to become a Peace Officer.

www.clevelandheights.gov/366/Cleveland-Heights-Police-Academy

CITY OF CLEVELAND POLICE DEPT

Police Academy: A 7 ½-month program, Monday-Friday, which qualifies the student to take the OPOTC exam.

www.clevelandohio.gov/city-hall/departments/public-safety/public-safety-careers

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Tri-C's Basic Police Academy is offered full-time during the day (24-week) or part-time in the evening (36-week) on Tri-C's Western Campus. The 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.

Associate of Applied Science degree in Criminal Justice: Twenty-four credit hours from the Basic Police Academy Program can be applied toward this associate degree.

www.tri-c.edu/workforce/public-safety/law-enforcement/basic-police-academy/index.html

POLARIS CAREER CENTER

Police Academy: 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

LAKE COUNTY

LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE/LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Basic Police Academy at Lakeland Community College is administered by the *Lake County Sheriff's Office* in conjunction with the Ohio Peace Officers Training Council (OPOTC). Students are eligible to earn 24 credit hours toward an Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice.

www.lakelandcc.edu/web/about/basic-police-academy

LORAIN COUNTY

LORAIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LCCC Police Academy offers a 24-week, full-time program with occasional nights and weekends, preparing students for OPOTC certification. Classes are generally scheduled during the 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/

SUMMIT COUNTY

AKRON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Free, in-house training where cadets receive instruction in laws, procedures, rules and regulations, community policing, de-escalation techniques, and more. The training bureau also focuses on physical fitness and self-defense.

joinakronpolice.com/police-academy-cadet/

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

Basic Peace Officer Training Academy is offered on the Twinsburg or Trumbull Campus, either during the day or in the evening. Classes start two 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

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON/SUMMIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

University of Akron/Summit County Sheriff's Office Police Academy:

A full-time program that runs Monday through Saturday. Provides over 711 hours of basic training, preparing each cadet to pass the Ohio State Peace Officer's Certification Exam.

www.uakron.edu/police-academy/

STARK STATE COLLEGE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY (North Canton)

This intensive program, operated in cooperation with the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and the Ohio Attorney General's Office offers both full and part time options. Stark State College also offers an Associate of Applied Science in Police Science and an Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice.

www.starkstate.edu/academics/explore-all-programs/law-enforcement-academy/