

# Qualifications for the Police Force

To be a police officer, you need to gain a formal education in law enforcement. There are no specific educational requirements for joining the police force, but your level of education will determine the position that you are able to get as a police officer. Most law enforcement places prefer their people to have a bachelor's degree to be considered. There are three educational paths you may choose to take towards a career in the police force. The first is by completing a basic criminal justice degree like a certification or a diploma which will take you around six months or a year to complete. Your second option includes getting a bachelor's or master's degree in criminal justice or law enforcement. These degree programs offer courses like families and crisis, criminal and traffic codes, juvenile justice, sociology, and psychology. The third educational path is to pursue a degree in a non-related field like business administration which will give you the education needed to enroll in a police academy or a law enforcement academy to get police training. No matter the degree, it's important you get an in-depth knowledge of the legal system and procedures that are applied in the field of a police officer. Students with recognized degrees have better chances to capitalize on management level job positions. If you're interested in becoming a police officer, you'll have to go through background checks. If your education and application are good, you'll be required to complete a written civil service test. Once you've passed the written exam, you'll be required to undergo medical and physical tests which cover things such as sight, hearing, physical fitness, and more. Drug testing will also take place. If you pass all these exams and match all the requirements for police officers, you'll attend a police academy for a few months where you'll be taught self-defense, first aid, and how to use firearms.