



CONTEMPLATING CAREERS

Police Officer

Policing is a rewarding and challenging career. Do you handle stress well? Do you find that others seek out your perspectives when they are troubled? Are you adept at problem solving? Can you piece together what happened by available evidence? Working well with a diverse group of people and being a problem solver are key characteristics for policing.

Policing is a varied profession. One can apply to be a local, state, or federal law enforcement officer. Training requirements vary by agency, though many agencies, such as the Denver Police Department, require a high school education. Do not be fooled, though; while many departments require a high school education, hiring is

competitive. Having a college degree makes a candidate more attractive and increases the chances of being hired.

In addition, serving as an officer requires passing a written and physical exam. Having excellent writing and spelling skills is also important, and report writing is a part of the job. Being bilingual offers greater opportunities in this growing profession. The Bureau of Labor Statistics notes that the 2012 median pay for police was \$56,980.



Career Video:

A police officer discusses her experiences and current issues in the field.