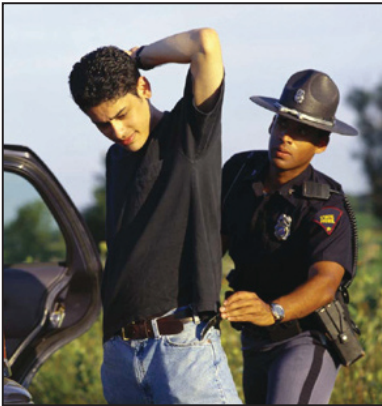


# Police Officer

## GAcollege411 Career Highlight

If you have an interest in public safety and law enforcement, you may be interested in a career as a [police officer](#).



Police officers protect lives and property. Police officers are an important part of public safety. The job as a police officer can be dangerous but it is just as rewarding.

Police officers patrol a given area and respond to calls made to them or their departments. There are many types of officers, including [Patrol Officers](#) that make sure that the citizens and communities are safe for their residents; [Detectives](#) that conduct investigations; [Sheriffs](#) that may patrol courthouses, guard courtrooms and jury members and [Officers](#) that investigate crime scenes. They also spend a good portion of time writing reports and maintain records that are needed if they must testify in court.

Depending on the district assigned, police officers work alone, but in most major cities they have partners. Police officers can also work with special units where they perform their jobs while on motorcycles, bicycles, with dogs, horses, or special weapons and tactics (SWAT).

If you want a career as a police officer, do not clip on the badge yet. Before you start your career fighting bad guys, you will need to learn the ropes of the job. In order to become an officer several qualifications need to be met. While a high school diploma or GED is required, a college degree is preferred. Georgia

requires that applicants be at least 20 years old, a United States citizen, have a high school diploma or GED, a valid



driver's license, no "class A" misdemeanors or felonies, no "class B" misdemeanors in the previous 10 years. You must pass a thorough background check and undergo intense physical and mental training, and attend a police academy. Other requirements may be written exams, vision tests and in some regions, fluency in a second language. If an applicant has attended a college, university or served in the military prior to attending the police academy, chances of earning a higher salary and advancement are promising and can happen faster.

### Did you know that...

- In some Georgia counties, new recruits can earn over \$30,000 per year?
- Officers with a Bachelor's degree can earn a starting salary between \$41,000 and \$56,000?

Many of the [Georgia Colleges and Universities](#) offer degrees in areas such as [Criminal Justice](#) that can start you on a path to a career with the Department of Corrections, FBI, GBI, social work and other agencies.

### What are you waiting for?

Apply for admission to one of the many [Law Enforcement](#) programs in Georgia, complete your [FAFSA](#), and apply for many other [scholarships, grants](#) and [loans](#) offered by [Georgia Student Finance Commission](#).

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