I want to start my Career as a....

**Police Officer**

**What will I do?**
Police Officers are sworn to protect and serve the communities where they live and work. They enforce laws, regulate traffic, arrest, and interview suspects.

**What are the important facts?**

**Job Growth**
Police Officers are always going to be in high demand because of the protection and security they provide our communities. Every town needs Police Officers.

In California, Police Officers are projected to have 2,770 new job openings between 2014 and 2024. This means there is a 7% employment increase in the state—this level of employment increase means there will be plenty of new jobs in the field.

**Wage/Salary**
Average hourly wage in San Jose is $55.47, with an annual salary of $115,370. In Silicon Valley, the living wage for a single person is $16.00 an hour.

**Required Training**
Individuals are required to attend the 6 month Police Academy training, before they are able to receive their Police Badge and join the force. It is highly recommended individuals earn at least a Certificate OR Associate's Degree in Administration of Justice, prior to applying to the Police Academy. Individuals must also be 21 years of age to qualify for the Police Academy.

There is one route to become a Police Officer
1. Police Academy

**What are typical tasks?**
- Provides public safety, by responding to emergencies, and protecting people.
- Patrol designated areas either by car, on horse, or bicycle.
- Identify and pursue suspects.
- Testify in court to present evidence or act as a witness.
- Monitor traffic.
- Ensure folks are following regulations and compliance with the law.

**What would make this career a great fit for me?**
- Have a passion for enforcing and following rules.
- Able to be fair and honest while on the job.
- Have the ability to deal with stressful situations and unpleasant people.
- Have a valid driver's license.
- Strong oral communication.
- Value your community and its safety.

**Where can I get the training I need?**
- Academy South Bay Regional Public Safety Training
- Evergreen Community College
- Gavilan College
- San Jose City College
- Silicon Valley Career Technical Education (SVCTE)
- West Valley College
I want to start my career as a... Police Officer

**Step 1**
Learn the skills employers say you need. Begin your education.

**Education & Training:** Police Officer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career Technical Institute</th>
<th>Community College</th>
<th>Police Academy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Certificate of Achievement.</strong> The Certificate Prepares students for public law, private security, county and state correctional officers. If students want to become a Police Officer, this will help them prepare for the Police Academy.</td>
<td><strong>Can receive a Certificate of Achievement or Associates Degree in Administration of Justice.</strong> The AA degree or certificate prepares students for public law, private security or county and state correctional officers. If students want to become a Police Officer, the academy is required.</td>
<td>To be eligible for the Academy, students must pass the POST Reading/Writing Test and an Academy Physical Agility Test. Students do not have to be taking classes at the CC to be eligible to enroll in the Academy. The academy is completely separate from the CC. The academy fulfills the POST Plan IV Certification. This is an 888-hour training that satisfies requirements to become an entry level Police Officer. All Police Officers have to pass the academy training and be 21 years of age.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silicon Valley Career Technical Education</td>
<td>Evergreen College</td>
<td>The Academy South Bay Regional Public Safety Training</td>
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<td>Gavilan College</td>
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**Step 2**
Find a job that fits your level of education and training.

**Career Pathways for Police Officers**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Entry-Level Positions: Peace Officer or Police Officer (these are interchangeable titles)</th>
<th>Work Experience AND Education</th>
<th>Mid-Advanced Level Positions: Fire-Line Supervisors of Police and Detectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Individuals are eligible to work as highway patrol, community patrol, or motorcycle/bike cops. The area of patrol is up to the individual and their interest. | **Employers:**
  - Morgan Hill Police Department  
  - San Jose Police Department  
  - Palo Alto Police Department |
| **Employers:**
  - Morgan Hill Police Department  
  - San Jose Police Department  
  - Palo Alto Police Department |
| **Labor Market Information:**
  - Average hourly wage in San Jose is $55.47 with an annual salary of $115,370. | **Employers:**
  - San Jose Police Department  
  - Gilroy Police Department  
  - Department of Veterans Affairs |
| **Mid-Advanced Level Positions:** Fire-Line Supervisors of Police and Detectives |
| **If individuals want to advance from Police Officer to Supervisor, they will need a Bachelor’s Degree in Administration of Justice AND 5+ years as an officer.** | **Labor Market Information:**
  - Average hourly wage in San Jose is $75.43, with an annual salary of $156,890. |

In order to advance from Entry-Level to Mid-Level, it takes 2-3 years of work experience AND completion of the Police Academy. These are not the exact career paths individuals have to follow. This is meant to be more of an example and act as a guide.
What are the Skills Employers look for in a Police Officer?

Employers are looking for someone who:

- Passed Police Academy training.
- 21 years old.
- Is reliable, dependable, and honest.
- Is able to pass the physical examination, also known as "Work Sample Test Battery (WSTB). The physical exam consists of a 75-yard pursuit run, a push up exam, sit-up test, and a 1.5 mile run in under 14 minutes.
- Is capable of passing the P.O.ST. Reading and Writing Test with a score of 50 or higher.
- Is able to pass the Personal History Questionnaire (PHQ). This is pre-screening questionnaire.
- Is capable of passing the Oral Board Exam. This is a panel interview with each applicant—there are 5-8 questions, which are not necessarily related to police work.
- Is able to pass the Background Investigation Process.
- Does not have any felonies, domestic violence, misdemeanors assault convictions, or currently on probation or parole.
- Has 20/40 uncorrected vision.
- Has a valid United States driver's license.
- Is at least 21 years old at the time of the academy.
- Has a HS diploma, GED, or at least 40 semester college credits.

Employers may also refer to me as:

- Patrol Officer
- Policeman
- Policewoman

Moving up: Police Officer

Below are a few examples of how you can eventually move up in your career. These career advancements are options for when you are ready to advance from entry-level to mid-advanced level positions.

Example Career Ladder: