

NATURE OF WORK

Police officers and detectives are depended on by people to protect their lives and property. There are several different types of law enforcement officers, some of whom are state or federal special agents or inspectors. Police officers are expected to exercise authority when necessary, whether on or off duty.

WORKING CONDITIONS

The nature of police work can be very dangerous and stressful. Officers need to be constantly alert and ready to deal appropriately with a number of other threatening situations. Officers must take care of themselves psychologically. They may be exposed to viewing death and to seeing people who suffer from accidents and criminal behavior. A career in law enforcement may take a toll on officers' private lives.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Governing the appointment of police and detectives in practically all states, large municipalities and special police agencies are civil service regulations. To work in the career area one must be a U.S. citizen and at least 20 years of age. Candidates for federal government positions must be at least 21 but less than 37 years of age at the time of appointment. Entrance tests for law enforcement often include tests of vision, hearing, strength and agility. Competitive written examinations and previous education and experience are all part of the eligibility process. Once hired, police officers are provided with continued education to improve their job performance.

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment for police and detectives is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2016. The increase in drug related and violent crimes should contribute to the increasing demand for police services.

CAREER OPTIONS

Police Officer, Police Chief, Deputy Chief, Police Captain, Police Lieutenant, Police Sergeant, Police Corporal, Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

Farmington—\$35,420—61, 240
New Mexico — \$30, 680 - \$47,980
Nationally — \$34,240 - \$69,660

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Correctional Officers, Private Detectives, Security Guards, Investigators, Gaming Surveillance Officer.

SJC Basic Program Information

Program Admission Requirements:

The Associate of Applied Science in Police Science is intended for students who are already employed by a local law enforcement agency or those who are pursuing a degree as open enrollment students. For those who are seeking the degree as open enrollment students, acceptance into the academy sponsored by the San Juan College Criminal Justice Training Authority is required.

This program is extremely physically demanding.



For further information go to:

www.sanjuacollege.edu/pages/158.asp

www.careers-nm.org

www.bls.gov/oco/ocos160.htm

