

Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers



Occupational Profile

DOES THIS DESCRIBE YOU?

OVERVIEW

Maintain order and protect life and property by enforcing local, tribal, State, or Federal laws and ordinances. Perform a combination of the following duties: patrol a specific area; direct traffic; issue traffic summonses; investigate accidents; apprehend and arrest suspects, or serve legal processes of courts. Belongs to the Correction Services career cluster and the Law Enforcement Services career pathway.

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE NEEDED

Basic Skills:

- Speaking
- Active Listening
- Social Perceptiveness
- Critical Thinking
- Monitoring

Technology Skills:

- Graphics or Photo Imaging Software
- Data Base User Interface and Query Software
- Office Suite Software
- Map Creation Software
- Spreadsheet Software

Knowledge:

- Public Safety and Security
- Customer and Personal Service
- English Language
- Law and Government
- Psychology

Work Interests involve descriptive categories (compatible with Holland's Model) attributed to success in this career:

- **Realistic**—Involves work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions; often dealing with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery.
- **Conventional**—Enjoy following set procedures and routines developed through higher authority; includes working with data and details more than with ideas.
- **Enterprising**—Involves starting up and carrying out projects; often leading people and making business decisions that sometimes require risk.
- **Social**—Involves working with, communicating with, and teaching people; providing services

Work Styles depict worker characteristics conducive for this career:

- **Integrity**
- **Stress Tolerance**
- **Self Control**
- **Attention to Detail**
- **Dependability**

Work Values are associated with aspects of work that provide satisfaction in this career:

- **Relationships**—Provide service to others in noncompetitive environment.
- **Support**—Management backing.
- **Achievement**—Sense of accomplishment; results oriented.

Aptitudes reflect an ability to acquire skills and knowledge for success in this career:

- **Oral Comprehension**
- **Oral Expression**
- **Problem Sensitivity**
- **Deductive Reasoning**
- **Inductive Reasoning**

ESTIMATED & PROJECTED EMPLOYMENT

Occupational Title	2014 Estimated Employment	2024 Projected Employment	2014-24 Employment Change	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Annual Openings
Total, All Occupations	1,795,100	1,949,240	154,140	0.9	58,145
Protective Service Occupations	22,265	23,745	1,475	0.7	670
Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	4,775	5,090	315	0.7	190

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections>

2017 WAGE & SALARY (\$)

Occupational Title	Mean Wage	Mean Salary	Entry Wage	Entry Salary	Exp Wage	Exp Salary
Total All Occupations	20.93	43,539	10.09	20,991	26.35	54,813
Protective Service Occupations	20.55	42,744	10.11	21,028	25.77	53,603
Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	27.07	56,308	19.26	40,068	30.98	64,428

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-employment-and-wages>

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education
Postsecondary

Work Experience
None

Job Training
Long-Term On-The-Job

Postsecondary education is preferred for most police officer positions.

Sources: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections> and https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_education_training_system.htm

NATIONAL CAREER READINESS CERTIFICATE (NCRC)

Skill	Median Skill Level	Minimum Skill Level	Maximum Skill Level
Applied Mathematics	3	3	4
Locating Information	4	3	5
Reading for Information	4	3	6
Applied Technology	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Business Writing	3	3	4
Workplace Observation	3	2	4
Listening for Understanding	3	2	4

An ACT assessment-based credential issued in determining essential work skills needed for employment success across industries and occupations. The greater the score, the greater the skill level (Bronze = 3, Silver = 4, Gold = 5, Platinum = 6 & higher). Source: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/workkeys-for-employers/assessments.html>

ADDITIONAL SOURCES:

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PRIMARY INDUSTRY SECTORS

(Where are Firefighters Employed?)

Local Government
State Government

Source: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/occupational-projections>