

TEN STEPS TO A CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Many candidates interested in a law enforcement career are unsuccessful due to problems that occurred earlier in life. As a result, candidates realize if they had known their actions would prevent them from a career in law enforcement they would have made a better choice.

1. Don't do drugs (or if you do stop now). Most agencies allow for some high school experimentation.
2. Don't let alcohol use creep up on you. Alcohol use is a drug that leads to a whole lot of disqualifying areas. For example, fighting, DUI and poor health.
3. Protect your driving privilege. Agencies look at the number of tickets you have received, your vehicle accidents and license suspensions. Also, a disqualifying area may be failure to carry proper insurance.
4. Make fitness a way of life. Law enforcement is a strenuous job in which your safety can depend on being physically fit.
5. Pay your bills. Agencies regard how you handle your finances as a way to determine your level of responsibility and maturity.
6. Honesty is its own reward. It's an old fashioned phrase, but many candidates are eliminated for stealing or lying. If a person is not honest, she or he has no business being a peace officer.
7. Sharpen your writing and comprehension skills. People underestimate how important writing and comprehension is to a law enforcement career. Many candidates are screened out during the written examination process.
8. Your job history is critically important. No matter what job you have, make a good impression on your employer. Employment issues can become an issue during a background investigation.
9. Strengthen your self esteem. We need employees who are assertive, self-confident, outgoing, personable, and interact well with all people.
10. Set your values and be true to them. Peer pressure is a very powerful force but the real test for a person is the ability to be true to his/her values.