

Criminal Justice

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Policing and Law Enforcement

- Vast majority of officers are at the local level

Functions of Police

1. Law enforcement/Investigation:
 - a. Identify criminal suspects
 - b. Investigate crimes
 - c. Apprehend offenders/arrest
 - i. Participate in trials
 2. Patrol:
 - a. Non-crime calls for service
 - b. Attendance at public gatherings
 - c. Traffic direction and control
 3. Order Maintenance/Peace Keeping
 - a. Maintain a sense of community
 - b. Promote civil order
 - c. Community services
 - i. Ex: dealing with public drinking, begging, vandalism and graffiti or public places, prostitutes, etc.
 4. Crime Control/Prevention
 - a. Resolve conflict/disputes
 - b. Aid individuals in danger
 - c. Helping those persons in need of assistance
- In many communities, selection of police officer is through a merit system
 - Officers employed under such a system are hired and tenured (theoretically) if they meet and maintain the employment qualification and performance standards.
 - **Merit System**: a system of employment whereby an independent civil service commission, in cooperation with city personnel section and the police department, sets employment qualification, performance standards and discipline procedures.
 - Police Officer Selection Process:
 - o Short application
 - o Detailed application, including complete work history, references, and medical profile

- o Medical examination
 - o Physical agility test
 - o Written examination
 - o Background investigation
 - o Psychological test
 - o Oral interview
- The Final Steps of Selection:
 - o Academy training
 - o Probation, usually between six months and one year, which includes formal field training
- Organization of a Typical Metropolitan Police Department
 - o Police are a part of a larger hierarchical system
 - o Police chiefs are at the top