

# Occupations in Law Enforcement

## Protective Services

- > Correctional Officer
- > Deputy Sheriff
- > Law Enforcement Teacher
- > Police Detective & Criminal Investigator
- > Police Patrol Officer
- > Police Supervisor Sheriff

## Law Enforcement Facts

- According to the National Law Enforcement Agency, there are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States, which is the highest figure ever. About 12 percent of those are female.<sup>1</sup>
- According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, there were over 30,500 arrests nationwide, with 623,454 arrests since 1986.<sup>1</sup>
- Utah has 29 jail facilities, with a capacity of over 7,600.<sup>1</sup>
- The Department of Corrections manages over 6,200 inmates in two prisons and four community facilities.<sup>1</sup>
- The Department of Corrections Division of Adult Probation & Parole Supervision, supervises over 10,000 probationers and over 3,200 parolees.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2008, the overall crime rate in Utah was about 2 percent lower than the national average rate. Property crimes account for roughly 93.8 percent of the crime rate in Utah which is 4 percent higher than the national average. The remaining 6.2 percent are violent crimes and are approximately 51 percent lower than in other states.<sup>1</sup>
- Officer Librada Chacon was the first female to join the Unified Police SWAT team in Salt Lake City, Utah.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Corrections

<sup>2</sup> *Deseret News*, June 24, 2010, "SWAT's first woman: Squad member says it took drive to make elite team"

Break free of the traditions and barriers that limit your choices.  
What's stopping you? Be different! Try something new!  
Is a nontraditional career in your future?

Talk to your school counselor  
about a nontraditional career in STS.

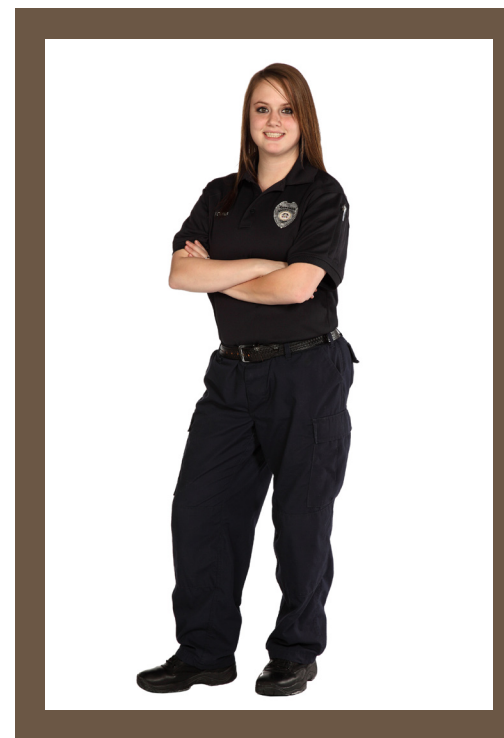
[www.UtahCTE.org](http://www.UtahCTE.org)



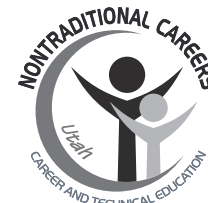
UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
250 East 500 South P.O. Box 144200 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200  
Larry K. Shumway, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Mary Shumway, State Director of Career and Technical Education

# Law Enforcement

A NONTRADITIONAL CAREER PATH FOR WOMEN



*Break free of the barriers that limit your career choices.*



SKILLED AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES EDUCATION

## Nontraditional Careers

Did you know a nontraditional career is any occupation in which women or men comprise 25 percent or less of its total employment?

Women in nontraditional occupations earn more money than those in female-oriented fields.

Choosing a nontraditional career path can mean:

- > Greater job satisfaction.
- > Higher wages and better benefits.
- > Great advancement opportunities.
- > Economic self-sufficiency.
- > Broader job opportunities.
- > Freedom to pursue a career related to your interests and abilities.

**BREAK with tradition and explore a nontraditional career!**

## Law Enforcement as a Career

Law enforcement officers' main job is to protect the public. This includes protection against crime, the preservation of civil order, enforcement of traffic and other regulations, prevention of alcohol and substance abuse, prevention of neighborhood disorders, firearm and weapon control, law enforcement, and criminal investigations.

Writing reports is a daily occurrence as a law enforcement officer. Therefore, writing, reading comprehension, and active listening skills are critical.

## Career and Technical Education Pathways

High school is a great time to try out a wide range of Career Pathways by enrolling in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. As an added bonus, you will be developing work-related skills that can be put to immediate and profitable use.

CTE provides courses and Pathways consistent with industry training and certification, thus providing depth and meaning for both visual and hands-on learning and education that can be applied in today's job market.

Through participation in CTE, Skilled and Technical Sciences Education can guide you as you take courses in your chosen Pathway.

By taking an STS course, you will acquire essential technical and leadership skills, and learn how to properly use tools and equipment that will enable you to successfully work in your area of choice. You will also gain an important foundation of knowledge and skills necessary for continuing your education in STS.

## Employment

Law enforcement is a challenging and rewarding profession, limited only by the abilities of the individual officer. In Utah, opportunities for women are unlimited and include patrol officer, bike and foot patrol officer, community police officer, detective, canine officer, DARE/school resource officer, special weapons and tactics, training officer, and a variety of supervisory positions. There are thousands of successful women in law enforcement today.

In Utah, an entry-level position for a police officer generally starts at an average hourly wage of \$14.40 or \$29,952 per year.<sup>1</sup> Increases in salary are based upon training and experience.

## Working Conditions

Law enforcement officers work in dangerous conditions, usually live under constant apprehension of physical danger, and work long and irregular hours. They use a variety of equipment to help keep them safe, such as communication equipment, vehicles of different types, weapons/firearms, and personal protective equipment (bulletproof vests, helmets, shields, etc.).

*14.7 percent of police and sheriff patrol officers are women.<sup>2</sup>*

## Outlook

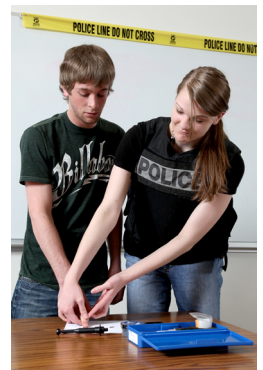
A more security-conscious society and concern about drug-related crimes will contribute to the increasing demand for police services.

In Utah, the annual growth rate for this occupation is expected to be 2.1 percent through the year 2016, with employment totaling 4,670.<sup>1</sup>

## UtahFutures

Log on to [UtahFutures.org](http://UtahFutures.org) to learn more about a career in law enforcement. From the home page, click on the "occupations" option to find an occupation that interests you and link to the description for that occupation. (Refer to the sample list of occupations on the back of this page.) Check out employment opportunities, working conditions, outlook, skills and abilities, and wages for your selected occupation.

**Is a nontraditional career in your future?**



<sup>1</sup> Utah Department of Workforce Services

<sup>2</sup> Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, Nontraditional Occupations for Women in 2008