

Table 1: PEACE OFFICER SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) sets minimum selection standards for California peace officers employed by POST-participating agencies. These minimum requirements are pursuant to [Government Code \(GC\) Sections 1029, 1030, and 1031](#), and [Commission Regulations 1950-1955](#). Agencies may choose additional assessments (e.g., physical ability and detection of deception/polygraph examinations) and/or higher standards.

The minimum selection requirements are as follows:

Selection Standard	Minimum Requirement	Comments	Law/Regulation
Age	18	Some agencies set the standard higher (e.g. 21)	GC§1031(b)
Citizenship	US citizen or permanent resident alien who is eligible and has applied for citizenship	CHP officers must be US citizens at time of appointment (VC§2267)	GC§1031(a)
Education	Graduation from an accredited or approved US high school or equivalent	2-year, 4-year, or advanced degree from an accredited college or university will meet this requirement (GC§1031(e)) Some agencies require college units and/or a college degree	GC§1031(e)
Reading and Writing Ability Assessment	Assessment of reading and writing ability	Agencies may use the POST Entry-Level Law Enforcement Test Battery or other assessment of reading and writing ability	Commission Regulation 1951
Oral Interview	Assessment of oral communication skills and other factors	Takes place prior to appointment	Commission Regulation 1952
No Felony Convictions; Fingerprint and Criminal History Check	Fingerprints sent to the California Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	Check is to reveal any criminal records. Felony convictions and some specific misdemeanors will disqualify a candidate.	GC §§1029, 1030 and 1031(c); PC§29805; 18 USC 922(d)(9)
Background Investigation	Thorough background based on applicant's personal history	Ensures the applicant is of good moral character	GC§1031(d), Commission Regulation 1953
Medical and Psychological Evaluations	Evaluations conducted by licensed physicians and/or psychologists employed by the hiring department	Ensures applicant is free from any physical, emotional, or mental condition that might adversely affect the exercise of the powers of a peace officer	GC§1031(f), Commission Regulations 1954 and 1955