

**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, 1031, and 1031.4](#) 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:

<b>Selection Standard</b>	<b>Minimum Requirement</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Law/Regulation</b>
<b>Age</b>	21	There are few exceptions to this minimum age requirement.	<a href="#">GC §1031.4</a>
<b>Citizenship</b>	US citizen or permanent resident who is eligible and has applied for citizenship	CHP officers must be US citizens at time of appointment ( <a href="#">VC §2267</a> )	<a href="#">GC §1031(a)</a>
<b>Education</b>	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 [ <a href="#">GC §1031(e)</a> ]  Some agencies require college units and/or a college degree	<a href="#">GC §1031(e)</a>
<b>Reading and Writing Ability Assessment</b>	Assessment of reading and writing ability	Agencies may use the <a href="#">POST Entry-Level Law Enforcement Test Battery</a> or other assessment of reading and writing ability	<a href="#">Commission Regulation 1951</a>
<b>Oral Interview</b>	Assessment of oral communication skills and other factors	Takes place prior to appointment	<a href="#">Commission Regulation 1952</a>
<b>No Felony Convictions or Other Disqualifying Conduct; Fingerprint and Criminal History Check</b>	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 other specified conduct will disqualify a candidate.	<a href="#">GC §§1029, 1030 and 1031(c); PC §29805; 18 USC 922(d)(9)</a>
<b>Background Investigation</b>	Thorough background based on applicant's personal history	Ensures the applicant is of good moral character	<a href="#">GC §1031(d), Commission Regulation 1953</a>
<b>Medical and Psychological Evaluations</b>	Evaluations conducted by licensed physicians and/or psychologists employed by the hiring department	Ensures applicant is free from any physical, emotional, or mental condition, including bias against race or ethnicity, gender, nationality, religion, disability, or sexual orientation, that might adversely affect the exercise of the powers of a peace officer	<a href="#">GC §1031(f), Commission Regulations 1954 and 1955</a>