

Are there any age or physical limitations on who can apply for the job?

- Entry Level Applicants must be 21 years of age and be able to pass the physical fitness test administered before and during the Washington State Criminal Justice Basic Law Enforcement Academy.
- Lateral Applicants are not required to take a physical agility test.
- As a part of the background process, both Entry Level and Lateral Applicants will have a physical examination to determine fitness for duty.

Are your deputies required to be residents of Benton County?

- Deputies must report to Roll Call at the beginning of each shift, deputies are not required to live in Benton County. Take home vehicles are permitted outside of the county with approval of the Sheriff.

When is it too late to go into policing?

- It is never too late to pursue a career in law enforcement if you can meet the demands of the job. We have deputies with various career backgrounds; veterans, college graduates, construction trades, and professional athletes to name a few.

What is one of the best ways to prepare for testing?

- Reach out to one of our Recruiters (recruiters@co.benton.wa.us), go on a ride-along, speak with some of the deputies in the area, and review our website to see if we are a good fit for you and your family.

What hours will I work?

- When assigned to patrol, the primary shift is a twelve hour shift from 6 am to 6 pm or 6 pm to 6 am. Deputies rotate night shift and day shift every eight weeks. While working twelve hour shifts, you are allotted a 12 hour "Kelly Day" to take off each month, not affecting your vacation or sick time.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 1	Off	Off	Work	Work	Off	Off	Off
Week 2	Work	Work	Off	Off	Work	Work	Work
Week 3	Off	Off	Work	Work	Off	Off	Off
Week 4	Work	Work	Off	Off	Work	Work	Work

- Ten hour and eight hour work days are also available for some specialty assignments.

Is part-time work available?

- No

Where will I be working?

- The great thing about working for Benton County is the mix of urban and rural patrol beats in a quickly growing community. With more than 1,700 square miles of county to cover each shift, it will afford you the opportunity to work different patrol zones. You will be able to work in cooperation with neighboring agencies: Kennewick Police Department; Prosser Police Department; Richland Police Department; and West Richland Police Department.

What kind of equipment will I receive?

- Benton County is a highly trained and well equipped law enforcement agency. This helps the deputies accomplish the mission of the Benton County Sheriff's Office. Benton County deputies are supplied using the Quartermaster system, no out of pocket expense for equipment.
- The patrol fleet includes Ford marked police vehicles. Patrol cars are equipped with docking stations for portable tablets and keyboards, e-ticket system, and radar units.

Will I have control over which shift I am assigned?

- The Patrol Lieutenant will assign deputies to a patrol squad at the completion of the Patrol Training Officer (PTO) process.

What are my options in patrol work?

- After successfully completing the probationary period and meeting the qualifications of a specialty position posting, the deputy may submit a letter of interest for the specific specialty. Benton County helps each deputy reach the goals of their law enforcement career. Some of the specialty positions have defined times of service which allows deputies to gain experience and expertise in many areas. Some of these positions include:

Detective
Student Resource Officer
DARE/GREAT
Traffic/Motors
Gang Enforcement Team (GET)
US Marshal
Violent Gang Task Force
METRO Drug Task Force
Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
Civil Deputy
Tri-City Regional SWAT Team
Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant

Do patrol deputies just respond to dispatched calls?

- Responding to dispatched calls is the primary duty of patrol deputies. Deputies have opportunities to reach out to the community, conduct traffic enforcement/education, conduct investigations, and respond to calls for service.

Is there any way to skip patrol and go directly into a specialty unit?

- No, you must first complete the probation period of employment and then meet the standards of the specialty assignment as posted.

How long is the training process before I'm on patrol?

- An entry level deputy must successfully complete the Washington State Criminal Justice Basic Law Enforcement Academy, a PTO program lasting 12 to 16 weeks, and two week post academy training.
- A lateral deputy must complete the PTO program lasting 8 to 10 weeks and two week post academy training.

Is there any way to skip some of the training?

- No, it is important to be well trained and understand the job before being cleared for patrol.

I was in the military/military police. Will that speed up my training process?

- It may make your transition to civilian law enforcement easier, but it will not speed up the training process. Please review the civil service rules to understand the benefits of being a veteran applicant.