

Houston Police Department - Opportunities

After an initial three-year period as a patrol officer, an officer will be eligible to apply for transfer to another division. HPD has over 45 divisions including Patrol, Vice, Tactical Unit, Dive Team, Gangs, Motorcycle Detail, Identification, Crime Scene Unit, SWAT, Helicopters, Auto Theft, Special Crimes, Juvenile, Hostage Negotiation, Victim Services, Missing Persons, Burglary & Theft, Narcotics, Legal Services, Airports, Mounted Patrol, Training Academy, Special Operations, K-9, Vehicular Crimes, Internal Affairs, Lake Patrol, Bike Patrol, Technology Services, Dispatch, Public Affairs, Crime Analysis, Inspections, Financial Crimes, Robbery, Criminal Intelligence, Investigative First Responder, Homicide, Major Offenders, Polygraph and Bomb Squad.

PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Sergeant
- Lieutenant
- Captain
- Assistant Chief (appointed)
- Executive Assistant Chief (appointed)
- Chief of Police (appointed)

A police officer is currently eligible for promotion to the rank of sergeant once they have attained five (5) years of service from their hire date as a cadet.

Sergeants are eligible to promote to the rank of lieutenant after two (2) years in grade as a sergeant and must have attained an associate's degree or completed a minimum of 65 hours towards a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

Lieutenants are eligible to promote to the rank of captain after two (2) years. Candidates for promotion to the rank of captain must have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university.

Promotion to the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant, and captain each require passing a written examination and an assessment center in order to be placed on a promotional eligibility list. Captain is the last rank that can be attained via the testing process.

The ranks of assistant chief and executive assistant chief are appointed by the chief of police and require a master's degree from an accredited college or university.