FBI INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS: An Inside Look

At the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Intelligence Analysts have distinctive and rewarding careers, working closely with Special Agents, other FBI employees and the Intelligence Community to consolidate valuable information into strategic, analytical intelligence. Their work serves as the agency's first line of defense in identifying and understanding threats, security gaps and vulnerabilities.

From collecting and disseminating raw intelligence to making real-time analytical judgments and identifying future threats and trends, Intelligence Analysts are critical to the FBI’s ability to act proactively to mitigate risks.

Intelligence Analysts are the first line of defense for our nation's security. This is a career where self-starters thrive and continually developing new knowledge is key.

In the Field
Intelligence Analysts retrieve and collect secure information, question suspects, identify and cultivate intelligence assets and develop immediate and long-term responses to new and ongoing cases. A significant part of an Intelligence Analyst’s role is to report back to the field and Headquarters regularly, providing accurate assessments of operation objectives and status, the identification of intelligence threats, credibility of evidence or suspect testimonies and other collected information during the course of a mission. They also contribute to the training and development of new Intelligence Analysts and use their knowledge in the field to point out administrative inefficiencies and offer recommendations. Intelligence Analysts work closely with operational and senior-level personnel to map out national security strategies.

A Wide Range of Backgrounds
The FBI recruits and hires Intelligence Analysts from a wide range of academic and professional specialties at all stages of career experience. Education and experience requirements vary depending on the role and position grade. Critical skills include:

» Cyber
» National Security Studies
» Foreign Area Study / Foreign Language Skill
» Law

Three Unique Career Tracks
FBI Intelligence Analysts are assigned to the following career tracks, each of which uses similar methods of evaluating intelligence.

**Tactical Analyst**  Often embedded with active units, provides up-to-the-minute information about new or ongoing threats, as well as interrogates suspects, analyzes crime scenes and reports all information to Headquarters.

**Collection/Reporting Analyst**  Collects and disseminates raw intelligence data; identifies high-priority intelligence and patterns; and develops strategies and products to help tactical units prepare for missions.

**Strategic Analyst**  Conducts in-depth strategic analysis to identify big-picture trends, relying on intelligence gathered from others to address and eliminate future threats in order to safeguard national security operations.
Applicant Process
Here’s what you need to know about the Intelligence Analyst application process:

**Step 1: Inform & Apply**
The application is online; candidates must identify their local Field Office for interviews and testing.

**Step 2: Phase I & Phase II Testing**
Phase I: Applicants are evaluated on analytical thinking, logical reasoning and personal experience.
Phase II: Applicants are required to analyze a sample of intelligence and produce a written report.

**Step 3: Phase III Testing & Interview**
Applicants are evaluated in a structured interview for oral communication skills and interpersonal interactions.

**Step 4: Conditional Job Offer & Background Investigation**
Applicants undergo an intensive background investigation including:
- Polygraph examination.
- Drug test.
- Credit and records checks.
- Interviews with former and current colleagues, neighbors, friends, etc.

**Step 5: Orientation & Basic Field Training Course**
All New Intelligence Analyst Trainees (NIATs) report to the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA, to attend a short new employee introduction course; upon completion, you will begin a 12-week Basic Field Training Course (BFTC).

**Step 6: Graduation & Official Duty Location**
During Week 5 of the BFTC course, candidates receive notification of their office of assignment. Intelligence Analysts can be assigned to any of the 56 Field Offices or FBI Headquarters.

**Becoming an Intelligence Analyst Takes Dedication**
An FBI Intelligence Analyst’s role is demanding and rewarding and requires stringent entry qualifications. Those who complete the process become part of an elite team that keeps our country safe.

**Minimum Qualifications**
You must:
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be able to obtain a Top-Secret Clearance.
- Possess a valid driver’s license.
- Meet all positive education requirements.

**Automatic Disqualifiers**
- Non-U.S. citizenship.
- Conviction of a felony.
- Violation of the FBI Employment Drug Policy.
- Default on a student loan insured by the U.S. government.
- Failure of an FBI-administered drug test.
- Failure to register with the Selective Service System (males only).
- Knowingly or willfully engaged in acts or activities designed to overthrow the U.S. government by force.
- Failure to pay court-ordered child support.
- Failure to file income tax returns.