FBI SPECIAL AGENT: An Inside Look

At the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), our Special Agents bring their skills, talents, hearts and integrity to their crucial roles — getting ahead of threats, upholding the law, defending civil rights and civil liberties and protecting innocent people.

Many Special Agents bring backgrounds in fields not related to intelligence, surveillance and law enforcement. This includes established professionals, those seeking a second career and whose unique backgrounds and traits bring significant assets to the FBI.

Much More than a Job

A typical day in the life of a FBI Special Agent may entail surveilling a subject in the morning, tracking terrorists’ online social activity before lunch, testifying in court in the afternoon and addressing a public forum on identity theft in the evening.

Special Agents seek out cyber thieves, infiltrate organized crime rings, conduct psychological profiles of subjects, witnesses and informants and serve as mentors.

Our agents work on matters including cyber crime, counterintelligence, terrorism, drug trafficking and other federal statute violations often in tandem with local, state and foreign counterparts using the latest technologies in intelligence-gathering and data analysis.

We’re looking for individuals with leadership abilities, those motivated to take on new and complex challenges and set high moral standards for their colleagues and teams. If a fulfilling and exciting career that blends your unique background and skills with protecting the safety of the nation interests you, consider a career with the FBI. In fact, you can have multiple careers inside of the FBI. The first step is getting in.

Why Fitness Matters

In order to be considered for employment, Special Agent applicants must pass the FBI physical fitness requirements, including medical and hearing standards, and all phases of the FBI Physical Fitness Test (PFT). Selectees must be physically fit to complete training at Quantico and maintain a high level of physical fitness throughout their careers.

CAN YOU PASS THE PFT?

In order to pass the FBI Special Agent PFT, applicants will be required to complete the following:

» A maximum number of continuous sit-ups in one minute.

» A timed 300-meter sprint.

» A maximum number of continuous push-ups (untimed).

» A timed 1.5 mile run.

A Career You Never Imagined

Did you know that many FBI Special Agents bring unexpected skillsets from backgrounds in education, psychology, journalism, professional sports, veterinary science and others in addition to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Accounting, Legal and Law Enforcement? That’s what makes a Special Agent’s talent so vital to the FBI mission. Imagine how you could be a Special Agent:

- College Professor to Special Agent From addressing a crowd of students in university lecture halls to testifying as an expert subject matter witness.

- Art Historian to Special Agent From identifying forged masterpieces to recovering paintings stolen during World War II.

- Psychologist to Special Agent From administering Rorschach tests to conducting psychological assessments on undercover employees.

- Pharmaceutical Sales to Special Agent From promoting the latest FDA-approved medication to infiltrating an opioid sales ring within your community.

- Language Educator to Special Agent From teaching a foreign language to interpreting an interview of a foreign suspect during an investigation.

- Policy Analyst to Special Agent From influencing government decision making to obtaining a confession from an assailant.
Applicant Process

If you’re inspired by our mission, here’s what you need to know about the Special Agent application process:

**Becoming a Special Agent Takes Dedication**

The Special Agent Selection System (SASS) is a mentally and physically challenging process designed to find only the most capable applicants. However, those who make it through 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 the FBI’s physical fitness requirements.
» Commit to serving as a Special Agent for a minimum of three years.

**Automatic Disqualifiers**

» Non-U.S. citizenship.
» Conviction of a felony.

**Other Points to Consider**

In addition to meeting all physical and medical requirements, Special Agents must consider:

- worldwide assignments on a temporary or long-term basis;
- working a minimum of 50-plus hours per week;
- carrying a firearm;
- and being able to participate in arrests, the execution of search warrants, raids and other dangerous assignments.

**OUR core VALUES:**

Rigorous Obedience to the Constitution
Respect
Compassion
Fairness
Integrity
Accountability
Leadership
Diversity

**Minimum Qualifications**

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be able to obtain a Top-Secret Clearance.
- Possess a valid driver’s license.
- Meet the FBI’s physical fitness requirements.
- Commit to serving as a Special Agent for a minimum of three years.

**Automatic Disqualifiers**

- Non-U.S. citizenship.
- Conviction of a felony.

**Other Points to Consider**

- worldwide assignments on a temporary or long-term basis;
- working a minimum of 50-plus hours per week;
- carrying a firearm;
- and being able to participate in arrests, the execution of search warrants, raids and other dangerous assignments.

**Applicant Process**

If you’re inspired by our mission, here’s what you need to know about the Special Agent application process:

**STEP 1: INFORM & APPLY**

Visit FBIJobs.gov to view careers and open positions.

**STEP 2: INTERVIEW & SELECTION**

Be aware that the hiring process can take a year or more.

**STEP 3: CONDITIONAL JOB OFFER & BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION**

Once accepted, you will undergo an intensive background investigation including:

» Polygraph examination.
» Drug test.
» Credit and records checks.
» Interviews with former and current colleagues, neighbors, friends, etc.

**STEP 4: FINAL JOB OFFER & ONBOARDING**

Once accepted, attend Quantico for onboarding and training.

The FBI is an equal opportunity employer.