ATF SPECIAL AGENT

Your path to the badge

Most applicants finish in 12–14 months.

27 wks
Training at FLETC in Glynco, Georgia

$60K
Recruitment incentive for new federal hires only

APPLY

0 — Apply on USAJOBS

Apply to an open special agent announcement. You'll be notified of your ranking and, if you qualify, invited to testing.

An "ineligible" status before you test is normal.

SCREENING

1 — Applicant exam

Online test of verbal, quantitative and investigative reasoning.

Valid 1 year

Watch for two emails from the vendor: a link and a password.

2 — Physical task test

Tests the physical demands of the job. Some sites use a treadmill.

Valid 1 year

Retake anytime

Where most applicants are eliminated. Train before you apply.

3 — Panel interview

A structured interview with ATF agents.

VETTING

4 — Polygraph

Successfully pass polygraph examination.

Valid 3 years

May accept a recent FBI, DEA, FAMS, ICE or Secret Service polygraph.

5 — Medical and drug test

Uncorrected vision 20/100 or better each eye; corrected 20/20 one eye, 20/40 the other.

6 — Background investigation

Full investigation for a Top Secret clearance.

ACADEMY

7 — Criminal Investigator Training

12 weeks of federal law enforcement fundamentals with other agencies.

Skipped by current 1811s

8 — Special Agent Basic Training

15 weeks of ATF training: firearms and explosives law, evidence, arrests, undercover work, tactics. Classes of about 24.

Report to your field office

Your recruitment incentive is paid every two weeks over four years. Current federal employees who relocate 50+ miles may receive $25,000. Incentives are first-come, first-served while funding lasts.

Need to delay the exam or physical test for injury, surgery, pregnancy or illness? Request a reasonable accommodation.

Apply: atf.gov/join · **Questions:** SAIOlapplicantinfo@atf.gov