



Federal Agent

MCJ related certificates and concentrations:

- Emergency Services and Homeland Security Certificate
- Disasters, Hazards, and Emergency Management Certificate

MCJ-related courses:

- CRJU 5250 - Criminal Offenders
- CRJU 5270 - Case Studies in Criminal Justice
- CRJU 5510 - Contemporary Issues in Law Enforcement
- CRJU 5550 - Criminal Justice Policy and Planning
- CRJU 5552 - Criminal Justice Ethics
- CRJU 5555 - Profiling Criminal Behavior
- CRJU 5572 - Race, Crime, and Justice
- CRJU 5574 - White Collar Crime
- CRJU 5575 - The Mentally Disordered Offender
- CRJU 5576 - Social Science in the Criminal Justice System
- CRJU 6600 - Special Topics in Criminal Justice - some of these topics are law enforcement related
- CRJU 5650/PUAD 5650 - Public Service in Emergency Management and Homeland Security (3 credit hours)
- CRJU/PUAD 5655 - Principles of Emergency Management (3 credit hours)
- CRJU/PUAD 5720 - Public Policies of Hazards and Disasters (3 credit hours)
- URPL 6645 - Disaster and Climate Change Planning (3 credit hours)

Complementary electives: Computer Science and Information Technology, Finance Science, International Studies and Foreign Languages, Cybersecurity, Spanish, Psychology, Sociology, Communication, Law Studies

Recommended extracurricular activities and experiences: Alpha Phi Sigma Criminal Justice Honor Society, study abroad, other community involvement and equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) experiences such as a student association or club, volunteering in the community, or other experiences that expose you to communities and cultivate a service-minded perspective.

Duties and Responsibilities: Federal agents investigate and respond to a wide variety of national security threats and considering the wide range of areas the federal government is responsible for, special agent duties span a wide array of responsibilities. These may include investigations, arrests, upholding the law, collecting evidence, infiltration of organized crime rings, terrorist investigations, defending civil rights, etc. fbijobs.gov states: "A day for an FBI special agent might 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."

This career spans desk/administrative jobs as well as field work, depending on the area the agent works in.

Work Environment: The work environment varies-however, many special agent positions will occupy an active out-of-office position, rather than a desk position. All agent positions will have a report writing component, however, so writing skills are an important facet of this position. Many agents enjoy that no day is the same, which helps to keep the job interesting. Agents will often collaborate with other agents in their investigations, arrests, or other duties. There are opportunities for international travel and work placement as well.

Work Schedule: Federal agents work an average of 50 hours per week and the Bureau expects agents to be available and flexible. However, those who maintain a widely available schedule are also entitled to a 25% pay increase for this availability.

Career Path/Promotion: Like many government jobs, federal agents work on a classification system. A special agent usually begins as a GS 10-GS 13. An agent will begin their career by training through an intensive program for 20 weeks at Quantico, Virginia. Agents can advance through the GS ranks through additional training and experience and years of service. Supervisory agent classifications begin at GS 14.

Additional opportunities for an MCJ degree: With a Master's degree there are other opportunities that may be of interest. With an MCJ teaching as an adjunct with a university is a possibility. Also, if one becomes an expert in their chosen field or subject within the criminal justice system, there may be opportunities for media contact, publication, and/or testifying before the legislature.

Education, Training and Certification: A Bachelor's degree is required to apply to be a federal agent, however the most competitive candidates will possess Master's degrees in the following: criminal justice, computer science and information technology, finance science, international studies and foreign languages, cybersecurity. Prior to applying, candidates must also have two years of applicable job experience (this may look like law enforcement or military, or cybersecurity), or a Master's degree and one year of experience.

Special Considerations: Federal agents undergo extensive background checks and psychological examinations as part of the hiring process. Those interested in working as a federal agent should be aware that drug use and criminal activity will greatly inhibit their ability to work in the field. Students are encouraged to conduct research as early as possible to better understand possible eliminating employment factors. Additional requirements: must be between 23-36 years of age, a U.S. citizen, pass the drug and background check, file all federal, state and local taxes, be in peak physical fitness and health, have a valid drivers license.

Skills and Competencies: Physical fitness, leadership, flexibility, problem solving, attention to detail, listening skills, observation, writing, service mindset, emotional intelligence, and analytical skills.

Average Salary Range:

*Federal agent salary, similar to the military, will begin at a base salary appropriate for the GS rank then a percentage added depending on the location the agent is assigned to.

GS 10- GS 13 avg range: \$78,000-\$153,000