

Career Field Research

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The career field I researched was an FBI agent that worked with cyber crime, white collar fraud, counter intelligence, counter terrorism, and crime against children/ kidnapping. The person I interviewed was E.J. Hilbert. He was an FBI agent for 8 years. I asked him 10 questions about the job and what he needed to do and have to be hired by the FBI.

I learned that you need at least a bachelor's degree and you need 4 years of college. To become an FBI agent you don't need to major in anything specifically but taking classes like Writing, Economics, Psychology, Sociology and Accounting can help you on the job a lot. I learned that the FBI won't consider hiring you until you're at least 30 years old, they won't hire you if you're any younger unless you have experience as a lawyer, accounting or if you're fluent in a certain language that they need. The application for the FBI is 35 pages long and you have to complete a writing and math test. If you score an 80 or lower they give you another chance to get a higher grade. If you score an 80 or lower again you're out you won't move on to the training academy.

After the application and both tests they do a complete full background check on you and a full polygraph examination and if you're good you move on to the FBI training academy in Stafford, Virginia for 22 weeks. Mr. Hilbert described the academy as a hamster cage because for the most part your inside training, your only outside for firearms and physical activities. You have to complete a physical training test when you first get there and also at the end of the 22 weeks. The work environment at the FBI is unique. When you first get there you work in the Federal Bureau of Investigation Unit office and you're assigned a team to train you and help you when you need it but for the most part you're working on cases by yourself. Some frustrations that come with the job is you're always being second guessed by your bosses and when you're

presenting your cases you're not allowed to add your opinion you're just supposed to come with the facts. You also only have two hours to gather your facts about the case, then you need to present it to your field office and they decide if your case should be investigated more or not. The best part of the job is that you get to help people and that you get to put bad people away so they don't hurt anyone else. The worst part of the job is not working fast enough to save people or prevent destruction during important cases like kidnappings, child crimes, and terrorism.

The job is also very stressful working with multiple cases at a time, the people you work with can also be stressful. He also told me that a stressful thing for me would be just being a woman. Many of my male coworkers won't see me as equal which could be hard. On average an FBI agent makes 120,000 dollars a year. I also learned that to do this job you have to be very driven to help people, you can't be a slacker, you have to be truthful and live up to your mistakes because during the job you will make many mistakes. To be an FBI agent you have to work 50 hours a week minimum but you'll definitely work more. Sometimes the job is a 9-5 and you can just go home. Other times you might have big cases where you need to be at the office working on your case or at the scene of your case. In those events you might only come home twice just to change your clothes.

During the interview I asked him if it was hard to be married and have a family while doing this job. Mr. Hilbert told me that it wasn't hard and that you just needed to create a work balance. But it also depends on your spouse, they have to be okay with you being out in the field in harm's way and also need to be okay with your long working hours.

We also talked about how I specifically wanted to be a criminal profiler for the FBI and he let me know that to get into the BAU (Behavioral Analysis Unit) which is the department a profiler works in, I would need to be in the FBI for at least 5 years. I also learned that profilers

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deal with the worst type of cases like kidnappings, murders, trafficking, and ect. Also, it's sometimes difficult to be a profiler because you're with a team of four other people and you guys will almost never be on the same page.

Doing this interview made me want to be an FBI agent even more because I learned how hard I'll have to work towards and that it's a great job if you have a passion for helping people. Which is what I want my career to revolve around. This interview emphasized my need for college because I do need at least my bachelors to become an agent. It also made me want to go beyond 4 years of college and go back for my masters degree. I don't need the master for the job but the interview made me think about what I would do after my four years of college because the FBI won't consider you hiring you unless your at least 30.

I'm glad we had to do this interview because I learned so many things about the career I want to go into that I probably wouldn't have learned until way down the line.