



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

How does the application process work?

This is a quick summary of how the federal application process works when you use USAJOBS to apply for positions.

1. Create an account with login.gov

First, you need to [create an account with login.gov](#).

2. Create a USAJOBS profile

Once you have a login.gov account, you need to [create a profile on USAJOBS](#) to apply to any job.

With a USAJOBS profile you can:

- Apply to any job on USAJOBS.
- Save jobs you're interested in.
- Save and automate job searches.
- Upload and save resumes or create one using our resume builder.
- Upload and save required documents.
- Have a more personalized experience.

3. Search for jobs

Start your job search by typing in a keyword or location. Use our search filters to narrow your results by salary, work schedule, agency and more.

You can search for jobs anytime, but it's best to create and sign into your profile before doing a search. Why? Because we can use your profile information to improve your job search results. [Learn how to search for jobs](#).

Save your search

You can save a search, which will save you time the next time you visit USAJOBS. When you save a search, we'll automatically look for jobs that match what you're looking for and email you, daily, weekly or monthly with those jobs. [Learn how to save a search](#). You can create and save up to 10 saved searches and it will expire one year after you create it. You can sign up to receive daily, weekly or monthly email notifications and you can also manage your saved searches in your account.

4. Review job announcement

If you find a job you're interested in, read the entire announcement to make sure you're [eligible and you meet the qualifications](#). For each job there are specific qualifications—your application must show how you meet the required qualifications.

- Read the **This job is open to** section to see if you're eligible to apply.
- Read the **Clarification from the agency**, or the **Who may apply** sections for further eligibility details (not all job announcements will include this information).
- Read the **Qualifications** section to see if you meet the job's qualifications. Once you read the qualifications, look at the area of consideration, minimum, basic and education requirement. Lastly, the specialized experience statement must be reflected in your resume for twelve months. [Understand the job announcement](#).

Contact the agency representative if you have questions. The contact information is listed below the **How to apply** section of the job announcement.

5. Prepare your application in USAJOBS

Read the **How to Apply** section of the job announcement before starting your application. Click **Apply** to [start your application](#)—we'll walk you through a five-step process where you'll attach a resume and any required documents.

During the application process you can review, edit, and delete your information. We'll automatically save your progress as you go, so you won't lose any changes. [Learn how to create an application](#).

6. Submit application to agency

When your application is ready in USAJOBS, we'll send you to the agency application system where you can submit your application. Before you submit, you may need to complete other agency-required steps such as:

- Providing more personal information.
- Providing more documentation.
- Answering eligibility questions.
- Completing an occupational questionnaire—look for a preview of the questions under the **Required documents** section.

It may take you longer to apply to some jobs than others, because some agencies and jobs require more information than others.

After you submit your application, go back to the **Application** section of your USAJOBS account and make sure the hiring agency received your application. Your application status would say you applied with the date you submitted your application if it went through.

You can always [check the status of your application](#) in your USAJOBS profile with the **Track This Application** link.

How long will it take to receive an updated status?

It may take a few hours, after you submit your application, for the agency to update your status. You may also receive an email confirmation from the agency application system, but not all agencies send email confirmations.

7. Agency reviews application

The hiring agency will send Notice of Results (NOR) Letter, that is an auto generated acknowledgement letter sent by the system. It provides confirmation to the applicant that his/her application was received. The second NOR letter, informs the applicant whether they are eligible for the position based upon their assessment question responses and the screen out criteria used. The third NOR letter is sent to inform the applicant that his/her application was sent to the hiring manager and the fourth NOR letter, informs the applicants of their final application status they were not selected for the position. The hiring agency will start reviewing applications once the job announcement closes. The hiring agency will review your application to make sure you're eligible and meet the job qualifications, and will place qualified applicants into these categories:

- Minimally qualified -70
- Qualified – 80 and below
- Well Qualified – 85 - 90
- Best Qualified – 95 and above

After the hiring agency reviews all applications, they will send the highest qualified applicants to the hiring official.

8. Interview

The hiring official will review the highest qualified applications and select applicants to interview based on agency policy. The hiring agency will contact applicants directly to schedule interviews.

Hiring officials can interview applicants using:

- A panel
- In-person
- Video
- Phone

There may be more than one interview round. For example, an applicant may have a phone interview and then an in-person interview.

How long will it take to schedule an interview?

It may take some time to schedule interviews, depending on the number of people being interviewed.

9. Agency selects candidate

After the agency completes all interviews, they will select a candidate(s) and contact them to start the job offer process. For those not selected, the hiring agency will update the job status to **Hiring complete**. If the hiring agency does not fill the position, the job status will update to **Job canceled**.

10. Job offer

The hiring agency will extend a tentative job offer. Once this offer is accepted the agency will start the background investigation. The agency may require additional security checks for jobs that need a higher-level clearance.

When does the job offer final?

The job offer is final when the agency successfully completes the background investigation and any additional security checks. The hiring agency will contact the candidate(s) directly to set up a start date.

11. Onboarding

Onboarding process begins after the applicant accepts the tentative offer. Background investigation takes approximately two weeks and the Entrance of Duty. IOP will contact selectees to complete mandatory trainings and then they would be set up for network account, laptop and smart card issue. In most cases the onboarding process will take approximately 30 days; a portion of which is dedicated to completion of the background investigation.