

**SELF ASSESSMENT
BORDER PATROL AGENT**

Take Command of Your Career! Protect America – Apply to the Border Patrol!

This personal self-assessment tool is a series of questions which will help you make an informed decision about whether being a BORDER PATROL AGENT (BPA) is the right career for you.

First, ask yourself: “Would I enjoy....

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Work that involves physical and mental challenges? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Work that is adventuresome, exciting, and rewarding? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Forming lifelong friendships with an elite group of people? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Learning about and living in new and different cultures? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Working in an organization known for its intense camaraderie and loyalty? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Working on a team? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Working outdoors? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Performing a job that protects the United States from threats to its people and way of life – including terrorists, terrorist weapons, and illegal drugs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Encountering and arresting illegal aliens and smugglers of aliens? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Using a variety of high tech equipment (e.g., night vision goggles, ATVs, unmanned aerial vehicles, aircraft, etc.) and weapons? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Having a career that is more a way of life than a job? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Next, ask yourself: “Would I be willing to...

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Work irregular and unscheduled hours and overtime, including shift work, weekends, nights and holidays, and at times, away from my permanent duty station? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Wear a prescribed uniform and conform to established grooming standards? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Attend a rigorous five (5) month physical and academic training program that will be away from my current residence? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Travel for conferences, training, or special operations? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Execute orders or follow policies that may conflict with my personal or religious beliefs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Encounter aliens suffering poverty, extreme hardship, carrying infectious diseases, or witness drownings, vehicle accidents, and other tragedies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Be exposed to all kinds of weather and environmental and hazardous conditions even when wearing protective equipment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Work alone in remote areas for extended periods of time, including throughout the night, when I may have limited communication and be at high risk of danger? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Live in remote locations that may have limited conveniences, such as housing, schools, healthcare, and entertainment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- | Finally, ask yourself: “Could I meet these kinds of requirements... | YES | NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Qualify with, carry, and maintain proficiency in the use of firearms? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Never have been convicted of a crime of violence? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Be able and willing to use deadly force (e.g., firearm) to protect my life, the lives of fellow officers, or the lives of innocent bystanders if I found myself in a life-threatening situation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Be able to engage in strenuous physical exertion, such as heavy lifting, crouching or crawling in restricted areas, climbing, and running? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. By the time referred for selection, be a U.S. citizen (and lived in the U.S. for the last three years) with a valid driver’s license and be under the age of 40 (unless I’m currently serving or formerly served in a Federal civilian law enforcement retirement covered position)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Learn Spanish (if I don’t already know it)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Pass a security background check? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Pass a medical/physical examination? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Pass initial and random drug tests? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you answered **YES** to most or all of the questions, that is a good indication that becoming a Border Patrol Agent (BPA) could be the right career for you. Please visit the U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s website at http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/careers/customs_careers/border_careers/bp_agent/bp_now_hiring_1p.xml for more detailed information about BPAs, including how to apply for a BPA position, qualifications, pre-examination study guides, etc.

If you answered **NO** to a lot of the questions, you should think carefully about your decision at this time to apply for a BPA position. Other careers at the Department of Homeland Security may be more to your liking, so you may want to visit the Department’s website at <http://www.dhs.gov/xabout/careers/index.shtm>.

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Equal Employment Opportunity: The Department of Homeland Security is an Equal Opportunity Employer and will make reasonable accommodations to the known disability and/or sincerely held religious practices of a qualified applicant or employee if it would not impose an "undue hardship" on the operation of the Department. Determinations on requests for reasonable accommodation would be made on a case-by-case basis.