

Your Future Awaits

Use your STEM education to contribute to our mission of protecting the nation through a career in the Intelligence Community (IC). We need people with specialized skills and technical expertise to provide accurate, essential information to the President and others who make national security decisions.

The IC offers full-time employment and many opportunities for students who are still completing their educations, including internships and co-operative education programs that alternate periods of full-time employment with periods of full-time study.

Scholarships are another way to help you complete your education. These opportunities typically carry an 18-month service obligation for each year of funding:

- The Stokes Scholarship Program, also known as the Undergraduate Training Assistance Program, offered by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and National Security Agency (NSA)
- The Information Assurance Scholarship Program offered by DIA, NGA, NSA and Armed Services intelligence elements
- The Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship

Other opportunities include:

- The IC Postdoctoral Fellows Program, administered by the CIA
- Visiting Scientist Programs, sponsored by NGA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

What You Can Do

Wherever you serve within the Intelligence Community you will work to defeat terrorism at home and abroad, prevent and counter the spread of weapons of mass destruction, protect the health of deployed military forces, and develop innovative ways to detect and analyze threats from our nation's adversaries. Here are some examples of how STEM majors contribute to the mission:

- A **mathematician** may decode adversaries' messages by solving complex cryptographic problems.
- A **systems engineer** may identify Weapons of Mass Destruction capability gaps and technical solutions to fill those gaps.
- A **nuclear engineer** may track the activities of suppliers of nuclear technology, materials and equipment.
- An **aerospace engineer** may work as part of a multi-agency team to analyze foreign missile systems to determine the threat they pose to U.S. and Allied forces.
- A **program manager** may lead an interdisciplinary team applying nanotechnology to develop innovative intelligence collection systems.

Not Sure Where You Fit?

Try our Job Exploration Tool on IntelligenceCareers.gov to match up your skills with our job fields.



- A **chemical engineer** may assess the implications and potential impact of a terrorist explosive device.
- An **imagery analyst** may assess damage to civilian infrastructure caused by natural disasters or military action.
- A **virologist** may assess foreign biotechnology advancements that may someday give another country a military advantage.
- A **biologist** may trace biological pathogens such as anthrax to their source.
- A **chemist** may evaluate methods to detect liquid explosives to make air travel safer.
- An **astro engineer** may develop cutting-edge satellite technologies and innovative collection concepts for national security.
- A **geophysicist** may combine global gravity models and global 3-D seismic models to improve the detection of earthquakes.
- An **environmental security analyst** may assess the impact of climate change on food and water resources internationally to prepare for possible future humanitarian aid requirements.
- A **cybersecurity professional** may protect sensitive financial communications from prying hackers.

Requirements

To work in the IC, you must be a U.S. citizen and be eligible for a Security Clearance. All applicants selected for hire will undergo an extensive background investigation and drug screening. Some agencies also require a polygraph exam.