



SELF ASSESSMENT

Enforcement Agent

Ohio Investigative Unit

The Ohio Department of Public Safety Investigative Unit is looking for men and women who are seeking an exciting career with good compensation and benefits and a rewarding future in law enforcement. Agents are certified Ohio Peace Officers with statewide jurisdiction and select federal authority to enforce both civil and criminal laws.

Ohio Investigative Unit Agents are charged with enforcing Ohio's liquor laws, portions of the Ohio Revised Code and the regulations of the Liquor Control Commission. Special emphasis is placed on the sale of alcoholic beverages to persons under the age of 21. Agents become involved in enforcement-related areas such as *gambling*, *prostitution* and *narcotics* while enforcing the Liquor Control Commission's regulations. Agents also enforce laws against the sale of tobacco products to those less than 18 years of age.

The Ohio Investigative Unit is the only state law enforcement entity dedicated to the prevention of illegal use of food stamp benefits. Enforcement Agents work with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the state to detect, investigate and prosecute those people improperly using these benefits. Enforcement Agents work undercover and must be adept at playing any role that will allow them to blend in with the clientele of the premises that is under investigation.

This job will provide you with a great number of opportunities and benefits. Benefits include sick leave; occupational injury leave; paid vacation; personal days; paid holidays; healthcare insurance; dental insurance; vision insurance; life insurance; college tuition reimbursement; military leave; and the chance to work with one of the best law enforcement agencies in the State of Ohio. Please refer to the Ohio Investigative Unit web-site for a better explanation of the benefits. www.oiu.ohio.gov

This can be a great job; however, all applicants must be made aware of the potential drawbacks. As you review the information listed on the following pages, you are encouraged to decide for yourself, the impact that the job realities will have on your life. The attached form is for your use to assist in determining if this is the career for you. **Do not return it.**

The Ohio Department of Public Safety is an equal opportunity employer.

Self Assessment Questionnaire – The Realities of the Job

IS THIS THE CAREER FOR ME?

Directions: Rate how ready you are to accept the following job realities. Place your checkmark in the box to the left of the statement which best describes your readiness for each.

- 1. Working weekends. You will have very few weekends off. In fact, the typical agent's days off are Sunday and Monday. Fridays and Saturdays are our most active nights. Basically you can count on working weekends.**
 Right Now – I'm ready to work under these conditions.
 Not Yet – I'm not ready to work under these conditions.

- 2. Working an eight-hour shift many times between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. Typical shifts are 3:00 p.m. to 11p.m., 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., and 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. You may want to consider how this fits in with your personal/social commitments.**
 Right Now – I'm ready to work under these conditions.
 Not Yet – I'm not ready to work under these conditions.

- 3. Working a different shift everyday. Shift hours vary quite a bit. One day you may work 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m.; the next you may work 4:00 p.m. to midnight. The hours vary from day-to-day and week-to-week.**
 Right Now – I'm ready to work under these conditions.
 Not Yet – I'm not ready to work under these conditions.

- 4. Working in a smoke-filled environment. Many of our investigations are conducted not only in a smoke-filled environment with little to no ventilation; but you will also be exposed to possible sanitation issues such as dirt, debris, odors, and infectious diseases.**
 Right Now – I'm ready to work under these conditions.
 Not Yet – I'm not ready to work under these conditions.

- 5. Working in and around various liquor establishments and strip clubs. Our agents investigate cases at establishments dealing with people from all walks of life, some less positive than others. You will be required to adjust your appearance to "blend" in with the environment. For example, there may be times that you will be expected to wear dirty and ragged clothing. Traditional business attire is usually not called for when attempting to purchase narcotics during a drug investigation in a rat-infested basement.**
 Right Now – I'm ready to work under these conditions.
 Not Yet – I'm not ready to work under these conditions.

6. Working in a potentially dangerous environment with the possibility of little to no backup or assistance near by. While enforcement agents typically work with a partner, you should consider the odds of the two of you in an establishment with several angry and possibly confrontational patrons. Agents are not in constant contact with a police dispatcher. Back-up may take longer to arrive than you find in more traditional law enforcement agencies.

- Right Now – I’m ready to work under these conditions.
- Not Yet – I’m not ready to work under these conditions.

7. Driving for long periods of time during your shift as you go from one location to another. You may also be required to drive a truck or van during a raid.

- Right Now – I’m ready to work under these conditions.
- Not Yet – I’m not ready to work under these conditions.

8. Having your shift hours change at the last minute to meet the demands of the investigation. You may have been scheduled to work from 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. when an informant notifies you that the particular “deal” will occur at 10:00 a.m. you will now need to change your shift hours with little notice. This can have a profound impact on personal commitments.

- Right Now – I’m ready to work under these conditions.
- Not Yet – I’m not ready to work under these conditions.

9. Having to travel (and be away from home) for 2-3 days at a time. You may be required to work at various locations throughout the state. Under these conditions, you will generally reside in a hotel room and eat at restaurants. You will not have all the comforts of home. In fact, if you are not already a certified peace officer when hired, you may be away from home as long as nine months during your training period.

- Right Now – I’m ready to work under these conditions.
- Not Yet – I’m not ready to work under these conditions.

10. If hired you will be assigned to the next available opening. This means that you may be required to move to another part of the state. The possibility of transferring to another assignment is possible. However, transfers are based on seniority and it could take several years for your transfer to be granted. How will this impact others in your life? Will a spouse be able to find a job to correspond with the move? How will children react to a new school? Many times you will need to find new doctors, dentists, friends, etc.

- Right Now – I’m ready to work under these conditions.
- Not Yet – I’m not ready to work under these conditions.

11. The job can be tedious and boring with a lot of paperwork. Undercover work is not as exciting as portrayed by the television shows.

- Right Now – I’m ready to work under these conditions.
- Not Yet – I’m not ready to work under these conditions.

12. You are a law enforcement officer. You can get hurt on this job, even killed. That's why each agent carries a weapon and is provided with a protective vest.

- Right Now – I'm ready to work under these conditions.
- Not Yet – I'm not ready to work under these conditions.

13. You will have to balance deadlines. For example, you will be required to complete all necessary paperwork in a timely manner while at the same time focusing your efforts on other urgent aspects of the job.

- Right Now – I'm ready to work under these conditions.
- Not Yet – I'm not ready to work under these conditions.

14. You will encounter the use of profanity during the course of your work. You will hear language that may be offensive, crude, and a direct attack on you as an individual. You need to be aware that you may encounter racial, sexual, and ethnic remarks during the course of your investigations.

- Right Now – I'm ready to work under these conditions.
- Not Yet – I'm not ready to work under these conditions.

15. During the course of this job, especially if you are working in your home area, you may need to investigate and possibly arrest people you know.

- Right Now – I'm ready to work under these conditions.
- Not Yet – I'm not ready to work under these conditions.

16. On a regular basis, you will work with a partner who could be male or female. While the relationship between you and your partner is strictly professional, others who are significant in your life may feel uncomfortable about the partnership.

- Right Now – I'm ready to work under these conditions.
- Not Yet – I'm not ready to work under these conditions.

Count the number of checks for each item and place them on their respective line.

Right Now _____

Not Yet _____

If any of your checks fell into the “**Not Yet**” category, you should take the time to determine if this job is right for you at this time in your life.

You are encouraged to discuss of this assessment with those who are significant in your life. This career choice will impact their lives. Many of our agents who resign do so because they did not take the time to consider everything that goes with this job.

If you have what it takes, the Ohio Investigative Unit would appreciate the opportunity to consider you for employment.

Contact Philip Langston at 614-728-1233 or at PLangston@dps.state.oh.us.