

Investigations

Investing in TSA's people and mission

Your Polygraph Examination

TSA pre-employment polygraph exams are conducted by the TSA National Polygraph Program, a component of TSA Investigations. Here is a quick reference guide to your examination and what to expect:

Prior to Your Appointment

- · Get a good night's sleep.
- Follow your usual routine.
- Take your regular medications.
- Don't skip any meals.
- Come with an open mind.
- Allow enough time in your schedule.

Test Requirements

- Questions are directly related to counterintelligence and fitness (character and conduct) to encumber the position.
- The test is voluntary and can be terminated at any time.
- Examinee must sign an interview consent and rights form.
- All questions are reviewed prior to testing.

Examiner Training

- Graduates of National Center for Credibility Assessment
- · Federally certified examiners
- Bachelor's degree (minimum)
- 80 hours of continuing education biennially

Health Considerations

The polygraph components are not invasive. The polygraph instrument uses sensors placed on an individual to monitor and record their physiology during the testing phase. It is highly unusual for any medical condition, past or present, to interfere with the polygraph test or polygraph results. In the event an individual does have a concern in this regard, it is recommended that they consult their physician before their examination is scheduled.



Question Areas

Counterintelligence:

- Espionage and terrorist activity
- Deliberate damage of U.S. government information systems
- Intentional compromise of U.S. government classified information or material
- Secret contact with a foreign national or representative of a foreign power

Fitness:

- Involvement in a serious crime
- Involvement with illegal drugs
- · Deliberate falsification of the security forms

Confidentiality:

Information discussed during your polygraph interview is protected by the Privacy Act. 5 U.S.C 555a.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will nervousness affect my test?

• Nervousness is expected and accounted for during the test.

How long will the test take?

• The average test length falls between 3-6 hours.

How can I be successful on my polygraph examination?

Speak candidly about your life experiences, ask questions and follow your examiner's instructions.

What about information I learn from the internet and co-workers?

 It is recommended that you do not seek or necessarily trust information about the polygraph found on the internet, chat rooms, social media, YouTube or other non-official sources as those sources often provide inaccurate information which could be detrimental to your success.

What should I do if I don't understand something?

• Don't be afraid to ask questions. Your examiner has in-depth knowledge about the testing process. It is vital to your success that you understand the process and the questions.