



Frequently Asked Questions about Security Clearances

Do I need a security clearance?

Yes. All NAVSEA employees are required to hold a security clearance. It helps us to know that you will be a trustworthy employee.

What clearance level is required?

Clearances are granted at three levels: Confidential, Secret and Top Secret. Most positions require a Secret clearance.

How long does the process take?

For most, it takes about 30 days, but some clearances take longer.

What will disqualify me?

You must be a U.S. citizen to obtain a clearance. Other than that, you should not assume that something in your past will disqualify you. Everyone makes mistakes.

What are the advantages of having a clearance?

First, you can work at NAVSEA. Second, you will be eligible for more jobs in the federal government. Third, you may earn more than you would without a clearance.

Any practical tips to help me out?

When you do the questionnaire, be honest. False or misleading information is bad news.

How do I get a security clearance?

If offered a position, you will complete an online questionnaire about your background. A background investigator will then look into the answers you provided. Depending on the clearance level required, you may be asked to take a polygraph. Very few NAVSEA employees take the polygraph. Finally, a decision is made taking all factors into account.

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