Deputy US Marshal

Track down federal fugitives, guard federal courts and protect witnesses for the United States Marshals Service. Most people get in after police work or a graduate degree.

TYPICAL PAY	PAY RANGE	COST TO QUALIFY	TIME TO QUALIFY
$93,790 a year, full time	**$55k to $161k** lower end to upper end	**Nothing to $72k** tuition, fees, exams, kit	**4 to 8 years** after high school

DEMAND	LICENSE NEEDED	WHERE YOU WORK
Limited job outlook	**No** no license to hold	**Federal courthouses, fugitive task forces, prisoner transport, district offices**

How you get there

1. **High school** — Grade 12
   Keep your record clean. A full background investigation will look at all of it.
2. **Get the experience or the degree** — 2 to 6 years
   Either a year as a full-time sworn officer making arrests, serving warrants or moving prisoners, or a master's or law degree in a related field.
3. **Apply the day it opens** — A few months
   Postings close after a set number of applications. Then an online test, a fitness screening, a structured interview and a tentative offer.
4. **Background, medical and drug test** — Several months
   A full background investigation for a Top Secret clearance, then a final offer.
5. **Training in Glynco, Georgia** — About 5 months
   A short pre-course, the 59-day federal investigator program, then 39 days of marshal training.

Pros and cons

+ Varied work: courts, fugitives, prisoners and protection
+ No degree needed if you come from police work
+ Paid from the first day of training
- Postings are rare and can close in a day
- You may be placed anywhere in your region for three years
- Arrest work carries real physical danger

Good to know

A job posting that lasted one day

One May 2026 posting for deputy marshals opened on May 15 and closed on May 16. It was set to shut as soon as 400 people had applied.

The lead agency for federal fugitives

The Marshals Service is the main federal agency for hunting fugitives. It also runs the witness security program and sells property seized from criminals.

Optional boosts

Police or sheriff's work · A related graduate degree · Military service · Prior federal law enforcement

Where these numbers come from

USAJOBS: Criminal Investigator (Deputy U.S. Marshal), Region 2 posting, May 2026
USAJOBS: Criminal Investigator (Deputy U.S. Marshal), another regional posting, May 2026
USAJOBS: Deputy U.S. Marshal posting for current federal criminal investigators, October 2025
USAGov: U.S. Marshals Service

Numbers checked October 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: https://career.help/us/careers/us-marshal

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