



ACADEMIA PROGRAM

Connect to Protect



Overview

The FBI has engaged and worked closely with academic institutions to mitigate threats for decades. A recent focus on research security led the U.S. Congress to ask the FBI to develop a more consistent and effective academic engagement strategy to protect American innovation, cutting-edge research, and highly valued intellectual capital/property. To enhance those efforts and facilitate one FBI voice for all threats to academic institutions across the country, FBI leadership established a centralized, dedicated team within the Office of Private Sector (OPS) to lead and implement the FBI Academia Program.

The Academia Program's work aligns with OPS's mission to protect our nation's economic and national security by strengthening the FBI's relationships with the U.S. private sector, which includes academia. The program increases visibility for academia and the FBI on matters of mutual interest and provides a 360-degree awareness on current engagement efforts across the enterprise. OPS's Academia Program ensures the FBI has a unified strategy and national engagement program, and coordinates engagement with academic institutions and associations.

Mission

The Academia Program collaborates with FBI operational divisions to forge new strategic relationships between the FBI and academia, strengthen existing liaison efforts with academic institutions and associations, and increase the FBI's impact, scope, and uniformity of messaging to academia. The Academia Program develops and communicates academia engagement strategy within the FBI and with other U.S. government partners.

FBI Guiding Principles

The FBI has [Four Guiding Principles](#) to remain ahead of the threat: People, Partnerships, Innovation, and Process. The Academia Program is focused on the FBI's Partnerships with colleges, universities, and other academia organizations to enhance, strengthen, and expand engagement with the academic community.

"We want to work alongside you to help protect your colleges and universities and to preserve academic freedom – because the freedom to explore new ideas and new ways of thinking, and to speak our minds about what we're learning and discovering, is part of what we treasure most about the academic environment in the United States."

–FBI Director Wray

Academia Program Partnerships

External Academia Organizations and Influencers: The Academia Program relies on external academia organizations and influencers, including academic associations whose members are U.S. colleges and universities, to provide expert guidance to the FBI and help the FBI capably message a diverse higher education audience.

Government Agencies: The Academia Program ensures uniformity of the FBI's messaging within the U.S. whole-of-government approach. Collaboration with Intelligence Community partners and federal research funding agencies is essential as we work with academia to protect common interests.

To reach your local Field Office Academia POC, [please click here](#). To contact the FBI Academia Program at FBI Headquarters, please email, Academia@FBI.gov.