

Information for Admission to a US Service Academies/ROTC Programs



Air Force, Naval, Army (West Point),
Coast Guard, Merchant Marine Academies &
ROTC Programs

✓ Admission to the Academies

Introduction

To become a cadet you must meet the requirements specified by public law and must be qualified academically, physically, and medically. For the United States Air Force, Merchant Marine, Military and Naval Academies, each candidate must obtain a nomination form a member of Congress or from the respective Defense Department agency. For the United States Coast Guard Academy, selection is done by the academy based upon the merits of each candidate.

At each academy, candidates are considered on the basis of academic performance (high school record and ACT or SAT scores), leadership potential, physical aptitude, and a medical qualification. The academies seek classes composed of top scholars, leaders, athletes, women and minorities to maintain a diversified collegiate environment and student body.

How to apply for Admission

Applicants should accomplish all the steps outlined below. Each step listed is explained in your packet.

Steps to Admission:

1. Determine if you meet the requirements and qualifications.
2. Apply online with the pre-candidate application
3. Apply for a nomination, except for the US Coast Guard Academy.
4. Take the ACT and/or the SAT (college entrance exams)
5. Take the Qualifying Medical Exam.
6. Take the Physical Aptitude or Fitness Exams
7. Await evaluation and status of application.
8. Prepare for entrance to the Academy selecting you.

Steps to Admission Explained

1. Requirements and Qualifications:

GENERAL – Each candidate must be 17, but not yet 22 years of age by July 1 of the year admitted; be a US citizen at the time of enrollment; be trustworthy, emotionally stable, and motivated; be unmarried; and not be pregnant or have a legal obligation to support a child or children

ACADEMIC – Each candidate should have an above-average high school or college academic record and demonstrate strong performance on ACT or SAT college entrance

exam. The Academies encourage a strong college preparatory academic background. Recommend areas of preparation are English: 4 years, with emphasis on composition, grammar, literature, and speech; Mathematics: 4 years, with Alg I, Geometry, Alg II, and Math Analysis (or Trigonometry); Foreign Language: 2 years of the same foreign language (i.e. Spanish I, Spanish II); Science: 2 years of the laboratory science must include Chemistry and Physics (with Biology recommended); and History: 1 year of US History. Additional courses in Geography, Government, and Economics would be helpful.

MEDICAL – Candidates should have above-average strength, endurance, agility, and demonstrate adequate performance on the Physical Aptitude or Fitness Exam

2. Apply Online – The academy will start a candidate file for you upon receipt of your completed pre-candidate questionnaire. You may attain a questionnaire by going to:

Army - <http://www.usma.edu/admissions> **OPENS IN JANUARY OF JUNIOR YEAR**

Navy - <http://www.usna.edu/Admissions> **OPENS IN JANUARY OF JUNIOR YEAR**

Air Force - <https://admissions.usafa.edu/gateway> **OPENS IN MARCH OF JUNIOR YEAR**

Coast Guard - <http://www.cga.edu/apply> **OPENS IN AUGUST OF SENIOR YEAR**

Merchant Marines - <http://www.usmma.edu/admissions> **OPENS IN MAY OF JUNIOR YEAR**

3. Apply for Nomination – (This does not apply to the US Coast Guard Academy) During second semester of your junior year, you should apply for a nomination from all the sources listed in this packet. Each nomination source has information that must be completed on his/her website (Information is on page 6 of this document). Download or print out, complete, and send to address provided with required documentation. You **MUST** obtain a nomination in order to compete for admission to all the academies, except the US Coast Guard Academy, they compete based upon the merits of each candidate. Apply for a nomination from each sources for which you are eligible. Please check with your counselor if you have a special category for nomination.

This should be done in the spring of your junior year in high school or as soon thereafter as possible. You must have a Social Security number to establish file. Your file will be reviewed and you will be notified if you lack the qualifications to compete for admissions.

4. Fill out Academy Forms – You will be required to complete and have others complete many administrative forms, as you progress through the application process. Promptly return all forms you receive from the Academy Admissions Office and the Department of Defense Medical Exam Review Board.

5. Take the ACT and/or SAT – All candidates must take either the ACT or the SAT. Dates for both the ACT and SAT are listed in the Counseling office. Please see your counselor for testing dates and deadlines. You are to make sure you list the Academy of your choice on the application for the test you take to ensure that they receive your results.
6. Medical Exam – All candidates must take a qualifying medical exam scheduled for you by the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board. They will schedule your exam and evaluate the results after you have started an admission file.
7. Physical Aptitude or Fitness Exam – Your strength, endurance, and agility are measured by the Physical Aptitude Exam. You will receive scheduling instructions for completing the exam from the admissions office of the academy to which you apply.
8. Evaluation and Status – Notification of acceptance is possible as early as November for fully qualified, outstanding candidates who have completed all admissions requirements and receive a nomination. Final admission decisions will be made by the following April from the available data on each candidate. Some late admissions occur as late as June. Offers of admission are conditional from the time of offer to the date of admission. (July of each year)
9. Prepare for Entrance – Candidates should prepare for the academic, physical, and leadership demands a cadet faces. If you have met the academic and other qualifications for admission, you will most likely be ready for the challenges at the academy of your choice!

Please see your counselor if you have any questions or difficulties in regard to admission to the academies

Military Academy Summer Programs.

Each military academy offers a summer program to help prospective students see what it is like to be a part of this opportunity. These are offered to high school juniors and last about a week. Several sessions will be offered during the summer to maximize opportunities. Typically the application for each program opens in January and students will be notified by March or April of the same year. Check out each perspective academy site for more information.

✓ Application to ROTC Program

Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) is a multi-year program that runs concurrently with a student's normal college or university educational course of study. In addition to a normal academic workload leading to a Baccalaureate degree, ROTC students attend classes in Military Science, participate in the ROTC unit for drill, physical training, and other activities, and are generally taught the leadership principles and high ideals of a military officer.

This program does have scholarships available, but are not required for participation. Please check the website for the school you are interested in attending for information about their specific program. In all cases, the first step is working on your Senior packet and getting that information to your school counselor early so that they can begin the process of creating a recommendation letter for you. Concurrently, fill out the application for the program you are interested in. Please be aware of deadlines that the ROTC program and/or scholarship have so that you will be able to possibly qualify.

Air Force ROTC –	www.afrotc.com	OPENS JUNE 1ST
Navy ROTC –	www.nrotc.navy.mil	OPENS MARCH 1ST
Army ROTC –	www.usarmy/rotc.com	OPENS JUNE 1ST

Arizona Universities & ROTC Programs offered:

Arizona State University

Air Force - afrotc.clas.asu.edu

Army - www.goarmy.com/rotc/schools/arizona-state-university

Marines - www.nrotc.asu.edu

Navy – www.nrotc.asu.edu

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

Air Force - <http://prescott.erau.edu/rotc>

Army - <http://prescott.erau.edu/rotc>

Grand Canyon University

Army - www.gcu.edu/Admissions/ROTC.php

Northern Arizona University

Air Force – www.nau.edu/air-force-rotc

Army – www.nau.edu/army-rotc

University of Arizona

Air Force – afrotc.arizona.edu

Army - www.goarmy.com/rotc/schools/university-of-arizona

Marines - web.arizona.edu/~nrotc

Navy - web.arizona.edu/~nrotc

✓ Request for Congressional Nomination

US Senator John McCain

2201 E. Camelback Road, Suite 115

Phoenix, AZ 85016

Main: (602)952-2410

Fax: (602)952-8702

Attn: Jana Pierce

www.mccain.senator.gov

Fill out Academy nominations form online
and send with materials described

US Senator Jeff Flake

2200 E. Camelback Road, Suite 120

Phoenix, AZ 85016

Main: (602)840-1891

Fax: (602)840-4092

Attn: Sandy Ledy

www.flake.senator.gov

Call for information about nomination
packet

Congressman Raul Grijalva

738 N. 5th Avenue, Suite 110

Tucson, AZ 85705

Main: (520)622-6788

Fax: (520)622-0198

Attn: Martha Garcia (928) 343-7933
(Somerton, AZ)

www.grijalva.house.gov

Print out information, complete, and send
to address provided

General Advice for Grades 9-12 in applying to Military Academies

9th: Although it is too early for you to apply, it is not too early to prepare. By starting now, you will get a head start on making yourself a competitive candidate. The key to candidacy at the Academies is simple: achieve good grades in challenging college prep courses, hone your competitive spirit by participating in athletics, and practice your leadership skills in clubs and serving your community.

10th: If you are in 10th grade, you should continue focusing on your academics, extracurricular activities, leadership roles and taking the PSAT. When planning your high school curriculum, you should keep the following suggestions in mind:

- 4 years of Math: Algebra I/II, Geometry, and Trigonometry (at a minimum) and Pre-Calculus or Calculus if offered.
- 4 years of English
- 2 years of a Foreign Language
- 1 year each of Chemistry and Physics (with a lab if available)
- 1 year of US History and 1 year of World or European History
- Computer instruction is very helpful
- We recommend Honors, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate courses if offered.

11th: Please keep the following timeline in mind if you are currently in 11th grade:

- Starting in December of your junior year (if not sooner): Take the ACT and SAT exams early and often. If you do not score well on one, take the other. Results are accepted as late as February of your application year.
- January-March of your junior year: Complete military academy Summer Seminar application. This application also serves as the preliminary application so there is no need to submit another one.
- Spring of your junior year: Complete a preliminary application (if you did not apply to Summer Seminar). If you meet the minimum academic standards, you will be notified that you are an official candidate and you will be given instructions on how to complete the remainder of your online application.
- Spring of your junior year: Begin contacting the offices of your Representative and both of your US Senators to request a nomination. Many Congressional members set an early fall deadline for nomination requests. Check their websites to determine their procedures.
- June of your junior year to March of your senior year: Complete your online application, medical examination, and Candidate Fitness Assessment.

12th: If you have already entered 12th grade, please complete a preliminary application as soon as possible. If you meet the minimum academic standards, you will be notified that you are an official candidate and you will be given instructions on how to complete the remainder of your online application. You should be sure to manage your application carefully, paying special attention to deadlines for your individual congressional nominations. We also suggest that you read the military academy's FAQs page and try to learn more about life at their school to make the most informed college decision possible.

MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY FACT SHEET

The following guidelines are provided by the academies for applicants who may be eligible to be considered for an appointment.

* A candidate must be of good moral character and be an American citizen (except for the limited quotas of international midshipmen specifically authorized by Congress) by the date of induction into an academy.

* U.S. Air Force, Military, and Naval Academies require the candidate to be at least 17 years of age, but not have passed the 23rd birthday by July 1 of the year of induction. A cadet must be unmarried, not pregnant, and have no legal obligation to support children or other dependents, and be of good moral character.

* U.S. Merchant Marine Academy requires that the candidate must be at least 17 years of age, but not have passed the 25th birthday by July 1 of the year of induction.

U.S. Air Force Academy

Candidates who have received appointments in previous years had SAT scores ranging between **590 - 670** verbal and **620 - 700** Math. ACT scores ranged between **26 - 29** English; **27 - 32** reading; **28 - 32** math; and **27 - 31** science reasoning. The SAT and ACT math scores count more heavily than English. Candidates who score below **590** verbal and **620** math on the SAT or below **27** math/science reasoning and **26** English/reading on the ACT normally will **not** be competitive for an appointment. The highest SAT/ACT score will be used. The highest score may be taken from two different testings; therefore, to be competitive, the candidate is encouraged to retest one or more times. Extracurricular activities participation and leadership are an important part of the evaluation. **All** activities including athletics, all-league or all-state recognition, selection as a team captain, leadership in a school club or student government, participation in scouting or the Civil Air Patrol, and involvement in church or community activities or an after-school job are important areas of the Academy's evaluation. Students **must** rank in the upper **40** percent of their class; however, **57%** of the cadets rank in the **upper 10** percent.

Start the application process through the website: www.usafa.edu or contact the Director of Admissions, Colorado Springs, CO 80840-5651
Ph # (719)333-3070

U.S. Military Academy (West Point)

The Military Academy does not utilize minimum SAT/ACT scores; however, the mean SAT scores of a recent class are **629** English and **648** Math; Mean ACT scores were **29** English, **29** Math, **28** SciReas, and **30** Read. The scores from all four of the ACT sections are considered by the Military Academy. The highest SAT/ACT scores will be used and may be taken from two different testings. Extracurricular activities participation and leadership are an important part of the evaluation. **All** activities, including athletics, individual recognition, selection as a team captain, leadership in a school club or student government, participation in scouting, and involvement in church or community activities or an after-school job are important areas in the Academy's evaluation. Approximately **72 percent** of the entering class comes from the **top twenty percent of their high school class**.

Start the application process through the website: www.usma.edu or contact the Director of Admissions, West Point, NY 10996-1797
Ph # (845)938-4041

U.S. Naval Academy

Previous classes at the Naval Academy have been composed of midshipmen who scored as follows: **73%** scored **600 and above** on the **SAT Verbal** or **26 and above** on the **ACT English**; **87%** scored **600 or above** on the **SAT Math** or **26 and above** on the **ACT Math**. Minimum SAT qualifying levels are **530** verbal and **570** math; minimum ACT qualifying levels are **22** verbal and **24** math. However, in order for a candidate **to be competitive**, he/she **should have at least 600** on the SAT in **both** verbal and math; or **26** on the ACT in **both** English and math. Extracurricular activities participation and leadership are an important part of the evaluation. **All** activities, including athletics, individual recognition, selection as a team captain, leadership in a school club or student government, participation in scouting, and involvement in church or community activities or an after-school job are important areas in the Academy's evaluation. **Eighty-two** percent of the midshipmen are **from the top twenty percent of their high school class**.

Start the application process through the website: www.usna.edu or contact the Director of Admissions, USNA, Annapolis, MD 21402-5019
Ph # (410)293-4392

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

The average SAT scores for midshipmen in attendance are **535** verbal and **586** math. ACT averages are **23** verbal and **28** math. **Minimum SAT scores are 500 Verbal and 550 Math.** Achieving a **total score of 1050 without** having a **minimum of 500 Verbal and a minimum 550 Math DOES NOT** meet the Academy's minimum test score requirements. ACT minimums are **22 English** and **26 Math** with a **minimum composite of 23**. Additional criteria examined by the admissions office, include recommendations from school officials, history of extracurricular activities, and other evidence of character, leadership, and potential for academic achievement. Most midshipmen rank in the **upper 40 percent of their high school class**.

Start the application process through the website: www.usmma.edu or contact the Director of Admissions, Kings Point, NY 11024--1699
Ph # (516)773-5391

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

There are **no congressional nominations** to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Applicants must contact the academy directly between July 1 and December 15 prior to entrance the following June.

Start the application process through the website: www.cga.edu or contact the Director of Admissions, New London, CT 06320
Ph # (860)444-8500

All academies require candidates to pass a Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB). The academy to which the candidate has applied will initiate the scheduling of the examination with the Department of Defense. Once taken, the examination may be used for all service academies and four year ROTC scholarship programs.

IN GENERAL, GRADUATION FROM A UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMY CARRIES A FIVE-YEAR OBLIGATION OF ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE.