

Service Academies and ROTC

There are **five** service academies. Three reside within the Department of Defense. The first is the **U.S. Military Academy** in West Point, New York. The second is the **U.S. Naval Academy**, located Annapolis, Maryland. The third, located in Colorado Springs, Colorado, is the **U.S. Air Force Academy**. The **U.S. Merchant Marine Academy** in Kings Point, New York, resides within the Department of Transportation. Finally, the **U.S. Coast Guard Academy**, located in New London, Connecticut, resides within the Department of Homeland Security.

Requirements

- You must be:
 - 17-22 years old
 - United States Citizen
 - Unmarried
 - Not pregnant, with no legal obligation to support a child
- Leadership/character:
 - Clearly demonstrated in school, community, church, scouts, etc.
- Academic Qualifications:
 - Above-average high school academic record
 - Strong performance on ACT/SAT
- Medical Qualifications:
 - Good physical and mental health
 - Pass a Qualifying Medical Exam
- Physical Qualifications:
 - Above-average strength, endurance, and agility
 - Good performance on Candidate Fitness Assessment

The steps in becoming a cadet:

Spring of Junior Year

1. Determine if basic requirements are met
2. Start a file at the Service Academy
3. Apply for a nomination
4. Complete Service Academy forms

Senior Year

5. Obtain nomination
6. Complete testing/exams
7. Await evaluation and status
9. Visit the Service Academy
9. Prepare for service

What Admissions Officers Consider:

- Academics (60%)
 - High School Rank
 - SAT and/or ACT (with Writing)
 - Transcript
- Leadership (30%)
 - Extracurricular Activities
 - Athletic Participation
 - Teacher Recommendations / Appraisals
- Candidate Fitness Assessment (10%)
 - Basketball Throw
 - Pull-Ups
 - 40-Yard Shuttle Run
 - Modified Sit-Ups
 - Push-Ups
 - 1-Mile Run

Nominations

By law, Members of Congress are authorized to nominate candidates for appointment to four of the U.S. service academies. These schools are the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. The fifth Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, does NOT require a congressional nomination for appointment. There are two kinds of nominations: **Congressional Nominations** and **Service Connected Nominations**.

Congressional Nominations: You should request a nomination from both of your U.S. Senators and your U.S. Representative.

- Each Member of Congress is authorized 5 cadetships at each Service Academy at any one time.
- Each Member may nominate up to 10 young people to fill each vacancy.
- The Vice President has 5 cadetships for applicants from the United States at large.
- You can access your Senators and Representatives at www.senate.gov or www.house.gov.
- Contact them in the spring or summer of the year before you desire to enter one of the military academies.

Service-Connected Nominations are nominations used for the following:

- Presidential: Sons and daughters of career military members
- Regular Army and Reserve Components
- ROTC and JROTC schools
- Sons and daughters of deceased and 100% disabled veterans

What about ROTC?

Located within many universities and colleges, the Reserve Officer Training Corps offers programs as a way to provide leadership skills and job training to those who would like to join the military following graduation. Depending on the amount of time spent in ROTC, there is not always an obligation to go active duty when the program finishes, but many cadets in ROTC do decide to become an officer in their military branch of choice.

Just as there are differences with each branch of the military, there are also different requirements and training courses which officers need to finish before they join. ROTC can help students in college meet these requirements. At the same time, those in ROTC are taking classes at a particular college or university. Aside from attending a meeting each week and wearing your ROTC uniform at special events or meeting days, members carry on with a regular college schedule, including classes and extra-curricular activities. Scholarships in ROTC provide financial benefits. Depending on the type of scholarship received, cadets can receive full tuition, books, and college fees paid for by ROTC.

There are **three** branches of the armed forces in ROTC that give you the careers and experience you are looking for: Army ROTC, Navy ROTC, and Air Force ROTC.

Medical Red flags:

- Asthma, wheezing, asthma-like symptoms
- Orthopedic repairs
- LDD / ADD / ADHD
- Vision not correctable to 20/20
- Use of drugs / alcohol
- Eating disorders / anorexia
- Suicidal gestures or attempts