

Military Academies

Attendance at one of our nation's military academies is a very competitive process and should be undertaken well in advance of the senior year.

There are five military academies that the Department of Defense maintains for the preparation of officers for the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, and Merchant Marine. You must apply separately to each academy. Your chances of being accepted to a service academy are enhanced if you apply to more than one and if you attend the summer session at the academy of your choice in the summer between your junior and senior years. (PSAT scores are required for summer sessions)

Application Process

The application process begins in the spring of your junior year. You apply online to each academy at the end of April and fill out a Pre-Candidate Questionnaire. A preliminary application must be submitted in order to become an official candidate for the following year.

The official Candidate Application consists of several components, including the application, a physical aptitude test, a personality test, a personal statement, recommendations, etc. You should complete the online forms and ensure they are received by the academies as early as possible. Each academy will initiate an admissions file on you as soon as they receive part or all of your application. You could be notified as early as November of your senior year of your admittance, although the normal date for notification is after mid-April.

You must be prompt in arranging your **DODMERB Physical** if you expect to be admitted on schedule. Many potential candidates have been denied admission because their physical was not completed on time. **Successful completion of the DODMERB Physical is absolutely essential** before admission can be granted. Schedule your physical as soon as you get your application. Keep in constant contact with the Admissions Board of the Academies to which you are applying to determine if there are delays in the receipt of application materials.

To receive an offer of appointment, applicants must obtain an official Congressional or Senatorial nomination. Contact your Congressional and/or Senate office in the spring of your junior year to inquire about the application process for a nomination. Please note that a nomination is not required for the Coast Guard Academy.

Admissions Process

Successful appointment to an academy is based on the successful completion of your application, your physical, and receipt of a nomination. Candidates in the top 10% of their class, who have strong SAT scores, and who have demonstrated leadership in school or community activities are the strongest candidates for admission. Admission to the Academies is extremely competitive and only excellent students, who have demonstrated superior leadership skills, are granted admittance. A typical profile of a successful applicant would show a student with outstanding grades in the most difficult courses offered by the school; who has scored very well in the SAT; and who has been involved in school sports, student government, Boy Scouts, and community-based organizations. Students who do not gain admittance can be offered an appointment to an Academy Prep School for a year and then be admitted the following year. Most of the slots in Academy Prep Schools are reserved for recruited athletes or enlisted persons in the military.

Final Thoughts

Do not apply to a military academy unless you desire a career in the military! The lifestyle at each academy is very rigorous and only individuals who are strongly committed to a life in the military will be motivated to complete such a strenuous educational experience.

The students interested in attending either one of the military academies or applying for the ROTC Scholarship program must begin early to insure they receive full consideration. Students serious about attending a military academy should contact the academy liaison officers or the academies directly for the *Pre-Candidate Questionnaire* no later than the spring of their junior year. The academies are located at:

Air Force Academy: Colorado Springs, CO 80840

Coast Guard Academy: New London, CT 06320

Merchant Marine Academy: Kings Point, NY 11024

Military Academy: West Point, NY 10996

Naval Academy: Annapolis, MD 21402

ROTC applications can be obtained from:

U. S. Air Force: www.airforce.com

U. S. Navy or U. S. Marines: www.nrotc.navy.mil/

U. S. Army: 1-800-USA-ROTC or www.armyrotc.com/