

Military Academies and Application Process

Choosing a military academy is a big decision. It is a commitment to serve your country while receiving a high-quality education. There are five main federal service academies: West Point, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy, the Coast Guard Academy, and the Merchant Marine Academy. Each offers tuition-free education for military service after graduation.

Military academies are prestigious institutions known for producing successful graduates. Each academy has its strengths while catering to a diverse choice in fields of study. Choosing the right academy for you will depend on your own goals and where you see yourself in the future.

We highly recommend an applicant to consider multiple academies, as you may be eligible for more than one. After submitting your application, an academy liaison will contact you to assist with the next steps.

****Important Note:** Admission to the service academies is extremely competitive, including both the application process and Congressional nominations. If an individual is not accepted into their preferred academy, they can pursue other ways of commissioning through the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program, Officer Candidate School (OCS), or [enlistment](#) in Active Duty, National Guard, or Reserves. Enlisted members can later seek academy admission but must meet the academy's requirements and have the support of their chain of command.

Academy List:

U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO: 719-472-3070

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY: 516-773-5391

U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY: 914-938-4041

U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD: 410-267-4361

U.S. Coast Guard Academy – Note: The U.S. Coast Guard Academy is the only Academy that does not require Congressional nominations.

United States Air Force Academy (USAFA)

Colorado Springs, CO

U.S. Air Force Academy Home Page: <https://www.usafa.edu/>

U.S. Air Force Academy Admissions: <https://www.academyadmissions.com/>

U.S. Air Force Academy Nomination Resources:

<https://www.academyadmissions.com/apply/nomination/>

U.S. Air Force Academy YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvp3wlaAw3Rr59a3Gssz0PA>

United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA)

Kings Point, NY

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Home Page: <https://www.usmma.edu/>

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Admissions: <https://www.usmma.edu/admissions>

U.S. Merchant Marine Nomination Resources: <https://www.usmma.edu/admissions/apply-nomination>

U.S. Merchant Marine YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@u.s.merchantmarineacademy-2516/videos>

United States Military Academy (USMA)

West Point, NY

U.S. Military Academy Home Page: <https://www.westpoint.edu/>

U.S. Military Academy Admissions: <https://www.westpoint.edu/admissions>

U.S. Military Academy Nomination Resources: <https://www.westpoint.edu/prospective-cadets>

U.S. Military Academy YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC03ZHRYRcKYVLKV61z3Z6IDA>

United States Naval Academy (USNA)

Annapolis, MD 21402

U.S. Naval Academy Home Page: <https://www.usna.edu/homepage.php>

U.S. Naval Academy Admissions: <https://www.usna.edu/Admissions/index.php>

U.S. Naval Academy Nomination Resources:

<https://www.usna.edu/Admissions/Apply/Nomination-Sources.php>

U. S. Naval Academy YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@USNavalAcademyOfficial>

U.S. Coast Guard Academy: Again, we do not interview. Just providing their website for you.

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Home Page: <https://uscga.edu/>

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Admissions: <https://uscga.edu/admissions/getting-started/>

Required Documents for Application:

- Official High School transcript, your school should forward directly to me.
- Copy/s of SAT and/or ACT scores. You may forward multiple SAT scores.
- 3 recommendation letters.
 - Letters **must be signed**. (minimum of one from an academic teacher).

- Letters should come from individuals who genuinely know the applicant and can speak to their character, abilities, and potential. While letters from elected officials or retired General Officers are acceptable, they should only be provided if the individual has a personal and meaningful connection with the applicant.
- President's nomination or Vice President's nomination or Congressional nomination. Each has a different application process.
 - The President can nominate up to 200 candidates, but these nominations are specifically reserved for children of active-duty military personnel. These types of requests must be submitted through the military academy that you are applying to.
 - The Vice President is also authorized to nominate individuals to the United States Military, Naval, and Air Force Academies but cannot nominate to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy or the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He may have a maximum number of five nominees in attendance at each authorized academy at any one time.
 - Each member of Congress can also grant nominations. However, each member may have different requirements for their application process. You should contact your respective Congressional representative to find out about their requirements: [Members of the U.S. Congress | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)
- A list of extracurricular activities, 2 Pages Max., Don't forget your name at the top. You can bullet point these.
 - Leadership Roles
 - Honors and Awards
 - Community Involvement
 - Athletics
 - Clubs
- Recent passport style photograph.
- Essay topic: "Why I Belong In The Service Academy"
 - This should include your name and title at the top of your essay.
 - 500 words or less.

Additional commissioning pathways to become an Officer in the Military:

- Army
 - Army ROTC
 - Army Officer Candidate Training School
- Air Force
 - Air Force ROTC
 - Air Force Officer Candidate Training School
- Navy
 - Navy ROTC

- Navy Officer Candidate Training School
- Marines
 - Marines ROTC
 - Marines Officer Candidate Training School
- Coast Guard
 - Coast Guard ROTC
 - Coast Guard Officer Candidate Training School