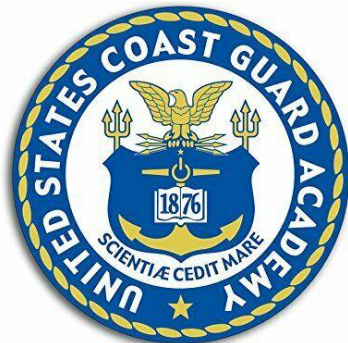


**Information for Admission
to a
United States Service Academy/ROTC
Program**



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

Service Academy Nomination Fact Sheet

An appointment to the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, or U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is a significant achievement. Acceptance of an appointment requires at least a nine-year service obligation; four years at a service academy and five years of active duty service.

Eligibility

To be eligible for appointment, you must be an American citizen, between the ages of 17 and 22 as of July 1 of the year you would enter an academy. The United States Merchant Marine Academy extends their age eligibility to 25 years old. Further, you must not be married or pregnant, and you must not have any legal obligation to support children or other dependents. To apply for a nomination through a congressional office in Illinois, you must be a legal resident of Illinois. If you are not certain that your legal domicile is in the state of Illinois, please contact the congressional delegation's Illinois offices before submitting an application.

Application

You must apply directly to each service academy that you are interested in attending. Each service academy has its own application requirements and deadlines which must be met if an application is to be successful. Application information can be found on each Academy's website:

United States Naval Academy

USNA Candidate Guidance
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018
<http://www.usna.edu/Admissions>

United States Air Force Academy

Office Admissions Office
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5025
<http://academyadmissions.com>

United States Military Academy

Admissions Office
600 Thayer Road
West Point, NY 10996-9902
<http://admissions.usma.edu>

United States Merchant Marine Academy

Office of Admissions
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699
<http://www.usmma.edu/admissions/>

United States Coast Guard Academy

Admissions Office
New London, CT 06320
<http://www.uscga.edu/admissions>

Please note that many parts of the application process are time-consuming. This includes the physical aptitude test, the medical fitness exam, and the ACT/SAT. For this reason, the congressional delegation recommends students start the application process in the spring of their junior year.

Applicant Evaluation by Service Academies

Each academy uses a questionnaire to make an initial assessment of an applicant's potential for appointment. Soon after the applicant returns the questionnaire, the admissions office will provide the applicant with an evaluation of the applicant's demonstrated ability to meet admissions standards. An applicant who meets the standards is declared a candidate; those who do not initially meet the standards may submit additional test scores or information to the academy for re-evaluation. The results of this evaluation are provided to Members of Congress to assist in screening the applicants from their district. The applicant must provide the following information when submitting the questionnaire: academic standardized test scores (SAT, ACT), rank in class and grade point average, Social Security number, and participation in high school extracurricular activities. Be sure to complete a pre-candidate questionnaire for each academy you are interested in attending.

Congressional Nomination

All service academies, except the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, require a political nomination. The most common type of political nomination is a congressional one. Each Senator or Representative can make a certain number of nominations each year to fill their appointment vacancies at each academy. As the nomination process is very competitive, we encourage students to apply for a nomination from all three congressional offices in Illinois. Use the Vermont Congressional Nomination Checklist as a guide on what materials each office requires to complete an application.

The complete nomination application requirements, as well as the addresses to send materials to, can be found on the website of each congressional office. Please note that each congressional office will have different application deadlines ranging from mid-October to November 1st. Please contact each congressional office for more specifics.

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin

(217) 492-4062

<https://www.durbin.senate.gov/help/academy/>

U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth

nominations@duckworth.senate.gov

<https://www.duckworth.senate.gov/help/academy-nominations>

U.S. Representative Mike Bost

12th District of Illinois

(202) 225-5661

<https://bost.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations>

To find your congressional representative outside of the 12th District of Illinois, visit this website: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/IL#representatives>

Non-congressional Nomination. In addition to a congressional nomination, you may also qualify for nomination through other sources, including:

- *President Donald J. Trump:* nominates children of career military personnel, deceased or disabled veterans, military or civilian personnel in missing status, and Medal of Honor recipients;
- *Vice President Michael R. Pence:* nominates five individuals from across the United States per year <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-trump-administration/academy-nominations/>;
- *The Secretary of the Army, Navy, or Air Force:* nominates members of regular military, reserve components, and participants in the ROTC.

Further information regarding application procedures for these non-congressional nominations is available through each academy's website. Applying for more than one nomination could increase your chances of securing a nomination. More than one nomination, however, is not required to gain an appointment. Please note that the United States Merchant Marine Academy only accepts congressional nominations.

Please see your Guidance Counselor if you have any questions related to the US Service Academy Admissions Process.

General Advice for Grades 9-12 in applying to United States Service 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
- Honors, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate courses if offered are recommended

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 test sittings; 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.

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 Science Reasoning, and 30 Reading. 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 test sittings. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.**

Tips for Applying to the Service Academies

- 1) **START EARLY!** The fall of your senior year is NOT the time to start thinking about applying to an academy. The requirements for entrance to the Service Academies are more involved than the requirements for a Civilian College. There is LOTS of additional paperwork that is necessary and early fall deadlines. Best to start learning about the academy application process in your freshman year of high school. Start preparing for submitting application forms and nomination forms in your junior year.
- 2) **CANDIDATES;** this must be your application, NOT your Parents. You need to be applying to an academy because it is something that YOU really want to do. Do not apply just because your parents, grandparents, family or friends think that it would be good for you to attend an academy. The four years at the Service Academies are tough and stressful, but are very rewarding for those who graduate. It takes real heart and commitment to complete the four years. Think hard about the reasons for YOUR application as those goals will help you make it through to graduation.
- 3) **PARENTS;** serve as mentor, guide, secretary and/or motivator for your child. As parents, we want to help with the application process and your son/daughter will need some help with many schedule deadlines and getting all the applications done. BUT do NOT do the applications for them; it must to be their effort. Help keep them on schedule, do proof-reading and make suggestions but let your son or daughter express their true passions for selecting the academy and a military career.
- 4) **Do well academically.** The Service Academies get approximately ten applications for each student position that they have open. Applicants come from every state in the nation. The students are generally in the Top 10 – 20% of their class. You will be competing with the best students in the country so doing well in all your high school classes is very important.
- 5) **Take the SAT or ACT more than once.** Applicants to the Academies perform well on scholastic tests. The average SAT score for students accepted to the academies is 1300 for the Math and Verbal sections. Studies show that students' scores on the SAT and ACT improve with repeated tests. Taking the test as a sophomore and then again as a junior is good idea if multiple tests can be afforded.
- 6) **Be Physically Fit.** As physical training is a daily part of military training, the academies are looking for candidates who can complete the rigors of their physical fitness program. In addition to attending classes, students at the academies participate in sports and physical fitness training year-round. So participate in high school sports, get a Varsity Letter in a sport or multiple letters if possible. Being the Star Athlete is not as important as becoming a team captain in your sport. The academies develop officers and they want candidates with leadership potential.
- 7) **Become Well-rounded.** While the academies want candidates who perform well academically and are physically fit, they also want candidates with Character. Graduates of the academies will become officers in the military services. They will be responsible for equipment that is worth Millions of Dollars and more importantly, responsible for the lives of the men and women under their command. These future young officers need strong leadership skills and must

be young men and women of good character. The academies are looking for candidates who already show potential for leadership and officer development. So become involved in your school and community.

- a) Work in your schools student government. Become an officer in the student government.
- b) Join the Band, Glee-Club, Yearbook committee or another school club. Whenever possible, be a leader in the organization or club rather than just a member.
- c) Join scouting or youth groups in your community. Again, learn to be a leader in those organizations.
- d) Do volunteer work in your community. The academies are called Service Academies for a reason; they are looking for young men and women who are willing to give to their community and country.

8) **Practice Honor and Integrity.** All of the Academies have an Honor Code as they are developing future leaders for our military services. Character does COUNT! Incidents of cheating, school discipline, or minor run-ins with the law will affect your application. So always think before you act. What may seem like harmless fun could turn into an event that will seriously affect your future.

9) **Attend Candidate Orientations!** These events give you a chance to learn about student life at the academies. Often there are current academy students at these events and they will give a very REAL assessment of what their life is like. They are honest and will tell you both the GOOD and BAD. They are often your best source of information for determining if academy life will be right for you.

10) **Contact Admission Officers Early!** Each academy has officers (retired or active duty) who assist candidates with the application process. Their goal is help the right candidates get accepted to the academy. Getting to know your local Admission Officer early will really be helpful when it finally becomes time to submit the application.

11) **Make preliminary Applications on-line.** Each academy has website with lots of great information about the academy and the application process. There is place to make a preliminary application which can be done as early as your freshman year. This application puts your name into the academy's database so that you receive important information about the application process as it becomes available.

12) **Visit the Senators and your Congressman's Website for nomination information.** In addition to an application, potential candidates need a nomination from their State Senator or Congressman. The website of each representative has information about how to apply for a nomination from their office. It is good to know what is required for the nomination application as each Senator or Congressman has a limited number of nominations that he/she can make each year. Getting a nomination is highly competitive, with strict guidelines on how and when to submit the nomination application. Best to make the application early in summer or fall of junior year.

13) **Visit the Academy if possible.** Visiting several academies can be hard as none are located close to Georgia. Travel is required to visit and that can be expensive. If affordable and possible, try to visit the academy that you would most like to attend. It helps to see the surrounding area and get a feel for the campus life. Try to talk to current students that you may meet on campus.

14) **Consider attending one of the Summer Seminars offered at the Academies.** These week-long summer seminars are only available for rising seniors. During the seminar, you live in the dorm for a week and get to directly experience life as a cadet or midshipmen. As the number of openings in these seminars is limited, getting a spot in the seminar program is also competitive. Applications for the summer programs are made on-line December to February of your junior year. Attending these great seminars may not be possible for some, as seminar fees and travel costs are required to attend. For those who do attend, it gives them a real feel for academy life.

15) **If you become an Academy Appointee, Consider attending their spring orientation.** Again due to travel costs, this may not be possible for some. But is really great idea to go, especially if you have never been to the academy. The appointee actually spends two days with a cadet or midshipmen; going to class, eat meals and spending the night with them on campus. It is really good opportunity for the appointee to make sure that attending an academy is true what he/she wants to do. Each year, the academies lose students in the first couple of months as they realize that academy life is NOT for them. With so many students competing for so few spots, it is best if a candidate who is not 100% committed to a military career give up his/her spot early in the process so that another potentially more determined candidate can be given that precious spot.

16) **Have back-up Plans.** Apply to other colleges. Most people, who apply will NOT receive an appointment to an academy. It is important to have other plans for college. Apply for Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC scholarships. Apply to colleges with ROTC programs. Many fine officers are commissioned through college ROTC programs. For many students, the ROTC program at a civilian college gives students the best of both worlds; military training and a civilian college experience. Plus the ROTC program gives an educational scholarship to help pay for college. College life at an academy is much more restricted than college life at most campuses. Many students, who do not receive an appointment the first year, go to a community or local college for a year and then re-apply to the academies with a stronger educational background. You should always have other plans; just in case, an appointment is not received.

17) **Final Parents' Tip.** Contact the local Parents Club for the academy early. Each academy has a Parents' Club that supports cadets and midshipmen from Illinois. While membership is generally limited to parents and family of students currently enrolled in the academies, their members can be great sources of information about academy life and the military career after the academy. Learning about the academies before your child invests his/her heart and soul into the application process can be valuable and save you much grief later on if your son/daughter chooses not to apply or attend an academy.

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 Fact Sheet 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 - Deadline February 1st

Navy ROTC – www.nrotc.navy.mil Opens March 1st - Deadline December 2019

Army ROTC – www.usarmy/rotc.com OPENS JUNE 1ST

For most ROTC scholarships, a Counselor Certification Form is required as part of the application process. To ensure that your counselor receives the form, inform them in advance of your submission and ensure that all contact information is up-to-date.

SAT and/or ACT scores must be submitted electronically through the testing agency website.

Air Force ROTC Test Code 0548

Naval ROTC Test Code 0656

Army ROTC Test Code for SAT 0454; the code for ACT is 1676

ROTC Scholarship Programs in Illinois:

Eastern Illinois University

Illinois State University

Illinois Institute of Technology

Loyola University

Northern Illinois University

Northwestern Illinois University

Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

Southern Illinois University- Edwardsville

University of Illinois Chicago

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Western Illinois University

Wheaton College