

SERVICE ACADEMY APPLICATION BASICS

What is a Service Academy?

- Military College. 4 year elite academic institution in a military environment. Graduates receive Bachelor's degrees.
- Funded by the US Government. Tuition-free, room & board free.
- Trains future officers. Graduates become leaders in the military, serving 5+ year active duty commitment upon graduation.

The 5 Service Academies

1. US Military Academy (West Point) <https://www.westpoint.edu/admissions>
2. US Naval Academy <https://www.usna.edu/Admissions/index.php>
3. US Air Force Academy <https://www.academyadmissions.com/>
4. US Coast Guard Academy <https://www.uscga.edu/admissions/>
5. US Merchant Marine Academy <https://www.usmma.edu/admissions>

Why a Service Academy?

- Leadership. The premier leadership development institution in the country.
- Prestige. Ivy-league prestige. Among most difficult schools to get accepted.
- Challenge. Intense environment surrounded by high achievers.

Admissions Requirements

1. Congressional nomination. Applicants require a Congressional nomination. Packages are due to your local Representative and Senators by Fall of your Senior year.
2. Academy application. Application entails numerous essays and application forms.
3. Liaison Officer interview. Applicants must do an interview with a military liaison officer.
4. Fitness Test. Applicants must perform a fitness test called a Candidate Fitness Assessment (CFA).
5. Medical Board. Applicants must do a series of medical exams to pass the medical board, called Department of Defense Medical Evaluation Review Board (DODMERB).

What type of candidate are Academies looking for?

Eligibility requirements

- US citizen
- Age. At least 17 and but less than 23 on July 1 of the year they matriculate
- No legal dependents (spouse, children)
- Good moral character (no felonies/misdemeanors/probations)

Desired Qualities

- Academic excellence. Admits have avg 3.8 GPA and avg 1330 SAT.
- Leadership potential. Admits show a track record of making an impact outside the classroom. Categories such as extracurriculars, employment, and community service.
- Intrinsic motivation to serve. Admits display a passion for the military with past involvement and future plans.