

HOW TO – MILITARY ACADEMIES

U.S. Military Academy (USMA), West Point, NY
U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), Annapolis, MD
U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA), Colorado Spring, CO
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA), Kings Point, NY
U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA), New London, CT

WHAT ARE MILITARY ACADEMIES?

- o Highly competitive programs
- o You will receive a full college degree
- o Period of service commitment after graduation (usually a minimum of 5 years)
- o Full tuition is granted by the academy (per your service agreement)

WHAT ARE THE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS?

- o High school academic performance (should take the most challenging courses offered)
- o Standardized test scores (SAT or ACT)
- o Athletics & extracurricular activities
- o Leadership experience
- o Community involvement
- o Congressional letter of recommendation (not needed for the Coast Guard)

o YOUR HIGH SCHOOL TIMEFRAME

- o 9th Grade Year – be familiar with the academy’s website and suggested admissions timeline
- o 10th Grade Year – be familiar with the academy’s website and suggested admissions timeline
- o 11th Grade Year – Candidate questionnaire opens around February 1, sign up for SAT or ACT (entrance exams are required and multiple tries are suggested), by March 1 apply for summer leadership programs at the academy, begin your academy nomination process (Spring), start admission application around May 1
- o 12th Grade Year – get nominations, prepare for fitness test (see individual academy websites)

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

- 1) Apply directly to the service academy of your choice for admission.
U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy,
U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
(US Coast Guard Academy does not require Congressional nomination)
- 2) Apply for nomination to the academy – **usually due by January 31 of admission year**
Typically, you will only apply for your first preference academy

(You will indicate your first preference on the actual application)

3) Apply for all other nominations you are eligible for.

What are all of the nomination sources? (see below)

(At a minimum, apply under both PA U.S. Senators, Congressional representative in the House of Representatives, and the Vice President of the U.S.)

Are you eligible to apply for Service-Connected Nominations? (see below)

o Additional information you may need for the applications:

Written Essay

Recent Photo

Signed Statement of Intent

Official High School Transcripts

SAT or ACT Scores

Letters of Recommendation (typically 3)

o Individuals will be selected for interviews

You will be contacted by email w/ exact date & time of your interview

If you do not receive notice of an interview, follow up with the representative nomination team

NOMINATION SOURCES

(This process is lengthy and competitive; each nomination source has his/her individual process)

- o U.S. Senators (both from PA), Representatives, & Delegates
- o The President of the U.S.
- o The Vice President of the U.S.
- o Congressional representative in the House of Representatives

SERVICE-CONNECTED NOMINATIONS

- o Sons & Daughters of "Career Military Personnel"
- o Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard Soldiers
- o Sons & Daughters of Deceased or Disabled Armed Forces Veterans
- o Children of Medal of Honor Recipients
- o Army Junior & Senior ROTC Programs & Honor ROTC Units of Other Services