

Service Academy Application Timeline



Service academies offer outstanding education and full four-year scholarships. Graduates of all academies receive a Bachelor of Science degree and are commissioned as officers in their respective Service branches. After graduation, they are obligated to serve a minimum of five years.

Each service academy has its own set of deadlines and entry requirements and acceptance is extremely competitive. This quick reference checklist will orient high school students interested in attending a Service Academy with the rigorous application process.

10th Grade

In 10th grade, continue focusing on academics, extracurricular activities, leadership roles and taking the PSAT. When planning your high school curriculum, keep the following suggestions in mind:

To improve your chances of qualification, your high school preparation should include the following:

- Mathematics - four years of mathematics courses, including a strong foundation in geometry, algebra, and trigonometry. Courses in pre-calculus and calculus are also very valuable and are highly encouraged.
- Science - one year each of chemistry and physics, with lab if possible.
- English - four years of coursework with special attention to the study and practice of effective writing. Surveys of English and American literature are especially helpful as background for the future study of literature.

To further enhance your competitiveness for admission, the following courses are also recommended:

- Foreign language - at least two years.
- History - one full year of U.S. history and, where possible, a full year of European or world history.
- Introductory computer and typing courses are recommended because all midshipmen are required to use personal computers in most courses.

Honors, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate courses are recommended.

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- April of your junior year:

Complete an application. 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. This is also a good time to find out about your chosen academy's immersive experience and apply to participate during the summer after you junior year of high school.

Spring of your junior year:

Candidates must have a nomination to attend the U.S. Military Academy. There are two types of nomination: Congressional

(either your Representative or one of your State's Senators) or Service-Connected. We recommend applying for nominations in the spring of your high school junior year, and applying for every nomination you are eligible for (one Representative, two Senators, plus the Vice President is four opportunities). 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.

Each nominating source controls its own process and timeline, however, your nomination is due by 31 January of the year you would enter.

- Locate your [Congressional Representative](#) or [Senators](#)
- Learn more about [applying for a nomination](#) and writing a letter to your Representative or Senators

June of your junior year to February of your senior

year: Complete your online application, medical exam (DoDMERB), and Candidate Fitness Assessment.

Medical Exam

The Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board, known as “DoDMERB,” will send you a letter with the location and date of your exam. After your exam, the DoDMERB forwards the test results to you.

You can track your medical status [here](#).

TIP: Take your medical exam as soon as possible! It can take several months to get qualified if more information is needed following your exam. If you haven’t been scheduled by DoDMERB by the fall of your high school senior year, contact your regional Admissions Officer.

Candidate Fitness Assessment

Typically your physical education (PE) teacher will administer your CFA. If you meet initial qualification, the Admissions Office will send you a link to the Candidate Kit which has the test form and instructions.

The CFA consists of six events:

- Basketball throw (from a kneeling position)
- Cadence pull-ups or flexed-arm hang (women’s option)
- 40-yard shuttle run (for time)
- Abdominal crunches (number completed in 2 minutes)
- Push-ups (number completed in 2 minutes)
- 1-mile run (for time)

Your grader will submit your score sheet online to the Admissions Office.

TIP: Prepare for the CFA by practicing the six test areas. Running, general conditioning exercises, and competitive sports will also strengthen your abilities.

SAT or ACT with Writing Portion

The tests must be timed and include a writing score. The SAT includes a writing exam, but if you’re registering for the ACT, select the “ACT Plus Writing” exam to be considered for admission.

TIP: Take the tests as many times as practicable. Service Academies will super-score your standardized tests.

12th Grade

If you have already entered 12th grade, 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.