

# Interested in applying to a U.S. Service Academy?

**Chart your course to serve your country and attend a prestigious college at a U.S. service academy!**

This guide will equip you with the knowledge and resources to navigate the application process.

## Academies

### Army

Lead the charge on land with West Point

(<https://www.westpoint.edu/admissions>)

### Navy or Marines

Command the seas (or skies!) with the Naval Academy

(<https://www.usna.edu/Admissions/Apply/index.php>)

### Air Force

Rule the skies with the Air Force Academy

(<https://www.academyadmissions.com/>)

### Coast Guard

Protect our shores and save lives with the Coast Guard Academy

(<https://uscga.edu/admissions/apply/>)

### Merchant Marine

Lead the way in civilian maritime operations with the Merchant Marine Academy

(<https://www.usmma.edu/admissions>)

## Timeline (Start Early!)

**Freshmen-Sophomore:** Explore your academic interests, develop strong study habits, and find extracurricular activities that suit your strengths and interests.

**Sophomore Year (Fall):** Take the PSAT, take career assessments in Naviance

**Junior Year (Fall):** Research your preferred service academy thoroughly. Understand their unique missions, requirements, and deadlines.

**Junior Year (Fall):** Take the PSAT (typically in October). Strong scores can qualify you for nomination from your elected officials.

**Junior Year (Throughout):** Maintain excellent grades in a college-prep curriculum, focusing on math, science, and English. Prepare for the SAT or ACT (usually taken in spring of junior year).

**Senior Year (Early Fall):** Contact your Senators and Representative (see next page) for nomination applications and guidance. Deadlines are typically in the fall/winter.

**Senior Year (Throughout):** Complete the academy application, essays, and secure teacher recommendations.

**Senior Year (Fall/Winter):** Undergo a medical examination as specified by the academy. Prepare for a fitness test and potential interview.

## Calling in Reinforcements (Get Help)

- **Your Elected Officials:** You need nominations from your U.S. Senator and Representative. Contact their offices early to understand their nomination process and deadlines. They are:
  - Senator: **Cory Booker (D, Newark)** (<https://www.booker.senate.gov/>)
  - Senator: **TBD**
  - Representative (7th District): **Tom Kean Jr. (R, Westfield)** (<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>)
- **School Counselor:** Your counselor is a valuable resource. Discuss your service academy aspirations, and seek guidance on academics, standardized testing, and application materials.
- **Mentorship:** Find a service academy graduate or someone familiar with the process to be your mentor. They can offer invaluable advice and support.

**Remember:** This is a highly competitive endeavor. Dedication, exceptional academics, physical fitness, leadership potential, and a strong commitment to service are crucial.

**Best of luck on your journey to serve your country!**