



# Guidance Department

Academic Advising • College/Career Advising • Social/Emotional Counseling

## APPLYING TO A SERVICE ACADEMY



**US NAVAL ACADEMY**  
[usna.edu/admissions](http://usna.edu/admissions)



**US AIR FORCE ACADEMY**  
[academyadmissions.com](http://academyadmissions.com)



**US MILITARY ACADEMY**  
[westpoint.edu/admissions](http://westpoint.edu/admissions)



**US COAST GUARD ACADEMY**  
[uscga.edu/admissions](http://uscga.edu/admissions)



**US MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY**  
[usmma.edu/admissions](http://usmma.edu/admissions)

Applying to a service academy is much more arduous and multi-layered for both parent and student than applying to other universities. While there are variations in the process, below is a general outline of what the process entails. Ideally the student will begin in the sophomore year. Here are the key elements, but be sure to check with each academy as these vary. **Keep copies of all paperwork.**

**SUMMER SEMINAR**—not a requirement, but highly recommended. The student applies beginning in January of the junior year. The one-week session—basically a boot camp—is in the summer between the junior and senior year. Gives a snapshot of the first year at an academy.

**PRELIMINARY APPLICATION**—gives enough information that they say, “Yes, you can apply.” Then a full application is sent to the student by the academy.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**—need at least three. One from a math teacher, one from an English teacher, and one from the counselor. The student may also be able to submit one from a coach, church or scout leader. These vary amongst the academies.

**CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATION**—submitted by a congressman or senator or the Vice-President. The student in the spring of junior year should contact congressman and senators to find out what the process is.

**STANDARDIZED TESTS**—must submit SAT or ACT scores.

**OFFICIAL APPLICATION**—must submit the official application and this typically is available in the spring of the junior year. The earlier the better. The aphorism “First come, first served” applies here.

**MEDICAL EXAMINATION**—must have a physical and eye exam. DODMERB (Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board) will give you the names of doctors. The academies determine who is eligible to take the exam, but once notified, do as soon as possible.

**FITNESS TEST (PHYSICAL APTITUDE EXAM)**—is sometimes administered by PE teachers. It usually involves such things a one-mile run, sit-ups, shuttle run, kneeling basketball throw, and standing broad jump. Each academy sets its own standards. Practice for the PAE and google the test to learn how best to prepare.

**INTERVIEW**—is usually done by officers with special training for interviewing. This relationship is integral to a positive outcome.

Another unique feature of these applications is that the student may hear as early as October or as late as May of the senior year.