

FORK UNION MILITARY ACADEMY
Department of College Counseling & Cadet Services



**APPLYING TO THE ARMED SERVICES ACADEMIES and
ROTC PROGRAMS**

(From www.military.com/join-armed-forces/us-military-academies-overview.html)

LEARN ABOUT THE ARMED FORCES SERVICES ACADEMIES

The service academies annually award the biggest scholarships in the country. Each scholarship consists of four-years education, room and board, pay, exclusive benefits and training. But remember it can be quite grueling and will require you to be very disciplined and dedicated!



Here are 10 tips to give you an edge in getting into one of these elite institutions:

1. **Get the grades.** Face it, you have to be among the best to be a cadet. Ninety percent of cadets were in the top 20% of their class. But, the academies want well-rounded people. Good grades are a starting point, not the finish line.
2. **Practice testing.** The ACT and SAT are critical. Find out what scores you need at the web sites below and keep testing until you score high enough to be above the average.
3. **Be an athlete.** Not everyone is an intercollegiate athlete, but most cadets play intramural sports, face fitness tests and undergo strenuous physical training.
4. **Be a leader.** The academies are looking for leaders. Participation in clubs and extracurriculars is not enough. Become a club officer or class officer. Work hard to earn school, athletic and community awards. Awards separate you from the pack.
5. **Be involved in the community.** Leaders care. Show you care by routinely volunteering or working in community programs.
6. **Ace the interview.** Your interview with the academy liaison officer is a big deal. You will be asked about citizenship, reasons for attending and even about current events. Read the newspaper before your interview. Practice with your family. Answer in clear, thoughtful sentences.
7. **Know your Congressman.** You need an official nomination to get into the academies (except the Coast Guard Academy). These come from Senators, Congressmen, the Vice President and the President. Apply to all the sources but get to personally know the ones you can. Volunteer in their office. Write them letters. Make appointments to see them.

8. **Go for more than one.** Congressman and Senators have a limited number of nominations for each academy. By considering all four academies you increase your chances of getting in.

9. **Attend summer programs.** Each academy offers programs for exceptional students during the summer before their senior year. These programs provide an up-close look at the academies and what cadet life is like. Your counselor can help you apply.

10. **Start now!** While the academies don't start official applications until your junior year in high school, you should start early. Write and get the pre-candidate questionnaires and candidate kits. Talk to your high school counselor. Talk to your Congressman. Meet the academy liaison officer for your area. Let everyone know you have a dream and a plan to make it real.

Below are links to each of the Armed Services Academies. Information can be found about each academy, including the admissions requirements and application deadlines.

The United States Air Force Academy: <https://www.usafa.edu/>

The United States Coast Guard Academy: <https://www.uscga.edu/>

The United States Military Academy: <https://www.usma.edu/>

The United States Naval Academy: <https://www.usna.edu/>

APPLYING FOR A RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) SCHOLARSHIP

Over 1,700 colleges and universities throughout the United States offer students scholarship opportunities while training them for leadership in the U.S. Military. This is accomplished through the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). Students earning an ROTC scholarship receive a paid college education and a guaranteed post-college career in the military as a commissioned officer after graduation. The U.S. Army, Air Force, and Navy/Marine Corps each have their own ROTC programs. Students enrolled in an ROTC program take classes toward attainment of a degree in a chosen field and take classes in an ROTC curriculum, taught by military officers. Students must maintain high academic achievement and adhere to strict behavior guidelines to maintain their scholarship.

Each military branch has its own set of application requirements for acceptance to its ROTC program. This website offers detailed information about ROTC programs, as well as providing a detailed description of application requirements for each branch of service:

<https://www.bestcolleges.com/resources/rotc-programs/>.

Applications for an Army ROTC scholarship are due by January 10 of your senior year. For a Navy/Marine Corps scholarship, the deadline is the end of January, and for an Air Force scholarship, applications must be submitted no later than December 1.

From the article linked above: *"Pursuing a ROTC scholarship or training program comes with a legally binding contract that obligates you fulfill the requirements of active duty service upon graduation or dropping out of the ROTC program. Think about this decision very carefully, ask questions, discuss your plans with your family, and weigh your options with academic advisors. ROTC programs are not for everyone, but those who have the dedication, drive, and discipline to make it to graduation will benefit from a stable route through college, diverse career opportunities, and a service experience certain to impact them for the rest of their lives."*