

Military

Service Academies, ROTC, & Military Colleges

There are several ways to serve our country in the military and receive a college degree along with career training. Some students may choose to enlist directly into a branch of military service while others may choose to pursue a bachelor's degree from one of the options listed below. These options will prepare you to become an officer upon graduation. At military academies and ROTC programs, you will not have to pay for tuition, room & board, uniforms, etc., but you will have a commitment of service for a number of years after graduation. For others, you may receive a stipend, in exchange for service upon graduation, or you may not be required to serve after your course of study.

U.S. Service Academies

[U.S. Military Academy](#) in West Point, NY

[U.S. Naval Academy](#) in Annapolis, MD

[U.S. Air Force Academy](#) in Colorado Springs, CO

[U.S. Coast Guard Academy](#) in New London, CT

The admissions process to all four above is an extensive and very competitive process, requiring excellent grades and rigor of high school curriculum, a record of interests/ accomplishments in and outside of high school, and the tasks of securing a Congressional nomination. It is very important to understand all the requirements early on so you have time to accomplish all the necessary components.

If you are interested in one of the academies, consider applying for that academy's summer program to experience a week of classes, military training and physical fitness training at the academy to help you make an informed decision on your college choice.

[Summer Program - U.S. Military Academy](#)

[Summer Program - U.S. Naval Academy](#)

[Summer Program - U.S. Air Force Academy](#)

[Summer Program - U.S. Coast Guard Academy](#)

Merchant Marine Academies

The United States Merchant Marine program is a fleet of civilian-owned merchant ships that transport cargo and passengers on behalf of the United States. Midshipmen at the [Merchant Marine Academy](#) in Kings Point, N.Y. receive full scholarships in exchange for a service obligation in the Merchant Marine Reserve or Navy Reserve. There are six other Merchant Marine academies that produce shipboard officers for vessels integral to shipping and transportation needs.

Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)

ROTC programs are offered at over 1,000 colleges in the US. With the exception of the Coast Guard, each service branch has its own program; Army ROTC, Navy ROTC and Air Force ROTC. Each has its own requirements and features. There are two ways to enter a college ROTC program:

- 4-year ROTC scholarship recipient - This is a highly competitive process that requires you to apply for this merit-based scholarship through your selected ROTC branch of service. The application may take place in the spring of the 11th grade or the fall of the 12th grade and requires applicants to identify a U.S. college campus where the scholarship will be applied upon acceptance to that campus. The scholarship is given in exchange for a set time commitment of service to that branch.
- As a ROTC college program participant—you join the ROTC program offered at your college campus as either a freshman or sophomore, and participate in the weekly ROTC classes and exercises in addition to your regular school schedule. During that freshman year, you can apply for a 3-year scholarship, or after sophomore year, you can apply for a 2-year scholarship.

[ROTC Programs](#)

U.S. Senior Military Colleges

Senior Military Colleges (SMCs) offer a combination of higher education with military instruction. They include Texas A&M University, Norwich University, The Virginia Military Institute, The Citadel, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), North Georgia College & State University and the Mary Baldwin Women's Institute for Leadership. Every cadet must participate in the ROTC program, but only those cadets who receive an ROTC scholarship are required to enter military service following graduation.

FAQs

This [link](#) will lead you to a wealth of more detailed information including entrance requirements, tuition, scholarships, and career paths for the college-level military options above, along with links to the websites for each of these institutions or programs listed above.