



West Point[®]

The United States Military Academy

About the Academy (USMA)

Since its founding over two centuries ago, the Military Academy has accomplished its mission by developing cadets in four critical areas: intellectual, physical, military, and moral-ethical - a four-year process called the "West Point Experience." Specific developmental goals are addressed through several fully coordinated and integrated programs.

A challenging Academic Program that offers 37 majors provides a balanced education in the arts and sciences. All cadets receive a Bachelor of Science degree, which is designed specifically to meet the intellectual requirements of a commissioned officer in today's Army.

The Physical Program at West Point includes both physical education classes and competitive athletics. Every cadet participates in an intercollegiate, club or intramural level sport each semester. This rigorous physical program contributes to the mental and physical fitness that is required for service as an officer in the Army.

Cadets learn basic military skills, including leadership, through a demanding Military Program which begins on their first day at West Point. Most military training takes place during the summer, with new cadets undergoing Cadet Basic Training the

first year, followed by Cadet Field Training at nearby Camp Buckner the second year. Cadets spend their third and fourth summers serving in active Army units around the world; attending advanced training courses such as airborne, air assault or northern warfare; or training the first and second year cadets as members of the leadership cadre. Military training is combined with military science instruction to provide a solid military foundation for officership.

Moral-ethical development occurs throughout the formal programs as well as a host of activities and experiences available at the Military Academy . These include formal instruction in the important values of the military profession, voluntary religious programs, interaction with staff and faculty role models, and a vigorous guest speaker program. The foundation of the ethical code at West Point is found in the Academy's motto, "Duty, Honor, Country." Cadets also develop ethically by adhering to the Cadet Honor Code, which states "A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do."

Admission is open to all young men and women, and is extremely competitive. Candidates must receive a nomination from a member of Congress or from the Department of the Army. They are then evaluated on their academic, physical and leadership potential. Those candidates who are fully qualified receive appointments to the Academy.

The life of a cadet is demanding, but leisure time does permit recreational activities such as golf, skiing, sailing, and ice-skating. Intramural clubs include a cadet radio station, orienteering, rock climbing, and Big Brothers-Big Sisters. A wide variety of religious activities are available to cadets from virtually all religious backgrounds.

From the day of its founding on March 16, 1802, West Point has grown in its size and stature, but it remains committed to the task of producing commissioned leaders of character for America's Army. Today, the Academy graduates more than 900 new officers annually, which represents approximately 20 percent of the new lieutenants required by the Army each year. The student body, or Corps of Cadets, numbers 4,400, of whom approximately 15 percent are women.

A favorite expression at West Point is that "much of the history we teach was made by people we taught." Great leaders such as Grant and Lee, Pershing and MacArthur, Eisenhower and Patton, Westmoreland and Schwarzkopf are among the more than 60,000 graduates of the Military Academy. Countless others have served society in the fields of medicine, law, business, politics, and science following their careers in uniform.

Ever mindful of its rich heritage, West Point continues to prepare its graduates to serve as commissioned leaders of character in America's 21st Century Army. Guided by its timeless motto, "Duty, Honor, Country," the Academy is poised confidently to provide the Army and the Nation with its third century of service.



USMA FACTS

Location

The Academy is located approximately 50 miles north of New York City on the Hudson River . The campus and central post area comprise only a small portion of the nearly 16,000 acre reservation.

Admission

To be considered for admission to West Point , a candidate must be at least 17 but not yet 23 years old on July 1st of the year of admission, be unmarried, and have no legal obligation to support children. Candidates must be qualified academically, medically, and physically, and must receive a nomination from an approved source, such as a member of Congress.

Corps of Cadets

The 4,400 members of the Corps of Cadets represent every state in the U.S. and several foreign countries. About 1,300 New Cadets enter the Academy on Reception Day each year (about July 1st).

Classes

In addition to a core curriculum, balanced in the arts and sciences, and a required five-course engineering sequence, cadets may select from 37 majors. Classes are small, usually 18 students, and the faculty to student ratio is 1:6.

Activities

Over 100 extracurricular activities are available, including religious, hobby, and sports clubs.

Graduation

Upon graduation, cadets are awarded Bachelor of Science degrees and commissions in the U.S. Army. They serve on active duty for a minimum of five years. West Point graduates have served our country in a variety of capacities for more than 200 years, as military leaders, engineers, explorers on land and in space, and as leaders in business and government.

STEPS TO ADMISSION

Step 1: Determine whether you meet the Basic Requirements

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Candidates must:

- Be at least 17 but not older than 22 on July 1 of the year they enter West Point.
- Not be married.
- Not be pregnant.
- Not be legally responsible for support of any children.

Medical Qualifications:

- Be in good physical and mental health.
- Pass a medical exam (DODMERB).

Physical Qualifications: Each candidate should have

- Above average strength, agility, and endurance.
- A strong performance on the West point Candidate Fitness Assessment (CFA).

If you are eligible, fill out and submit the initial screening application, called the Candidate Questionnaire.

Step 2: Start a File Online

West Point will start your candidate file upon receiving a completed Candidate Questionnaire online located here, in the middle of your junior year in high school or as soon after that as possible. You must have a Social Security Number to start a file. Your file will be reviewed, and you will be notified if you have the qualifications to compete for admissions.

Step 3: Apply for a Nomination

You must obtain a nomination in order to compete for admission to West Point, and you should apply for all nominations for which you are eligible during the spring of your junior year. At a minimum, candidates are eligible for a congressional nomination from their representative in Congress, their two U.S. senators, and the vice president of the United States.

Step 4: Fill Out West Point Forms Online

The Admissions Office reviews Candidate Questionnaires, and candidates who pass the initial screening will receive instructions about the remaining admissions requirements, including being qualified by the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DoDMERB). All procedures and forms must be completed promptly. Candidates who do not pass the initial screening will be notified.

Step 5: Follow Up on Nominations

West Point, but only about 4,000 receive nominations. A nomination is the legal authority for West Point to offer admission, and it's very important that you aggressively pursue every nomination available to you.

Step 6: Complete Testing

- Qualifying Medical Exam
- Candidate Fitness Assessment
- ACT PLUS Writing and/or SAT

All candidates must take the timed ACT Plus Writing or SAT. West Point does not accept un-timed scores for academic evaluation or ACTs without the optional writing section. We recommend that you take both the SAT and ACT at least once. It's to your advantage to take the tests as many times as practical, since West Point only considers your highest sub-scores, so you can only improve. You should have your scores forwarded to West Point using the appropriate College Code Numbers. The SAT code is 2924 and the ACT code is 2976.

Step 7: Stay on Top of your File

- Have you sent all of your nomination requests? Did you meet those deadlines?
- Have your ACT and/or SAT scores been sent to us?
- Have you completed the forms in your candidate kit?
- Are you practicing the six performance areas to prepare for your Candidate Fitness Assessment?
- Have you had the Qualifying Medical Examination (DODMERB)?

West Point no longer conducts rolling admissions. The majority of offers of admission are made between November and June of the following year. However, for those fully qualified, outstanding

candidates who have completed all admissions requirements, they may receive offers as early as November.

United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS)



The purpose of the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS) is to prepare candidates selected by the United States Military Academy Admission's office for the academic, physical, and military challenges of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Selected students (cadet candidates) are high school graduates or enlisted personnel from the Active, Reserve or National Guard force.

The U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School, known as USMAPS, the Prep School, or West Point Prep, was formally established in 1946, but the "history" of "prepping" of soldiers for West Point has been done since Congress enacted legislation in 1916 authorizing appointments for Soldiers to West Point. The school exists today as an "avenue of opportunity" to a carefully selected group of Soldiers and civilians by providing them the academic, leadership and physical skills that will prepare them for success as cadets at the United States Military Academy.

Located on the grounds of the US Military Academy, West Point Prep prepares cadet candidates for West Point with a foundation that will last them beyond admission to the Academy and well into the future as leaders of character for the nation.

USMAPS is primarily an academic institution that accepts students and Soldiers from diverse backgrounds and challenges them to meet and exceed West Point's rigorous admission standards. As a military school with a career focus, USMAPS also develops the foundation of professional and physical attributes needed for growth as an officer in the U.S. Army.

SENIOR YEAR

West Point is a place that cadets remember with pride for the rest of their lives. If you are accepted, you'll soon experience the demands and the thrills of being a West Point cadet! You'll join other exceptional students in a unique collegiate environment. Personal challenge, team adventure and leader-building opportunities await you here. As a High School Senior, if you haven't already started an application, you are already behind your peers. Start by clicking on the "Apply" link on the left today.

Stay Focused

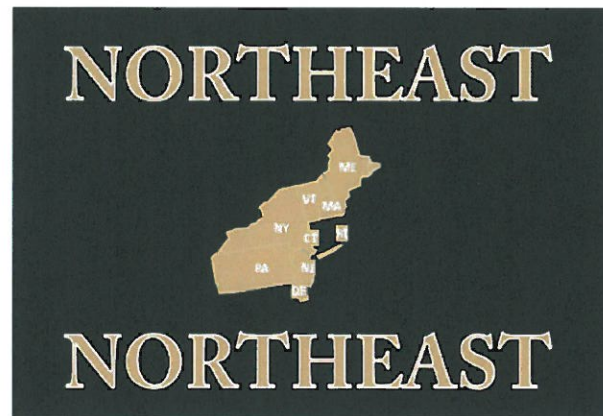
Applying to a world-class institution like West Point means you are competing with other high-ability students. It's essential that you meet all the admissions deadlines. Your applicant file – what we call your “candidate” file – will not be complete until you do.

So, finish pulling together all the pieces of the puzzle to advance your candidacy! Follow these helpful tips:

- Continue to perform your personal best in high school academics, athletics and extracurricular activities.
- Earn A's and B's in the toughest courses you can take.
- Do well in calculus, trigonometry and physics.
- Excel on the athletic field.
- Become a leader in student government, clubs or other organizations.
- Visit campus.
- Spend part of a day with a cadet.
- Schedule an overnight visit.
- Stay on top of your candidate file.
- Have you sent all of your nomination requests? Meet those deadlines!

- Have your ACT and/or SAT scores been sent to us?
- Have you completed the forms in your Candidate Kit?
- Are you practicing the six performance areas to prepare for the Candidate Fitness Assessment?
- Have you taken the Qualifying Medical Examination?

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Visit:

www.usma.edu

TIPS FOR ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY (USMA)

Standards are very high this year due to the overwhelming amount of extremely qualified candidates. You have to do what you can to be competitive. Good scores may not be enough, here are some tips. Do the best YOU can do.

- 1) It is your responsibility to complete your file not your parents. Read all instructions carefully. Do not wait months to contact the office to find out what's wrong with your file or what you think is missing. Please put your candidate ID number and state you are from on all your correspondence.
- 2) If you are a junior in high school, you may want to consider applying for American Legion Boys/Girls State program for your State. Go online and enter American Legion Boys State, your state and find out how to apply. Usually one applicant per high school attends.
- 3) On your portal, under the liaison tab, is your USMA liaison member information, contact them for guidance. Also be sure to read all the instructions listed on your portal. Attention to detail is the military way.
- 4) Please read all instructions and fill out your application very thoroughly. Do this before October of your senior year, most application deadlines are in October. It is a law; you have to have a nomination to be offered admission to USMA. Send updates to your regional team early.
- 5) You also need to apply to ALL Congressional Nominations that apply to you, even if you are eligible for a service connected nomination, you should also apply for all the others. A Presidential Nomination is not a guarantee for an appointment. Send cover sheet and requested documents together.
- 6) Put your CORRECT Social Security number on the SAT/ACT exam, DO NOT GUESS. It will cause problems later in the process. Have the scores sent to USMA from the College Board. The code for USMA SAT is 2924 and ACT is 2976.
- 7) We will need the OFFICIAL copy of your scores from the College Board of your SAT/ACT *with English/Writing* exams. Send all the tests you take, our database will automatically pick the highest scores from each test. For the ACT exam you must request each individual test date. Internet copies and e-mailed scores are not accepted as official. If you are a junior, it is to your advantage to take the SAT or ACT *with English/Writing* by the end of your junior year. Check SAT & ACT website for test dates for April and May or before. If you take the ACT, you have to sign up for the ACT English/Writing; it is required for USMA. That will give you an idea of what you have to work on to be competitive for admission to USMA. Files will NOT be reviewed without the OFFICIAL scores. Your files are kept at Admissions so if you don't send the required paperwork directly to Admissions then we don't have it in your file.
- 8) It is also to your advantage to start practicing the Candidate Fitness Exam - NOW! It's harder than you think. You have to do all the events at once. The only hint I can give you is to throw the basketball and run the mile like your life depends on it. When the rest of your application portal opens in June/July, complete your file as soon as possible. You should have no problem getting it done by the end of October. Do not wait for deadlines; it will not be to your advantage to wait.
- 9) We also require at least 6 semesters (Junior year final grades, 9th, 10th and 11th) to start, the 7th Semester (mid-year or fall grades of Senior year) by file completion deadline an OFFICIAL (signed by school) (tell counselor it MUST BE SIGNED) High School transcripts with your OFFICIAL RANK IN CLASS listed. If your school does not rank, then it must state so on the transcript or we must get a letter/email to that effect from the school. If you went to different schools I will still need the 9th, 10th & 11th grade to make up the 6th semester transcript.
- 10) When it is time for your medical physical, bring copies of all your medical documents with you that pertain to broken bones, allergies, skin diseases or anything that may be an issue down the line. If you have broken a bone, make sure to get a letter from your doctor explaining "that you have returned to full rigorous activities with no limitations".
- 11) Finally, if you decide USMA is not for you, please e-mail us so we may close your file.

GOOD LUCK!

STANDARDIZED TEST IMPROVEMENT TIPS

Do not expect your scores to improve significantly just by repeatedly taking the test...they won't.

- 1) Scores increase by either increasing your knowledge of the test material or of the test structure/procedures. Most courses and books will do a little of both.
- 2) Take the practice tests seriously!
 - a. Go to a library, use a watch to keep track of the time and pace yourself throughout the test sections, etc.

Try for scores of 600 in math and verbal or better for SAT and 29 or higher for ACT.

If you can't increase your scores on the SAT, try the ACT!

- 1) The tests are set up different:
 - a. The ACT does NOT penalize for wrong answers. If you are running out of time, do the "two minute drill". Pick your favorite column and fill in ALL the bubbles...then go back and continue answering what you can until time elapses.
 - b. The SAT, penalizes you ¼ of a point for every wrong answer, so don't guess unless you can definitively eliminate at least one of the possible answers.
 - c. On the SAT, the math section is set up with the easy questions at the beginning, the medium in the middle, and hard questions at the end.
 - i. Be VERY careful towards the end of that section.
 - ii. Be suspicious of those hard questions...there's probably some minor wording twist in the question that will completely change your answer.
 - iii. Be very careful about guessing on that last 1/2 to 1/3 of the questions...you will probably guess wrong most of the time.

Log onto the College Board website and view you're detailed scores reports.

- 1) They'll tell you whether you are guessing too much or too little (on the SATs) and you can figure out which specific sections you need to improve the most by looking at the correct/incorrect/omitted tally.
- 2) Put your CORRECT Social Security number on the SAT/ACT exam, DO NOT GUESS. It will cause problems later in your college application process. Have the scores sent to USMA from the College Board. You must order your scores online from the College Board using the codes below.
 - a. The code for West Point is SAT- 2924.
 - b. The code for West Point is ACT - 2976.

Use the following resources to help improve test scores:

- 1) www.march2success.com. This is a FREE online test prep program run by the US Army; you must register online to use it.
- 2) **Wilford Funk's "30 days to a Better Vocabulary,"** This book can increase your scores up to 100 points and it costs about \$5. The local school or library may have a copy.
- 3) **The "Princeton Review" or "Crack the SAT or ACT"** is a DVD and book set that could also give great tips on improving scores.

TIPS FOR THE ACT

- 1) Scoring - Every question should have an answer.
- 2) Structure - Solve what you can and move on. Avoid speed bumps, they waste time.
- 3) Buy a watch keep track of your own time, DO NOT RELY ON THE CLOCK OR THE PROCTOR. This may sound dumb but it really does help because you're more in control.
- 4) Use the 2 minute drill on ACT only - answer all questions. Pick a column and fill in the bubble than go back and do the questions as time allows.
- 5) Eliminate all the ones you know are wrong answers, cross them out and don't look at them again.
- 6) Use practice tests and time yourself. Practice, A LOT.

FYI:

- ENGLISH - Sentence structure, Punctuation, Grammar - you have 8 1/2 minutes per passage there are 4.
- MATH - Pre-Algebra, Algebra I & II, Geometry and graphing, and Trigonometry
- READING - Prose fiction, Social Science, Humanities, Natural Science
- SCIENCE REASONING - Charts & Graphs, Experiments and Conflicting viewpoints

TIPS FOR THE SAT

The best advice is “do not get bent on trying to improve the SAT, take the ACT, too.” Don't guess on the SAT questions. It doesn't make sense but you can actually get a better score by answering fewer questions if they are the right answer. If you don't know the answer, don't guess unless you have eliminated all other answers for sure. Just move on to the next question. Hard to believe you can answer *fewer* questions than your previous attempts and get a *better* score, but that is frequently the key to success for many SAT-takers!

FYI:

MATH;

- 1-7 are easy questions
- 7 - 14 middle - look for words that will change the answer totally
- 15 - 20 hard - if you aren't certain of the answer, leave it

IN CLOSING

Research has shown that students can go from SAT "Risk" to ACT scholars. Trust me on this. I know you've taken exams but using these tips will help. One student went up 30 points by just practicing while being timed with his own watch. He realized that he was spending more time looking for the clock and watching the proctor than he was paying attention to the questions. The night before the exam, don't study, get a good night sleep instead!

THE MISSION

To educate, train and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation as an officer in the United States Army.

As a young man or woman considering your options for obtaining a quality college education, you may wonder what unique opportunities you will find at the United States Military Academy at West Point (USMA). USMA offers one of the most highly respected, quality education programs in the nation and the foremost leadership training program in the world. Each graduate earns a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission in the U.S. Army. USMA's fully funded, four-year federal government program builds a solid leadership foundation that is essential when you serve your country as a U.S. Army officer following graduation.

Administrative titles at West Point may differ from those at most colleges, but the responsibilities that go along with the titles are similar.

The superintendent, like a college president, heads USMA, and the chief of staff is the principal executive to the superintendent in all command matters, directing and coordinating the formulation of operating policies and implementation of decisions of the superintendent. The dean of the Academic Board, like a college dean of faculty, coordinates the activities of the academic departments and advises the superintendent on academic matters.

The commandant of cadets is the military equivalent of a dean of students, overseeing cadet government and supervising the military training of the Corps of Cadets.

The superintendent, dean, and commandant join the heads of academic departments; the directors of Admissions, Military Instruction, and Physical Education; and the Medical Activity commander,

to form the Academic Board, which establishes standards for admission, academic performance, and a wide range of other educational and administrative policies.

The faculty, composed primarily of Army officers, combines the wisdom and continuity of tenured professors and associate professors with instructors assigned to the academy for three or four years. Since 1815, a Board of Visitors, similar in function to a board of trustees, has annually reviewed USMA's curriculum, policies, and equipment and submitted recommendations to the president of the United States.

The United States Military Academy at West Point is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 (267-284-5000). The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.