

## Service Academy Timeline

It's never too early to develop an interest in the National Service Academies: Military, Naval, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Merchant Marine. If interest is developed early, you can be advised about the best choices in high school course selection and activity participation to prepare yourself for the academies. Students who set a National Service Academy as a goal early in life know how to strive for high grades (top 20% of class), in the best courses and high achievement in athletics and leadership, thus becoming competitive applicants. Remember, the four areas of qualifications are: **Medical, Scholastic, Athletic, Leadership**

To maintain medical qualification, stay in shape and do not abuse yourself nutritionally, hygienically, physically, nor with drugs. Review your medical records with your doctor each year.

As early as junior high/ middle school your future course selection may be determined. Good study habits must be developed. As a prospective applicant, you should prepare yourself with a good balanced college preparatory background with as much math and science as you can get. Information on the Academy's web site/ catalog "Admissions" page and "Guide for Counselors and Candidates" describe courses suggested for your high school or prep school curricula.

The on-line "Admissions page"/ "Pre-Candidate Questionnaire" is your preliminary application to the Service Academy and must be filled out in addition to the request for "political nomination" (the Coast Guard Academy, alone, does not require a political nomination). The following is an outline of milestones for your path to any of the Service Academies.

### Middle School/ Junior High School-8<sup>th</sup> grade

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) Program Activities
- Develop good study habits.
- Take Algebra I or equivalent.
- If in Scouting program, complete requirements for Eagle Scout or Gold Award
- Enroll in cadet programs; Civil Air Patrol, Naval Sea/ League Cadets, Young Marines

### High School-Freshman/Sophomore years

- Start with good study habits and develop time management skills.
- Background courses in math, science, English, social studies, foreign language. Nothing less the college prep level courses. Plan to take Advanced Placement (AP), Early Admissions (EA), and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses in junior and senior years.
- Athletic and extracurricular activity/club participation; JROTC, if offered. Earn a letter in a competitive sport. Exercise regularly, build up endurance. Start accumulating Volunteer Community Service hours. Seek part-time employment for responsibility, reliability and initiative.
- Take PSAT as well as SAT or ACT exams.

### Junior Year- Fall

- Take PSAT again. Invitation to Summer Seminars and Merit Scholarship consideration is based on PSAT scores. Also continue taking SAT/ACT to improve you scores (strive for 600 verbal and 700 math) and have scores sent to the Service Academies.
- If in CAP cadets, complete requirements for Mitchell / Earhart awards.
- If in Naval Sea Cadets / Young Marines, complete requirements for E-3
- If in Sea Scouts, complete requirements for Quartermaster rating.
- Make application for Coast Guard Academy Introduction Mission (AIM) program; contact Coast Guard Academy Admissions office.
- Visit each Academy's internet website, and establish a "candidate account" with user ID and password. Apply for summer seminars.

#### Junior Year- Winter

- Coast Guard Academy Admissions Partner AIM interviews

#### Junior Year-Spring

- Take SAT/ACT again to improve scores.
- Contact your U.S. Congressional Representative's, both U.S. Senators', and the Vice President's Staff and request nomination to the Academies. Determine eligibility for Presidential and other nominations (these are handled by the Academy's Admission offices).
- Coast Guard AIM candidate selection.

#### Senior Year- Summer

- Visit each Academy's website. Update your account with SAT/ACT scores.
- Keep checklist of application procedures with dates each step is completed.
- Maintain contact with nominating sources; provide all requested data.
- Keep copies of all items / documents submitted to all offices.
- If selected; attend Academy Summer Seminar or Coast Guard AIM week, Boys/Girls State, Nation, Model Assembly/ UN, etc.

#### Senior Year- Fall

- Retake SAT/ACT to improve scores.
- Applicants who qualify as candidates and Presidential Nominees will receive candidate packets (the big envelope) and dates to take department of Defense Medical Review Board (DDMRB) examinations (one for all Academies and ROTC Scholarships).
- Academy Information / Liaison Officer counseling and interviews.
- Congressional nomination staff interviews; advise them which Academies you have applied to and your order of preference.
- Early appointment offers and "letters of assurance: are sent out by December

#### Senior Year- Winter

- Last SAT/ACT in January-February.
- Nomination notifications by February.
- Primary offers of appointment/ ROTC Scholarships are sent out; make first choice of acceptance.

#### Senior Year- Spring

- Alternate offers of appointment/ ROTC Scholarships are sent out; make final choice of acceptance.
- Candidate Status letter sent out; late April.

#### -May

- Orientation day at the Academies for accepted appointees.
- Academy Prep School or Foundation Scholarship offers for those qualified candidates not offered appointments this cycle.

#### -June

- Appointees report to Academy for Cadet Basic Training / Plebe / Swab Summer.