

Military/ College to Become an Officer: Xello:

<https://student.xello.world/goals-and-plans/pathway-profile/military>

- **Research your options and choose a military branch:**

The military is made up of six active-duty branches: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force.

Each branch is different. Do some research into each one, so you know which one would be the best fit for you before you decide where you want to study.

To investigate your options:

Talk to people who have served in the military

Talk to your counselor

Explore the websites for the different military branches

- a. [Air Force](#)
- b. [Army](#)
- c. [Marine Corps](#)
- d. [Navy](#)

- **Research your school options and choose the schools you'd like to apply to:**

Military schools prepare students to serve as military officers. There are 3 types of military schools.

Service Academies

The 5 service academies include the US Military Academy (West Point) and the US Naval Academy. These schools grant Bachelor of Science degrees. Students get free tuition. They must serve in the military for at least 5 years after graduation.

Senior Military Colleges (SMCs)

The 7 SMCs include The Citadel and Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets. Eligible students receive financial aid packages. Those who receive ROTC scholarships must serve in the military after graduation.

Maritime Academies

These 6 schools include Massachusetts Maritime Academy and California State University Maritime Academy. Students are prepared to work in maritime careers. Military service after graduation is not necessarily required. However, many graduates go on to serve as military officers.

It's important that the school you attend is a good fit for you. Think about what matters to you most about a school. You'll also need to think about your goals after graduation.

Questions to consider:

What branch do I want to serve in after graduation?

What will the service commitment be?

What costs are covered by the military?

What majors are offered?

What are the entrance requirements?

To investigate your school options:

Talk to people who have served in the military

Talk to your counselor

Explore the websites for the different schools

- **Find out the requirements:**

The entrance requirements differ by school.

Service Academy Requirements:

Entrance to the service academies is competitive. You will need to:

Have a high school diploma or equivalent

Have a competitive high school GPA

Have competitive scores on the SAT or ACT

Have a record of leadership, athletic participation, community involvement, and other extracurriculars

Get letter of recommendation from a congressional representative or a senator (required by all but the Coast Guard Academy)

Do well on an interview

Senior Military College Requirements:

There are different ways to enter an SMC. But you'll generally need to:

- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Have a minimum high school GPA
- Have high school credits in specific courses
- Have minimum scores on the SAT or ACT
- Get a letter of recommendation
- Meet medical and fitness requirements

Maritime Academy Requirements:

You will generally need to:

- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Have a minimum high school GPA
- Have high school credits in specific courses
- Have minimum scores on the SAT or ACT
- Get a letter of recommendation

To learn about the specific requirements:

- Talk to your counselor
- Contact a recruiter
- Explore the websites for the different schools

- **Find out the application deadlines:**

You won't be able to submit your application after the deadline has passed. Find out the deadlines as soon as you know which schools you're applying to and record them.

There are different types of deadlines to be aware of:

Regular Decision: This is the school's regular application deadline.

Early Action: This means you can apply earlier than the Regular Decision deadline. You'll get a decision earlier as well.

Early Decision: This is similar to the Early Action deadline. The difference is that the decision is binding. You must attend the school if you apply to Early Decision and are accepted.

Rolling Admission: Colleges with Rolling Admissions don't have strict deadlines. Instead, they accept applications during a specific period of time. Your application will be evaluated soon after it's received.

- **Find out how to apply and start preparing your application materials:**

Each school sets its own application process.

Applying to a Service Academy

The earlier you can start your application process the better. There are a lot of steps to applying to a Service Academy. This includes securing a nomination from a congressional representative or senator and taking the Candidate Fitness Assessment. You'll apply online, through the school's website. Each school has its own application process. In each case, the first step will be to create an online account.

Applying to a Senior Military College

For many schools, you'll apply directly on the school's website. Some schools use the Common App. Texas A&M University uses the ApplyTexas portal.

Each school's website has info about how to apply. In each case the first step will be to create an online account. In some cases you choose to submit a paper application.

Note: If you're applying for an ROTC scholarship, check with the school to find out the application process. You may need to apply for the scholarship first, rather than to the school. This is done online, on the Army, Air Force, or Navy ROTC page. You'll list your school of choice on the scholarship application.

Applying to a Maritime Academy

Each school has its own application process. You may apply directly on the school's website, or through the school system's application portal. Some schools use the Common App. Texas A&M Maritime Academy uses the ApplyTexas portal.

Each school's website has info about how to apply. In each case the first step will be to create an online account.

- **Apply:**

Each application process is different. But you'll generally start by providing your personal and contact information.

Depending on where you're applying you may then be asked to provide:

- Your SAT/ACT scores

- Your GPA and high school class rank

Your high school transcript
Your athletic activities
Other extracurricular activities
Results from a physical fitness assessment
Results from a medical exam
A personal essay
Letters of recommendation
A credit card number for the application fee

If you're applying to a Service Academy you'll also need to:

Provide a nomination from a congressional representative or senator (does not apply to the Coast Guard Academy)
Do an interview

- **Apply for Financial Aid (if needed):**

Depending on where you are going to school, you may need to apply for financial aid. This helps you cover the costs of your education.

Service Academies provide fully funded tuition. This includes your books, housing, and medical care.

If you're applying to a Senior Military College, you can apply for an ROTC scholarship. Check with the school for more information about this process. These colleges often offer other types of scholarships and grants you can apply for, as well. Be sure to look into completing the FAFSA.

If you're applying to a Maritime Academy, you may also need to apply for financial aid programs. These schools often offer various types of scholarships and awards you can apply for. Be sure to look into completing the FAFSA.

More info about the FAFSA

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Fill out the free FAFSA form to qualify for grants, work-study, and loans. The FAFSA also helps you qualify for college and state aid.

If you're planning to start school in the fall you'll need to complete the FAFSA by June 30. Some schools have earlier deadlines. Either way, it's best to apply early. There are limited funds to go around. The earlier you apply, the more money you can get.

In fact, you can fill out the FAFSA before you even apply to schools. You can list 1 to 10 schools on the form. List any schools you plan to apply to. These schools will receive

your FAFSA information. Any school you're accepted to will then build a financial aid package based on your FAFSA details.

You'll fill out the FAFSA form on the [federal government's website](#). The form is available on October 1 every year.

- **Wait for a decision:**

You'll be notified of the decision by email or through the online portal where you applied. The selection process is competitive.

If you are accepted by a school, be sure to respond by the deadline indicated. You'll then follow the school's instructions to start your program.