

# MILITARY PATHWAYS

## RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)

ROTC is a military officer training program offered at 1,700 colleges nationwide. ([www.todaysmilitary.com/training/rotc](http://www.todaysmilitary.com/training/rotc)). Cadets agree to serve in the military post-college (usually 4–5 years) in exchange for potentially significant financial aid for their college education, and a guaranteed post-college career. Explore branch(es) of interest to learn the application process (including Army ROTC, Navy-option ROTC, Air Force ROTC, Marine-option ROTC). NOTE: The ROTC scholarship application is in addition to the college application. It has its own deadline.

## ENLISTING

If you are interested in enlisting, you should visit Today's Military website at [www.todaysmilitary.com](http://www.todaysmilitary.com) or [www.usa.gov/military-and-veterans](http://www.usa.gov/military-and-veterans) and explore what it means to enlist and which branch you would like to pursue.

1. You will need to take the ASVAB exam. You should prepare by visiting <http://official-asvab.com> to learn more about this test and what the testing experience will be like. Be sure to check out the ASVAB Career Exploration Program at [www.asvabprogram.com](http://www.asvabprogram.com) to learn more and help with test preparation.
2. Meet with a recruiter. Contact one at [www.todaysmilitary.com/contact-a-recruiter](http://www.todaysmilitary.com/contact-a-recruiter). Visit the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) website for more information at [www.mepcom.army.mil](http://www.mepcom.army.mil). You will report to MEPS if you decide to enlist. You will spend the day at a military processing station (MEPS). That is where you will take the ASVAB, have a physical exam, and meet with a career counselor. If you are accepted, you will take the oath of enlistment.
3. Finally, you will await orders for basic training. You should receive orders within a few weeks. If you enroll in the delayed entry program, you will get orders within a year.

## MILITARY ACADEMIES

There are five federal United States service academies and each have their own application and process. Visit each academy's website for details:

- The United States Military Academy (USMA).
- The United States Naval Academy (USNA).
- The United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA).
- The United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA).
- The United States Air Force Academy (USAFA).

This application process is rigorous. Be early and thorough. The process must begin during your junior year of high school. You will be required to take the ACT or SAT. Prepare by:

1. Retake exams, if you scored below 540 (SAT) or 26 (ACT) on any section.
2. Get help from your local mentor.
3. Schedule your medical exam EARLY.
4. Train for your Candidate Fitness Exam.
5. Treat the nomination interview like a job interview.

## BENEFITS OF A COLLEGE EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE MILITARY

### ROTC & ACADEMIES

- Student graduates as an officer (higher salary & leadership skills).
- Significant/All costs paid.
- Focus on academic and physical development.
- Long-standing tradition and honor.
- The GI Bill helps pay for future education (can be transferred to children).

### ENLISTING

- The military pays for needed training/ education & provides place to live
- The GI Bill help pay for future education (can be transferred to children).
- Guaranteed job placement after successful boot camp and training experiences.
- Sense of honor, duty, service & patriotism along with sought-after skills, leadership & experience.



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