



To become a cadet you must meet the requirements specified by public law and must be qualified academically, physically and medically. Each candidate must also obtain a nomination from a member of Congress or from the Department of Army in one of the service-connected categories described later in this section. As a candidate, you are evaluated for admission on the basis of academic performance (high school record and SAT or ACT scores, including the required writing portion, if taking the ACT), demonstrated leadership potential, fitness assessment, and medical qualification.

West Point seeks a class composition of top scholars, leaders, athletes, Soldiers, women, and minorities to maintain a diversified collegiate environment and corps. The academy encourages a strong college-preparatory academic background as a prerequisite for admission. Recommended areas of preparation are: four years of English, with strong emphasis on composition, grammar, literature, and speech; four years of math – algebra, plane geometry, intermediate algebra, trigonometry; at least two years of a foreign language; four years of science, including two years of laboratory science such as chemistry and physics; and one year of U.S. history.

Additionally, you will find courses in geography, government, and economics to be very helpful. If your school includes a course in pre-calculus and calculus in its curriculum, and a basic computer course, those courses will be extremely helpful during your first year at West Point. College courses taken prior to entrance to West Point may be substituted for similar courses in the academy curriculum (see “Validation” in Chapter 4).

1. Determine whether you meet the basic requirements.

General Qualifications

Candidates must:

- Be at least 17 but not older than 23 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

Candidates must:

- Be in good physical and mental health.
- Pass a Medical Exam (see Appendix B).

Physical Qualifications

Each candidate should have:

- Above-average strength, endurance and agility.
- Strong performance on West Point Candidate Fitness Assessment (see Appendix C).

2. Start a file at West Point online.

West Point will start your candidate file upon receipt of a completed Candidate Questionnaire. You should complete the Candidate Questionnaire online at the Admissions website, <http://admissions.westpoint.edu>, in the middle of your junior year in high school or as soon thereafter as possible. You must have a Social Security number to establish a file. Your file will be reviewed, and you will be notified if you lack the qualifications to compete for admission.

3. Apply for a nomination.

You must obtain a nomination in order to compete for admission to West Point, and you should apply for a nomination from each source for which you are eligible during the spring of your junior year.



Congressional nominating authorities specify to the Department of Army the method of selecting candidates to fill cadetships. Cadetships are allocated by law to the vice president; members of Congress; congressional delegates from Washington, D.C., the Virgin Islands, and Guam; the governors of Puerto Rico and American Samoa; the resident representative to the United States from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and the Department of Army.

At a minimum, most candidates are eligible for a congressional nomination from their local congressional representative, their two United States senators, and the vice president of the United States.

You can find information about applying for nominations and view request letter formats on the West Point Admissions webpages: www.westpoint.edu/admissions.

Types of Nominations

Congressional

U.S. senators and representatives nominate from their respective states

and districts. Members of Congress may select up to 10 young people to compete for each cadetship vacancy they have. As a member of Congress, the vice president has five cadetships for applicants from the United States at large. U.S. senators and representatives nominate from their respective states and districts. Members of Congress may select up to 10 young people to compete for each cadetship vacancy they have. As a member of Congress, the vice president has five cadetships for applicants from the United States at large. Candidates interested in seeking a vice-presidential nomination should apply online at the following website: www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice-president-biden/academy-nominations. Applicants must complete the online nomination application during the application period of March 1 to January 31 preceding the year of entrance to the academy.

The Washington, D.C., congressional delegate nominates from that district. The governor of Puerto Rico nominates a native-born Puerto Rican, and the Puerto Rican Commissioner nominates five residents of Puerto Rico. Congressional delegates of Guam and the Virgin Islands,

the resident representative from the Northern Mariana Islands, and the governor of American Samoa nominate sons and daughters of U.S. citizens or nationals living on their respective islands.

Service-Connected

Sons and daughters of career military personnel are eligible for presidential nominations. The term “career military personnel” refers to members of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard) who are on active duty other than for training and who have served continuously on active duty for at least eight years, or who were retired with pay or granted retired or retainer pay. Also included are service members currently serving in the Reserve Component who are credited with at least eight continuous years of service computed under section 12733 of Title 10, United States Code. Finally, **members of the Select Reserve** who would be (or who died while they would have been) entitled to retirement pay except for not having attained 60 years of age are also included in this category.





<http://admissions.westpoint.edu>

Regular Army and Reserve Components

This category is for enlisted members of the Regular Army, Army Reserves, and Army National Guard. To request a nomination under this category, enlisted members should submit a commander's endorsement with their applications.

This application must reach the Director of Admissions by the second Monday in January. Soldiers who are not offered an appointment to West Point are automatically considered for enrollment in the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS). Some applicants who fail to obtain admission to West Point on their first tries enlist in the Army and win appointments in either the Regular Army or Reserves category on their second attempts. If interested, consult with an Army, Army Reserve, or Army National Guard recruiter.

Admissions Interview Report (USMA Form 21-8) to be considered for a nomination. This application must reach West Point by the second Monday in January. The best-qualified candidates, without regard to schools, are then selected for enrollment.

Sons and Daughters of Deceased or Disabled Veterans

This category is for sons and daughters of deceased or 100-percent disabled Armed

Forces veterans whose deaths or disabilities were determined to be service-connected, and for sons and daughters of military personnel or federally employed civilians who are in a missing or captured status. Application should be made to the Director of Admissions, U.S. Military Academy, 606 Thayer Road, West Point, NY 10996-1797. This application must reach West Point by the second Monday in January.

Honor Military, Naval Schools, and ROTC

Applicants enrolled in a junior or senior Army Reserve Officer Training Corps program are eligible for nomination in this category. Certain ROTC schools designated by departments of the Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps as "Honor Units with Distinction" may recommend three of their honor graduates for nominations. Applications should be made through the professor of military science or the senior instructor at such a school to the Director of Admissions, U.S. Military Academy, 606 Thayer Road, West Point, NY 10996-1797.

Your senior instructor must fill out and submit a Request for ROTC Nomination to USMA (Form 5-497) and a USMA



"The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war."

Chinese proverb





“No man who is occupied in doing a very difficult thing, and doing it well, ever loses self-respect.”

George Bernard Shaw



Sons and Daughters of Persons Awarded the Medal of Honor

All sons and daughters of persons awarded the Medal of Honor who seek admission and are fully qualified will be admitted. Apply by the second Monday in January to the Director of Admissions, U.S. Military Academy, 606 Thayer Road, West Point, NY 10996-1797.

Other Countries

No more than 60 citizens of foreign nations may be West Point cadets at one time. The applicant should prepare a letter requesting a nomination, addressed to the United States defense attach of the nominating nation. Requirements for enrollment, advancement from class to class, and graduation are the same as for United States citizens.

The three nomination methods are:

Competitive Nominations

The nominating authority submits a slate of up to 10 nominees. West Point evaluates all nominees and ranks them according to their qualifications. The best-qualified nominated candidate is selected for an offer of admission.

Principal with Competing Alternates

The nominating authority designates a principal nominee; up to nine alternates compete as above for the cadetship only if the principal nominee is disqualified.

Principal with Numbered Alternates

If the selected principal nominee is not fully qualified, each alternate is evaluated in the order designated by the nominating authority until one is found fully qualified.

Department of the Army Nominations

Service-Connected (Presidential).....	100
Enlisted Members of the Regular Army	85
Enlisted Members of the Army Reserve/ National Guard	85
Honor Military, Naval Schools and ROTC	20
Sons and Daughters of Deceased or 100-percent Disabled Veterans (approx.)	20
Sons and Daughters of Persons Awarded the Medal of Honor.....	Unlimited



<http://admissions.westpoint.edu>

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.

5. Follow up on nominations.

Each year, more than 10,000 candidates open files for admission to West Point. Only about 4,000 receive congressional or service-connected nominations. A nomination is the legal authority for West Point to offer admission, and the nomination process is independent of the West Point admissions evaluation. It is important that you aggressively pursue every nomination available to you.

6. Complete testing, ACT and/or SAT.

All candidates must take the timed ACT or SAT. West Point does not accept un-timed scores for academic evaluation. We recommend that candidates take both the SAT and ACT at least once.

Please note: All candidates for admission are required to submit a writing score with their SAT and/or ACT exam. The SAT has a writing exam as part of the basic test;



however, the writing portion on the ACT is currently optional. If you register for the ACT, you must select the “ACT Plus Writing” exam in order to be considered for admission. **ACT scores submitted without the writing section will not be evaluated.**

It is recommended that candidates take the ACT and/or SAT exams as many times as practical, as the Admissions Committee only considers the candidate’s highest scores on each segment of the exams.

Although not required for admission, advanced placement examinations are considered in several subject areas, including mathematics, physics, chemistry, history, and social sciences (see Page 32 on Validation and Advanced Placement). Results are evaluated for awarding formal credit for course completion or scheduling individuals into higher-level sections or classes.

ACT

The ACT is administered at test centers throughout the world. For information on ACT testing in your locale, consult any high school counselor or visit the ACT website: www.act.org. Again, if you register for the ACT, you must select the “ACT Plus Writing” exam. To ensure West Point receives your test results, list the ACT college code number for USMA (2976) on your registration folder. To ensure your congressional representatives receive your test results, you must place their ACT code number on your application. The congressional code numbers are listed in your test registration booklet or can be obtained on the ACT website at www.act.org.

SAT

Candidates taking the College Board exam for admissions are required to take the SAT I. (Note: SAT II subject tests are



not required.) To take the examination, consult your guidance counselor or visit the “Student” section of the website: www.collegeboard.com. To ensure West Point receives your test results, list the college code number for West Point (2924) on the registration form. To ensure your congressional representatives receive your test results, contact your congressional representatives to obtain their College Board code numbers and record each number on the registration form. Your test results will be mailed directly to your congressional representatives. Final admissions decisions will be made by April from the data then present in the candidate’s file.

Qualifying Medical Exam

All candidates desiring to enroll must take a Qualifying Medical Examination. One Qualifying Medical Examination meets the application requirements of all service academies and all ROTC scholarship programs. The Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DoDMERB) will schedule your exam and evaluate the results after you have started an admissions file. You

will receive instructions for taking the Qualifying Medical Examination directly from DoDMERB. It is important to schedule medical exams at the earliest time possible to allow sufficient time to resolve potential medical issues.

For information or questions on medical issues, applicants may visit the following DoDMERB website: <https://dodmerb.tricare.osd.mil>. To access information about DoDMERB, click on the “FAQs” link on the left column menu. For tracking medical status, applicants should click on the “Applicant” link. Detailed West Point medical requirements are covered in Appendix B.

Candidate Fitness Assessment

In order to qualify for admission to West Point, all candidates must pass the Candidate Fitness Assessment (CFA). The CFA measures strength, endurance, and agility. There are six events in this test: basketball throw for distance from kneeling position, pull-ups, timed shuttle run, modified sit-ups, pushups, and timed one-mile run. Those six events are described in more detail in Appendix C. Candidates



<http://admissions.westpoint.edu>

will receive instruction booklets for their physical education instructors describing how to conduct this test in their schools. In addition, any Army officer or West Point liaison representative may administer the CFA.

Candidates are advised to prepare for this examination by engaging in vigorous activities such as running, general conditioning exercises, and competitive games, in addition to practicing the specific test events. The only other CFAs accepted by West Point are the Naval Academy or the Air Force Academy CFAs. It is the candidate's responsibility to have the results of one of these exams sent to the Director of Admissions.

7. Monitor Application Status.

A formal offer of admission is possible as early as November for fully qualified, outstanding candidates who have completed all admissions requirements and receive nominations. Admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis, with the majority of offers of admission announced by mid-April. Files not completed by the last working day in **February 2012** will be closed to further consideration. It is possible that a few candidates will not be notified of acceptance until shortly before entrance in June. Offers of admission are conditional from the time of offer to date of admission.

8. Visit West Point.

Candidate Orientation Visits are offered Monday through Friday during the academic year (September to November and January through April). Members of the Corps of Cadets volunteer to escort each candidate individually, and the orientation includes class attendance, a visit to the barracks, lunch in the Cadet Mess and an Admissions briefing. If you have the opportunity, a visit to West Point offers invaluable insight into cadet life and can greatly assist in the college decision-making process. A student who has applied for admission can arrange for a **visit at our website** – <http://admissions.westpoint.edu/>. **Please understand that at least two weeks'**

notice is required to schedule a visit. For more information about orientation visits, please call (845) 938-5760.

9. Prepare for entrance to West Point.

Candidates should prepare for the academic, physical, and leadership demands a cadet faces at West Point. If you have met the academic qualifications for admission, you will be ready for the challenges of the West Point curriculum. Work hard on your physical fitness conditioning before entering the academy. Vigorous conditioning exercises, swimming, and cross-country running are recommended. It is especially important that a candidate train through a variety of strenuous activities. Participation in school and community activities helps a future cadet prepare for leadership positions at West Point, and seeking leadership roles in those activities or on sports teams can further enhance leadership preparation.

West Point Liaison Officers

West Point Admissions enjoys the nationwide assistance of liaison officers who provide service to candidates. They include graduates of West Point, both in and out of the active Army, and U.S. Army Reserve officers who have been trained at West Point for this specific program. These volunteers are available to assist candidates in the admissions process and to answer questions about specific West Point programs. Through them, the Admissions Office can maintain a flow of information about the West Point Experience and assist candidates in pursuit of appointments to the academy.

To locate a liaison officer or Admissions representative

in your area, you first must find your congressional district.

Visit the website www.house.gov and type in your zip code at the top of that page to locate your congressional representative. Then call your region's candidate technician and ask for your region's candidate technician, who can identify your local Admissions representative from your congressional district number. You can find the staff for your region – Northeast, Southeast, Great Lakes, Southwest, or Far West – on the Admissions website at <http://admissions.usma.edu/staff.html>.







PROFILE: CLASS OF 2015



Volume of Applicants

	Men	Women	Total
Applicant Files Started	11,198	2,756	13,954
Nominated	3,627	717	4,344
Qualified (academically & in physical aptitude)	2,141	399	2,540
Admitted	1,049	212	1,261

Rank in High School Class

First Fifth	71%
Second Fifth	20%
Third Fifth	8%
Fourth Fifth	1%
Bottom Fifth	0%

American College Testing (ACT) Assessment Program Scores**

Range	Eng	Math	Sci Reas	Read
31-36	41%	40%	26%	50%
26-30	40%	43%	48%	34%
21-25	17%	17%	25%	15%
16-20	2%	0%	1%	1%
11-15	0%	0%	0%	0%
Mean	29	29	28	30

College Board Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Scores**

Range	Critical Reading	Math
700-800	20%	26%
600-699	46%	49%
500-599	29%	23%
400-499	5%	2%
300-399	0%	0%
Mean	627	646

**Includes only scores used as a basis for admission.

Academic Honors

Class Valedictorians	97
Class Salutatorians	42
National Merit Scholarship Recognition	227
National Honor Society	747

Activities

Boys/Girls State Delegate	214
Class President or Student Body President	232
School Publication Staff	
School Paper Editor, Co-Editor or Staff	141
Yearbook Editor or Co-Editor	96
Debating	162
Dramatics	106
Scouting Participants	445
Eagle Scout (men) or Gold Award (women)	160
Varsity Athletics	1,155
Letter Winner	1,093
Team Captain	777

Combat Veterans	17
International	14

Geographical Distribution

The Class of 2015 entered West Point with 1,261 new cadets, including 1,247 United States citizens and 14 international cadets. Cadets were appointed by Congress from each of the 50 United States, as well as from military- service sources. Seventeen combat veterans entered West Point with the Class of 2015.

The international cadets are from the countries of Chad, Colombia, Georgia, Honduras, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Maldives, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Tunisia, and Taiwan. Upon graduation, those cadets will return to their countries as officers in their respective armed forces.



Young people entering West Point can expect to expand their knowledge, to develop more fully the intellectual skills they need to assume responsibilities as junior officers, and to build strong foundations for assuming senior officer responsibilities. They will also acquire a firm foundation for postgraduate specialization in one of a variety of academic disciplines.