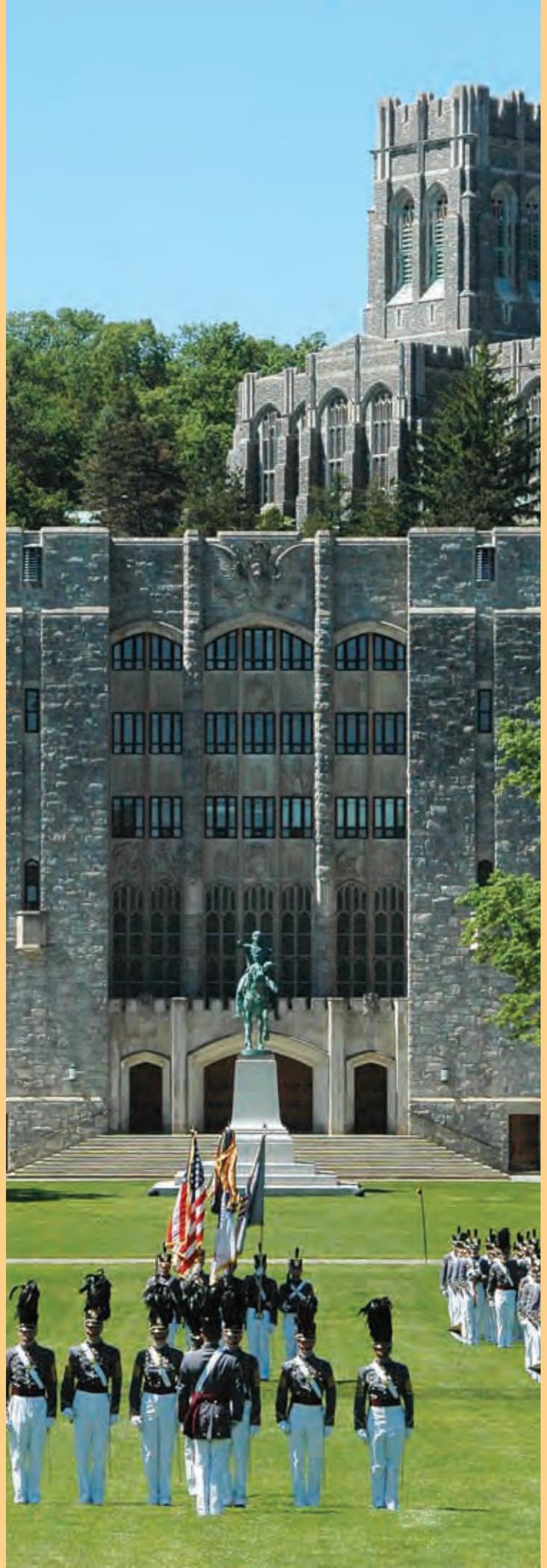




# West Point

The United States Military Academy





***Leaders of Promise today  
become the nation's  
Leaders of Character tomorrow.***

The United States Military Academy has been educating training and inspiring leaders of character for our United States Army and for the nation for more than 200 years. West Point is an internationally recognized institution for academic, military, and physical excellence, and we are proud that today's cadets will become tomorrow's military, public, and private-sector leaders. That is our mission at this premier institution of leader development.



**LTG David H. Huntoon, Jr.**  
*Superintendent*

Cadets are challenged — intellectually, militarily, and physically — in an environment that embraces the highest moral-ethical standards. They receive a balanced, first-tier undergraduate education that promotes a lifetime of learning. They complete an excellent military development program that prepares them for a career as a commissioned officer in our Army. And they achieve the highest levels of physical development through a program that emphasizes a lifelong pursuit of personal fitness.

The West Point experience is exciting, challenging, and fulfilling. Our graduates are well-prepared to help lead our Army and our nation.

Take a good look at all that West Point has to offer. Read all you can about the academy and the Army. Consider ROTC and other Army opportunities, and make the decision that is best for you.

If you are inspired to join our Armed Forces and lead in our Army through the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we look forward to seeing you as a member of The Long Gray Line.

Army Strong!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David H. Huntoon, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

**David H. Huntoon, Jr.**

*Lieutenant General, U.S. Army  
Superintendent*

# West Point

## Mission

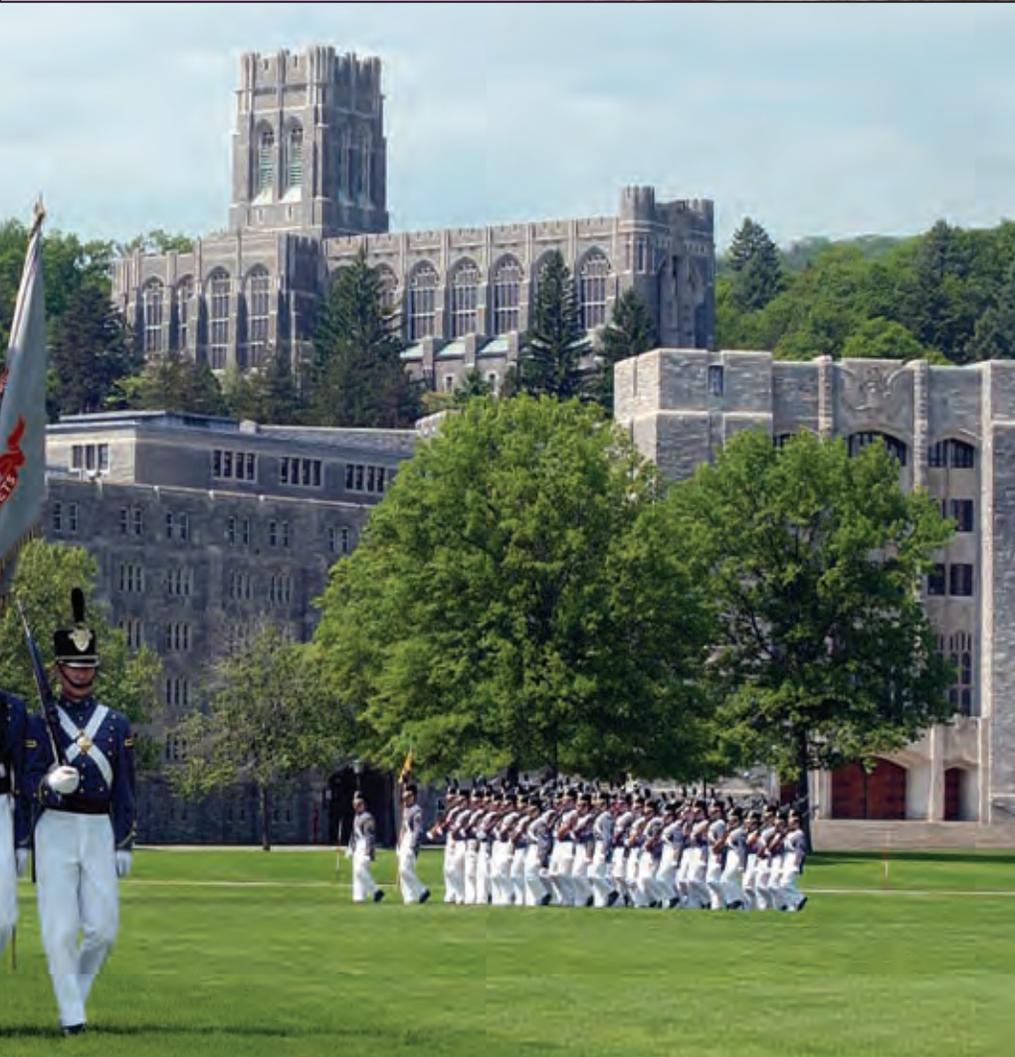
To educate, train and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation as an officer in the United States Army.





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**A**s a young man or woman considering your options for obtaining a quality college education, you may wonder what unique opportunities the United States Military Academy offers. West Point offers one of the most highly respected, quality education programs in the nation.

This 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.



# YOUR MILITARY ACADEMY



## CHAPTER 1

The nation's oldest service academy – the world-famous United States Military Academy at West Point – is easily recognized in photographs or television news clips of the Corps of Cadets on parade or of the traditional march-on before the Army-Navy football classic. West Point is much more than a full-dress parade; it is an exciting and memorable four-year experience that stretches your intellect, develops your self-confidence and leadership potential, and prepares you for an important leadership role while serving our nation.

As you consider your college options, ask yourself these questions: What can I expect at West Point? What will West Point expect of me? What makes the academy unique? What follows are the answers to these important questions.

### **The Academy's Purpose**

West Point is charged with educating, training and inspiring young Americans to provide the Army with commissioned leaders of character. The academy prepares graduates for selfless service to the nation.

### **Service to Country**

What does this mean for you? It means that your personal goal should be to serve America as an Army officer. It means that you, as an Army officer, will lead people and organizations; manage resources to maintain the peace or deter or win wars; and accomplish other missions directed by our nation's elected leaders. It means you will operate in demanding and stressful environments where you will need to anticipate the unexpected, reason clearly in the midst of chaos, and lead with bravery and compassion. To help prepare you for the rigors of service as a commissioned officer in the United States Army, West Point provides a stressful, demanding program that will challenge you intellectually, militarily, and physically in an environment that promotes the development of character.

### **Education — Ranked Among the Best**

West Point is consistently ranked among the top colleges in the country, and though it's a great honor, it's not surprising to those familiar with the United States Military Academy.

Since its founding in 1802, West Point has provided a world-class education. It is a Tier I academic institution, placing it in the same category as the famed Ivy League schools. The academic curriculum is broad-based and challenging.

The institution is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, [www.msche.org](http://www.msche.org). The Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Six engineering majors programs – civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, systems engineering, environmental engineering, and engineering management – are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET, [www.abet.org](http://www.abet.org). In addition, the computer science major is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, [www.abet.org](http://www.abet.org).

Cadets at West Point receive a balanced undergraduate education in the arts

and sciences, a Bachelor of Science degree, and a firm foundation for future intellectual growth.

### **Army Opportunities**

When you enter West Point, you are also beginning a profession. Upon graduation you are commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and will serve on active duty for at least five years. As you begin your military career you will be responsible for people, training, and equipment. Each new promotion brings additional responsibility and increased opportunity.

Service within the United States is complemented by overseas assignments, providing cross-cultural awareness and further opportunities for personal and professional growth.





## Other Contributions

Clearly, military readiness is the Army's main task. Accordingly, West Point officers have served in capacities as varied as the nation's needs. Because of the breadth of their education and leadership experience, West Point graduates repeatedly have been sought for high-level leadership. Many have continued to serve the nation after a full military career and retirement from the Army. Their numbers include two U.S. presidents: Ulysses S. Grant and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Others are ambassadors, state governors, legislators, judges, cabinet members, educators, engineers, and corporate executives.

## History: Change Within Tradition

When you join The Long Gray Line, you become part of a tradition almost as old as the nation. The first of the service academies, West Point has trained officers for more than 200 years. Yet the academy continuously changes in anticipation of the nation's needs. This gradual evolution of the academy's programs and activities has prepared its graduates to serve the nation; however, through it all, West Point remains unwavering in its mission: to provide the Army and the nation with commissioned leaders of character.

## Leader Development at West Point

Everything cadets experience during their 47 months at West Point is focused on developing them as leaders of character

who will serve as officers in America's Army. There is no other purpose for West Point.

The Cadet Leader Development System is the formal means of coordinating and integrating the programs, activities, and resources necessary to develop cadets as leaders of character. The system provides for sequential and progressive development in three complementary programs – Academic, Military and Physical – in a moral-ethical environment that promotes exemplary character.

### Academic

West Point's Academic Program includes an excellent, broadly structured undergraduate curriculum that balances the physical sciences and engineering with the behavioral and social sciences. The goal is for every graduate to be able to think creatively and clearly express original ideas on both technological and interpersonal issues. In addition, the academy seeks to instill in cadets a commitment to progressive and continued educational development.

### Military

West Point's Military Program provides an outstanding professional foundation focused on education in the American military ethic and the Army's core values, along with training in individual and small-unit leadership skills. Cadets are inspired to make a commitment to national service as an Army officer and to adopt the ideals of the seven Army Values.

Cadets receive formal military education each year in subjects that prepare them to become leaders. This education is complemented by summer military training, where cadets learn basic Soldier skills, such as firing a rifle accurately, navigating in the woods with a map and compass, and rappelling off high cliffs. In addition, cadets have the opportunity to spend part of one summer assigned to a unit in the field Army. These assignments often take cadets to Europe, Korea, Alaska, or Hawaii. Finally – and perhaps most importantly – cadets are afforded the privilege of leading and training junior members of the Corps of Cadets.

### Physical

The Physical Program is focused upon the physically demanding requirements of an Army officer. It endeavors to develop in cadets the ability to maintain personal and unit fitness, fosters the warrior spirit, builds an appreciation for teamwork, and inspires the will to win. Specific program activities include physical education classes, regular fitness testing, and competitive athletics.

### Character Development

Moral-ethical development is central to the 47-month West Point Experience and is explicitly mandated by the academy's mission statement. The emphasis on personal character is to support the West Point Motto – “Duty, Honor, Country” – and the ideals of the seven Army Values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. A powerful means of influencing character development is the day-to-day interaction with West Point staff and faculty members, who set high standards for ethical conduct, but West Point also relies upon several formal developmental means.

In the Military Program cadets inevitably experience a wide variety of ethical dilemmas as they perform their duties as leaders and as subordinates. These dilemmas represent opportunities to make decisions that will shape their individual value systems and, potentially, the value systems of their peers. Officer and NCO supervision affords the cadets the opportunity to make ethical choices under the guidance and mentorship of experienced, professional Soldiers. The Simon Center for the Professional Military Ethic at West Point has oversight



# YOUR MILITARY ACADEMY



on the instruction of Army Values and the professional military ethic as well as the two programs that highlight West Point's core values: honor and respect.

## The Honor Program

The ability to educate, train, and inspire outstanding leaders is linked to West Point's commitment to ensuring graduates internalize the values of truthfulness, fairness, respect, and commitment, ensuring others in the Profession of Arms maintain those values as well. In short, West Point expects its graduates and cadets to commit to a lifetime of honorable living. It expects the Corps of Cadets to live by the Honor Code and System, which simply states: "A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do."

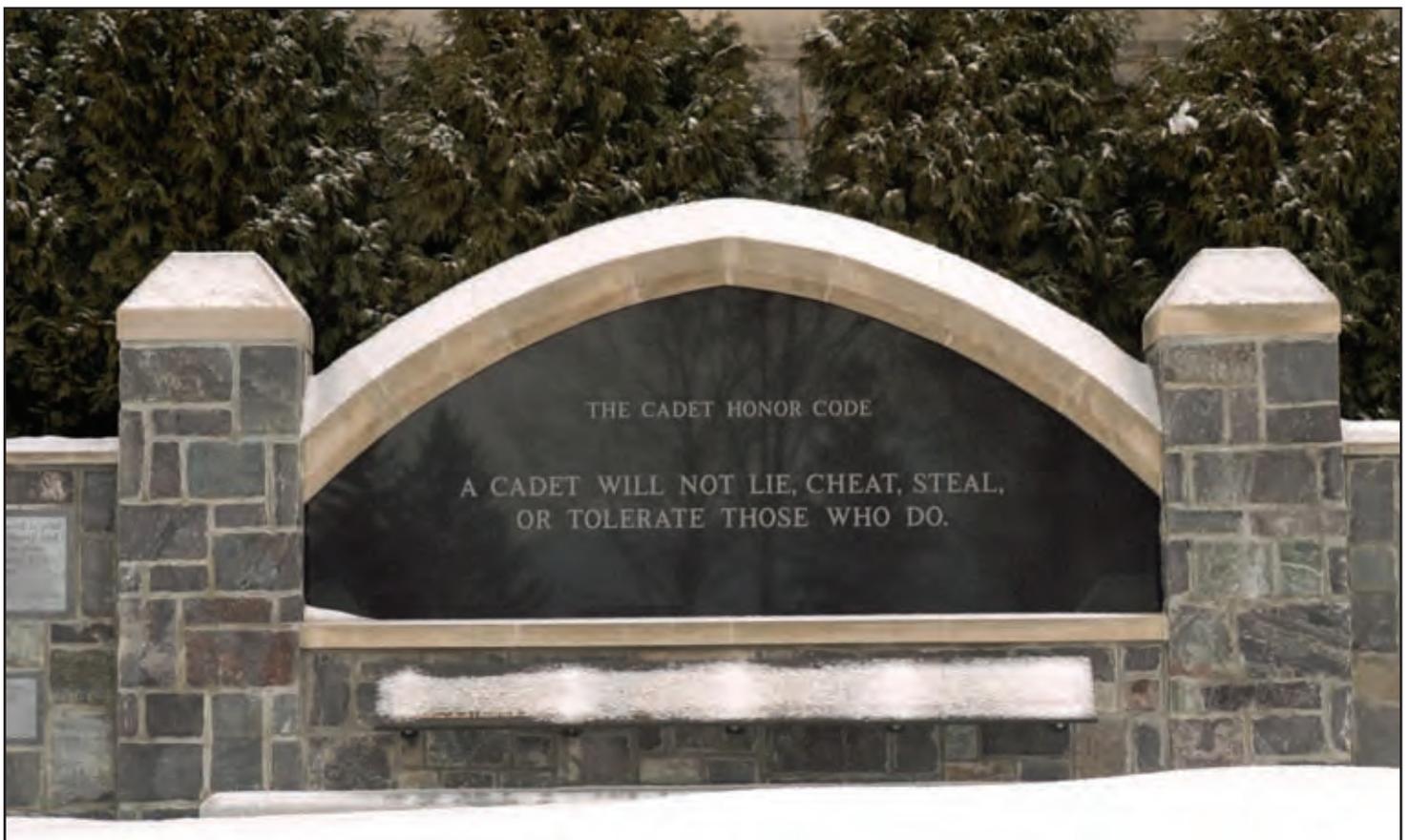
Under the supervision of the staff and faculty, the Corps of Cadets maintains the Honor Code and System. Since 1922, the elected members of the Cadet Honor Committee have represented the corps on all matters pertaining to honor and consider themselves to be stewards of the code.

## The Respect Program

The ability to educate, train and inspire leaders of character is linked to West Point's commitment to ensuring a positive command climate, eliminating discrimination, and fostering an atmosphere of dignity and worth. In order to ensure a healthy command climate and focus more succinctly on character development, West Point adopted "respect" as a core value. The intent is to engender an attitude within the Corps of Cadets whereby "Cadets will treat others and themselves with dignity and worth and expect the same from those around them." The Respect Program Goals include many of the same tenets as an Army Equal Opportunity Program and exceed those expectations with its development and execution by a full cadet staff. The Cadet Respect Captain and Respect Committee are responsible for ensuring the corps of cadets understands the leader responsibility for a respectful climate, prevent discrimination, and prepares their fellow cadets for leading a diverse Army operating as ambassadors in diverse nations.

## Individual Advanced Development

As cadets progress in their 47-month experience, they may take advantage of voluntary opportunities to pursue a specific area of personal interest through the Individual Advanced Development program. Many of these experiences take cadets to foreign countries, government agencies, or international organizations. Available only to those First and Second Class cadets who have successfully completed their baseline requirements, cadets have their choice of more than 250 enrichment opportunities from all three developmental programs – Academic, Military, and Physical. Most of these activities occur during the summer and provide cadets a unique opportunity for growth in areas of their choice.



## Daily Schedule

This schedule typifies a cadet's life during the academic year, August through May. Cadets have many extracurricular opportunities; they may choose from more than 100 extracurricular activities and 25 intercollegiate sports. Worship services and other religious activities are also available for cadets. During the summer months, cadets take vacations and participate in military training and Individual Advanced Development.

The more-than 4,400 cadets who comprise the United States Corps of Cadets form a brigade of four regiments. A cadet regiment consists of three battalions, each with three companies, for a total of 36 companies in the brigade. Cadets fill all officer and noncommissioned officer positions in the corps. Each cadet not only leads but also receives counseling and guidance in the techniques of leadership. In addition, each cadet is rated on leader development through an assessment system.

## Vacations and Free Time

The number of vacations (leaves and passes) and the amount of free time a cadet has depends upon seniority as well as performance. While a First Class cadet (senior) has many opportunities to take weekend passes, a plebe (freshman) will have only a few weekend passes available. In addition to these passes, a plebe may leave the academy on authorized athletic, extracurricular, or cultural trips. All cadets may be awarded weekend passes based upon individual or unit achievement. All cadets may take Thanksgiving, winter holiday, spring, and summer leaves.

## Typical Daily Schedule

### Morning:

- 6:55 Breakfast Formation
- 7:05-7:20 Breakfast
- 7:30-11:55 Class or Study

### Afternoon:

- 12:10-12:25 Lunch Review (Mondays, only)
- 12:05-12:35 Lunch (Mondays, Lunch until 12:40)
- 12:50-1:45 Commandant's/Dean's Time
- 1:55-4:00 Class or Study
- 4:15-6:30 Intramural/Club Athletics; Drill and Ceremony; Military and Physical Training; or Free Time

### Evening:

- 6:00-7:30 Supper (Optional except Thursday, 6:45-7:15. Plebes have mandatory dinner Mondays & Wednesdays, too.)
- 7:30-8:30 Evening Study Period/ Extracurricular Activities
- 8:30-11:30 Evening Study Period
- 11:30 Taps
- 12:00-5:20 Lights Out



## Pay and Allowances

As members of the U.S. Army, cadets receive room, board and more than \$10,000 per year in pay. The cadet must pay for a notebook computer, uniforms, textbooks, and activity fees from this amount. Each cadet candidate is asked to make an initial deposit of \$2,000 to help defray initial expenses.

## Counseling and Health Care

Academic, military, financial and other types of personal counseling are available to cadets at all times. The Center for Personal Development is a cadet counseling service providing individual and group assistance for a variety of personal needs. Apart from this professional counseling, cadets can always seek advice from their peers in the cadet chain of command.

Cadets receive complete medical and dental care while at West Point. If a medical service is not available at the military hospital, civilian medical providers and facilities are used. Costs are reimbursed under the military health plan called "Tricare." Tricare benefits must be preauthorized except for emergency care.

Parents are advised to retain civilian medical coverage for their cadet while attending the academy. Eligibility for military health benefits terminates at midnight on the date a cadet is separated from the academy before completion of the four-year program. Retention of a civilian





# YOUR MILITARY ACADEMY



medical plan ensures continuous medical coverage of the cadet should there be a discharge. West Point graduates receive medical coverage from the U.S. Army.

## Facilities

The academy includes more than 16,000 acres in Orange County, New York, 50 miles north of New York City. Framed by the majestic Hudson Highlands and poised above the Hudson River, the massive gothic structures of the campus blend with the rugged beauty of the surrounding hills.

The West Point Library, located in Jefferson Hall in the academic area, provides up-to-date, fully networked library service to the cadets, faculty and remote users. Supplementing a collection of more than 600,000 volumes, the library offers numerous full-text databases providing access to the contents of thousands of scholarly journals. Open 105 hours per week during the academic year, the library also offers a highly skilled staff, group study rooms, and an extensive microfilm collection. The institutional records of the academy are maintained as part of the library's collections, and these provide invaluable primary source material for cadet and faculty research. Jefferson Hall is a new, state-of-the-art learning center completed in 2008.

West Point's modern academic facilities are matched by its athletic facilities. Michie Stadium, home of Army Football, attracts crowds in excess of 40,000 during

picturesque football weekends in the fall. The Kimsey Athletic Center, the Hoffman Press Box, Randall Hall, the Lichtenberg Tennis Center, the Lou Gross Center and the Anderson Rugby Center are new facilities that provide first-class resources for football, basketball, hockey, tennis, lacrosse, gymnastics and rugby programs. The Foley Athletic Center opened its doors in March 2007; it houses a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled indoor playing field.

Holleder Athletic Center, adjacent to the stadium, is a multi-sport complex housing a hockey rink with seating for 2,700 and a basketball arena with a 5,000-seat capacity. The 500,000-square-foot Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center is a state-of-the-art physical fitness facility that includes two gymnasiums, two multi-purpose rooms, two swimming pools, six racquetball courts, five wrestling rooms, a rock-climbing wall, two fitness rooms, and a sports medicine facility.

West of the installation, the reservation's lake-dotted, forested highlands provide an extensive military training and recreational area. In the summer, Camp Buckner is used for field exercises of all descriptions. West Point cadets and residents may also hunt, fish, swim and hike on the reservation. In addition, Army Reserve Component units schedule field exercises; scouts and other civilian groups camp and hike, and local townspeople enjoy the recreational use of Long Pond. Round Pond is a clear mountaintop lake surrounded by a beach,

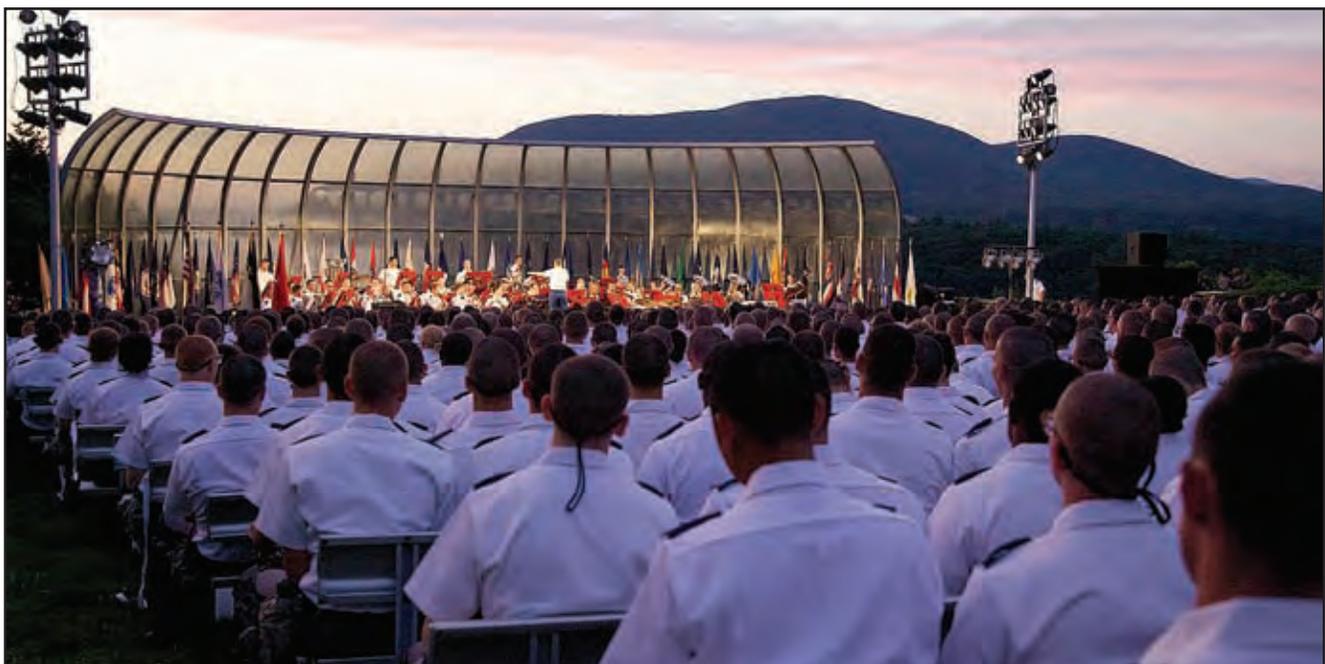
playgrounds, picnic areas, and campgrounds. The Round Pond Office and Bait Shop sells West Point fishing and hunting passes and water ski passes for Stillwell Lake, and the Outdoor Equipment Resource Center, located behind the office, rents camping equipment, boats and trailers, party canopies, and various sports equipment.

West Point has an 18-hole golf course that winds through the lovely hills surrounding the north side of the post, a driving range, and a clubhouse with a pro shop and snack bar that also services the adjoining Victor Constant Ski Slope in the winter months.

Five separate chapels provide a variety of religious services: Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist services are available, as are a number of interdenominational prayer groups, clubs, and events.

The Cadet Activities Center, Eisenhower Hall, contains a 4,500-seat auditorium, a 1,000-seat restaurant, a large ballroom overlooking the Hudson River, a games area, an art gallery, and a spacious reception foyer for cadets and guests. Grant Hall offers additional cadet snack and lounge facilities.

The Visitors Center and the West Point Museum provide thousands of visitors a glimpse of daily life at the academy and the history of this military post and its graduates.



**B**y entering West Point, you are taking the first step in a demanding, exciting, and rewarding profession as an officer in the United States Army.

An Army officer takes responsibility for the welfare, development and safety of Soldiers. It is a challenging task. An officer must motivate Soldiers, understand the complexity of sophisticated weapons systems, and analyze various situations and make crucial decisions that may have an international impact.

An Army officer must be able to understand and help fulfill the Army's operational demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Army divisions are reorganizing to become leaner and more mobile, yet more lethal in their ability to defend our nation. Officers must be able to adapt to new technologies, especially digital communications, which speed the exchange of information among all operational levels. These new technologies enable commanders to move their forces faster and concentrate their firepower more effectively.

An Army officer's leadership skills will be challenged with the various roles the Armed Forces play throughout the world. There is disaster assistance, community support, large and small missions, joint and allied training, and peacekeeping around the world.





# THE ARMY: A PROFESSION



## CHAPTER 2

An officer is a role model for Soldiers, instilling the strengths of the U.S. Army's core values – loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage – while leading and guiding his or her troops. Most importantly, there is a sense of pride that comes with being part of the world's finest Army.

### After Graduation - What Then?

Upon graduation, you will be commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and serve for at least five years on active duty as an Army officer.

When a West Point graduate flings his or her cap in the air, signaling the end of a 47-month experience on the banks of the Hudson River, it also signals the start of a special career where self-sacrifice and self-discipline are required.

The Army has a wide variety of specialized fields, called "branches." Each branch requires its own brand of technical and tactical expertise. Depending upon the needs of the Army and your personal desires, you will select from such branches as Adjutant General Corps, Air Defense Artillery, Armor, Aviation, Chemical Corps, Corps of Engineers, Field Artillery, Finance Corps, Infantry, Military Intelligence, Military Police, Ordnance, Quartermaster, Transportation Corps, Medical Service Corps, or Signal Corps.

Whatever the branch, an officer is responsible for the training and morale of his or her troops and the maintenance and employment of their equipment. Assignments around the world test an officer's leadership and managerial skills. The officer's performance and the needs of the Army are considered when determining the nature and locale of assignments.

Officers attend a Basic Officer Leader Course that teaches junior officers about the Army culture and trains them in basic field skills. Upon successful completion of this course, officers transition to branch-specific courses to develop their competence in the technical aspects of their specialties.

During the first eight years of service, officers will be in first-line leadership, troop command, and staff positions and gain additional education and training,

both military and civilian. All officers attend an advanced course in their branch area of specialty to prepare for the higher levels of responsibility, leadership, and specialization required as commanders.

### Advanced Professional Development

At about the 11<sup>th</sup> year of service, every officer selects a career field. This critical point in an officer's career provides the opportunity to stay as a mainstream warfighter or shift to a functional specialty, such as operations research, foreign area officer, communications-electronics, or engineering. Professional patterns in the modern Army have come to demand academic specialization. Many academy graduates who remain in the Army earn graduate degrees from leading civilian universities.

Officers continue on to Command and General Staff College, where they study subjects such as high-level management practices and international affairs. Education and experience at this level prepare them for the highly rewarding later years when they may be working

in the Pentagon, commanding a large troop unit, serving as a military attach in a foreign country, or having the responsibility of being in charge of leading a professional school, training junior officers.

Outstanding officers are selected to attend one of the Senior Service Colleges or a foreign equivalent. Many make creative contributions to thought and research on the defense implications of their specialties.

A small group of the most talented officers is selected for the rank of general officer. They make their greatest professional contributions commanding divisions or larger units composed of thousands of men and women, or participating in the highest policy councils of the nation.

It is a great responsibility to lead Soldiers in a time of national emergency and to guard the nation's readiness in times of peace. Life as an Army officer is driven by service to country and is full of challenge and satisfaction.



**E**ach year West Point admits approximately 1,200 young men and women. These new members of the Corps of Cadets come from all corners of the United States and represent nearly every race, religion, and culture in the country. Nurtured by the West Point environment, this diversity of background helps cadets gain a culturally rich educational experience.

## Steps to West Point:

1. Determine whether you meet the basic requirements.
2. Start a file at West Point online (<http://admissions.westpoint.edu/>).
3. Apply for nominations.
4. Fill out West Point forms online.
5. Follow up on the nomination process.
6. Complete testing, including:
  - ACT (including the writing section) and/or SAT
  - Qualifying Medical Exam
  - Candidate Fitness Assessment.
7. Monitor the evaluation and status of your application.
8. Visit West Point on a Candidate Orientation Visit.
9. Prepare for entrance to West Point.

