

## Service Academies

The service academies offer four years of tuition-free college leading to a baccalaureate degree. Since their primary purpose is to develop officers for the military, their curriculums have a distinct bent toward math and applied science. Admission to the service academies is highly competitive and strong leadership capability is valued. To win acceptance at a service academy (except Coast Guard), you must also secure a nomination from your state senator or congressman. Since the application process is very complex, start planning with your school counselor in the spring of your junior year. Graduates of service academies receive a Bachelor of Science degree and are required to fulfill a military service obligation as noted below. The Service Academies are as follows:

- United States Air Force Academy - Colorado Springs, Colorado 80840
- United States Coast Guard Academy - New London, Connecticut 06320
- United States Merchant Marine Academy - Kings Point, Long Island 10204
- United States Military Academy - West Point, New York 10996
- United States Naval Academy - Annapolis, Maryland 21402

<b>POSTGRADUATE SERVICE REQUIREMENTS</b>			
<b>Academy</b>	<b>Number of Years</b>		<b>Type of Assignment</b>
	<b>Active</b>	<b>Reserve</b>	
<b>U.S. Air Force Academy</b>	<b>5*</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Active duty as second lieutenant in the Air Force</b>
<b>U.S. Coast Guard Academy</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Active duty as officer in the U.S. Coast Guard</b>
<b>U.S. Merchant Marine Academy</b>	—	<b>6</b>	<b>Maintain a license as a merchant marine officer (issued by the U.S. Coast Guard), must be renewed at year five, which requires a certain period of time (ex. 365 days) at sea</b>
	—	<b>5</b>	<b>Serve as commissioned officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve (including the Merchant Marine Reserve, U.S. Naval Reserve, U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, or any other reserve unit of an armed force of the United States)</b>
	—	<b>3</b>	<b>Serve the foreign and domestic commerce and national defense of the United States</b>
<b>U.S. Military Academy</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Active duty as officer in the U.S. Army</b>
<b>U.S. Naval Academy</b>	<b>5*</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Active duty as ensign in the Navy or a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps</b>

\*Aviation service commitment depends on type of aircraft and whether you are a pilot or naval flight officer. Most aviators are required to serve seven years on active duty after they complete their initial flight training.