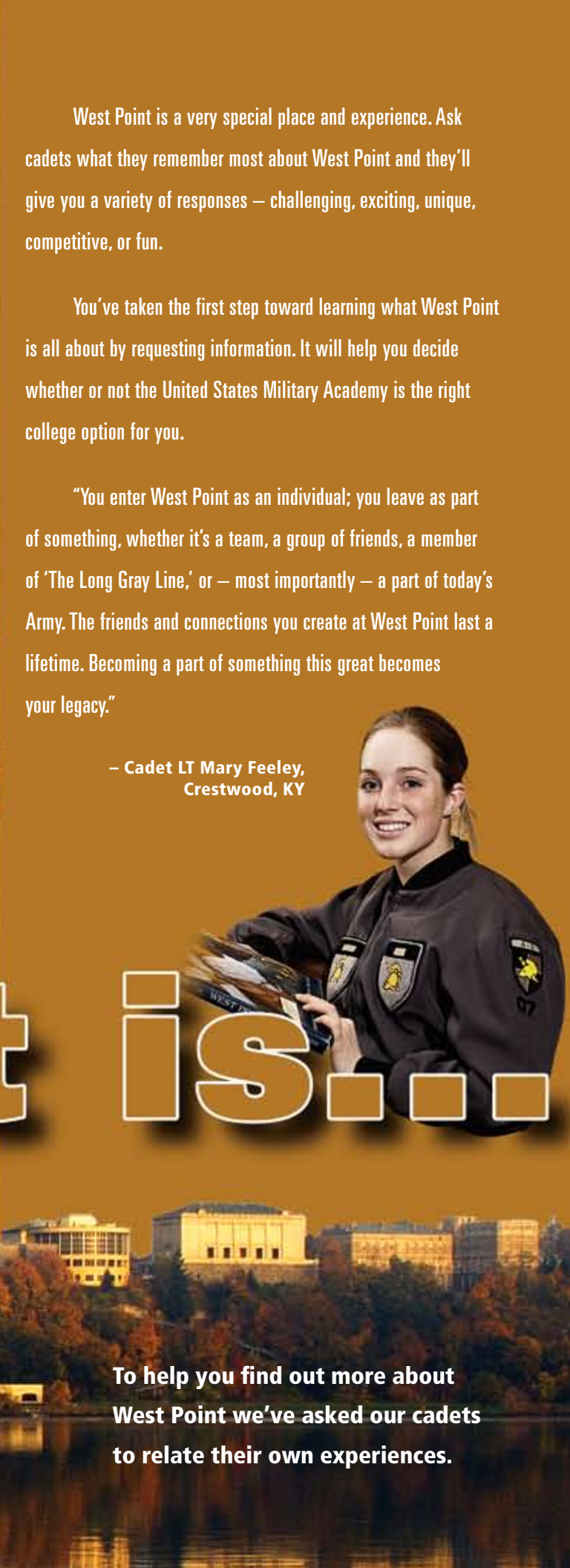


# Prospectus



# West Point<sup>®</sup>



West Point is a very special place and experience. Ask cadets what they remember most about West Point and they'll give you a variety of responses – challenging, exciting, unique, competitive, or fun.

You've taken the first step toward learning what West Point is all about by requesting information. It will help you decide whether or not the United States Military Academy is the right college option for you.

"You enter West Point as an individual; you leave as part of something, whether it's a team, a group of friends, a member of 'The Long Gray Line,' or – most importantly – a part of today's Army. The friends and connections you create at West Point last a lifetime. Becoming a part of something this great becomes your legacy."

– Cadet LT Mary Feeley,  
Crestwood, KY



# West Point is...



To help you find out more about West Point we've asked our cadets to relate their own experiences.



Cadets say West Point presents you with exciting

challenges and experiences. In some ways, it's like other colleges, but there is one dimension that sets it apart: West Point educates and trains you to become a leader of character, and you will serve your nation as an active duty officer in the United States Army.

"There are times when I find myself accomplishing things I never thought I would," says one cadet in his final year at the academy. "I'm still surprised I volunteered for Airborne School last summer. However, jumping with a parachute can't compare with that first fright when we climbed the slide-for-life

# Exciting

platform out at Camp Buckner. We had to hold a pulley, jump off the platform, slide across a lake and drop off when given a signal. It took me a while to get up the nerve to try, but once I did, it was fun! I'd do it again tomorrow!"

New cadets are challenged on the day they arrive for Cadet Basic Training. You learn the basic skills of soldiering, and you learn to follow. Every summer thereafter offers you systematic leadership-development experiences. You participate in military field training at nearby Camp Buckner, learning about infantry operations, artillery, Army aviation, military engineering and field communications. You learn about tank and infantry operations at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

During your final two years at West Point, you may travel to Georgia for airborne training. There's northern warfare training in Alaska and survival training in Colorado, or you may serve as a leader in an Army unit stationed somewhere in the United States or overseas. You also help train new cadets during Cadet Basic Training or yearlings (sophomores) during Cadet Field Training at Camp Buckner.



West Point is much more than a four-year leadership-development program for training career Army officers. The broad-based academic program also prepares you for future graduate study. "I'm concentrating in aerospace engineering, and it's a tough major," says a yearling. "However, we all have taken courses in humanities and public affairs, science and engineering fields. We also get plenty of help from our instructors, because they want us to be successful."

"Adaptability is the one thing you'll learn that sets you above your peers. On multiple occasions an instructor has given me not more than 19 hours' notice that I have to present my work to people in prominent positions. Once was for a major general and once for a CEO of a well-known business. None of my friends at civilian institutions have gotten that experience."

— Cadet LT  
Christopher P. Figueroa,  
Wellington, FL

# Unique





# Competitive

West Point is competitive. More than 10,000 students apply each year for about 1,300 positions. However, if you have a very strong academic record, are active in athletics and hold a leadership position in extracurricular, church or community activities, you will be a competitive candidate.

"A lot of people think it takes political pull to get a nomination," says a cadet from Long Island. "I'm living proof that this is simply not true. There were many applicants from my area when I applied, but I got an interview and was nominated. Other cadets will tell you the same thing."

Getting in is not easy, but it is not impossible either. One out of every two fully qualified candidates makes it.

"I came from a small town in North Dakota with a population of 1,000," says a cadet from the Midwest. "I didn't have the laboratory skills or the calculus or physics classes that many other students had. Nevertheless, my parents taught me that what you put into academics is what you get out of them. You can succeed academically if you try hard enough."

Competition at West Point does not end with receiving an offer of admission. That's only the start! At West Point, competition continues day in and day out.

"Intramural competition is one of the best things about academy life," says another cadet. "It gives you a chance to blow off steam and have fun at the same time. Eight companies make up a league. Rivalries develop, and it gives everybody here a chance to develop their athletic talent to their full potential. It's also lots of fun."

Whether it's on the athletic field, in the classroom, or at a military training site, you are always competing.

"You have to compete with everybody at everything," says another cadet. "But competition doesn't override the need for teamwork. 'Cooperate and graduate' is a popular term here, because getting through West Point is tough on your own."

West Point is also a fun place to go to school. There are plenty of social, cultural and sports activities offered every weekend at the academy, just like most colleges and universities.

Noted authors, poets, scholars, artists, entertainers and musicians perform at our cadet activity center, Eisenhower Hall. If you like to sing, join the West Point Glee Club or the Gospel Choir. Cadets show their creativity by putting on plays and skits. One of the highlights of the year is the 100th Night Show – a full-length comedy – written, directed and produced by members of the senior class. The title of the show signifies that there are 100 nights remaining at West Point before graduation.

“I enjoyed working on the script for the ‘100th Night Show,’” says a cadet. “We got a chance to poke fun at the system, drill and ceremony, and other things here. It’s not much of a challenge to lampoon stuff at West Point.”

“The fall is the most fun for me,” says another cadet. “I’m a big football fan, and I love the spirit that goes with it. There’s nothing like having friends get together before an Army Football game and tailgate near the Hudson River.”

If you are an outdoors person, there is golfing, hunting, fishing, sailing, water skiing, and downhill and cross country skiing opportunities found right here on the military reservation. “There’s something here for everybody!” says another cadet.

Although cadets ordinarily have free time on Saturday, many consider Sunday their favorite day of the week. “Sunday is a laid-back day here at the academy,” says another cadet. “We can sleep late, go to church, and we have a big brunch. It’s a quiet and relaxing day for us.”



# Fun



The Corps of Cadets is organized as a brigade, similar to an Army infantry unit. There are 32 companies with about 135 cadets in each company, and this is the hub of your daily life. Cadets compete in intramural sports, march in parades and accomplish company tasks. It is in the company where you develop lifelong friends.

“You know your friendships are real here at West Point, because you all wear the same clothes and do the same things. You’re not judged on what you have or who you are,” says a firstie (senior).

Both days and evenings are well-organized at West Point. Class schedules, club and academic lecture periods, as well as other activities all have their place and time. Cadets must also wear a prescribed uniform on a daily basis.

“Sure, everybody has to wear a uniform, attend class, and participate in drill and athletics of some type,” remarks a cadet. “That just means you don’t have to worry about minor stuff on a day-to-day basis.”

Cadets have much more responsibility in running the academy than students in most other colleges or universities. It adds to the leadership experience.

“I see leadership as understanding people, making people work together, and helping people understand each other,” says another cadet. “Every single day you grow here. You grow because you think about things you’ve never thought about before and do things you’ve never done before. You learn more about yourself, and you build confidence in your abilities.”

# Organized





# Supportive

Cadets succeed at West Point because of the support they receive from the staff and faculty. After all, many faculty members are West Point graduates who understand the challenges cadets face on a daily basis. They also serve as ideal role models, showing cadets what Army life is like.



"The instructors at West Point are committed to helping each student. Each instructor has an advanced degree and has an open door. I not only found this incredibly helpful, but realized that other college freshmen don't have this advantage. This fosters a better learning environment by having each student learn from an expert and allowing each student to understand the material by being able to talk to professors outside the classroom, one-on-one."

– Cadet CPL Richard Douglas Houghton, Sewickley, PA

An instructor, an Army captain who earned a graduate degree from Georgia Tech, values the time he spends with cadets in and out of the classroom: "Cadets receive the best education in the world here at West Point. We have small classes, and we can provide one-on-one instruction when it's needed. I also am able to focus on teaching rather than worrying about completing research or getting published."

"Our job is to teach, and that's what we do best," says another instructor. "It's difficult to find that at other colleges and universities. We even take plenty of time to help cadets after class or even in our homes. I really don't think there's any greater satisfaction than watching the cadets you teach succeed and graduate."



"Much of the history we teach was made by the people we taught."

West Point carries on its historic and rich tradition as this nation's oldest service academy. General George Washington was among the foremost advocates of creating a military academy. But it was President Thomas Jefferson who actually signed legislation establishing the military academy on March 16, 1802. Classes began on the Fourth of July in 1802.

"The Long Gray Line" of graduates includes generals, presidents, heroes and leaders of industry, medicine and government.

"I can't believe I'm really here, following in their footsteps. It's just awesome," said a new cadet shortly after her arrival at West Point. "The monuments and statues are constant reminders of what this place means to the nation."

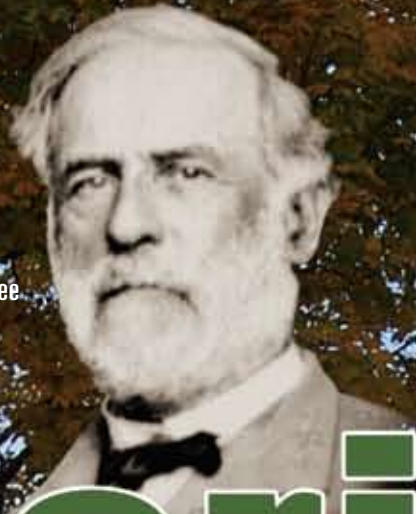
West Point's primary strength is its ability to develop Army officer leaders of character who are committed to "Duty, Honor, Country" — the academy's motto — and selfless service to our nation. These strong leaders are willing and able to cope with the problems of each generation.

"It's not a conscious thing," explains one cadet as he strolls past a statue of General Dwight D. Eisenhower. "It's just that we know we're following in some famous footsteps."

# Historic



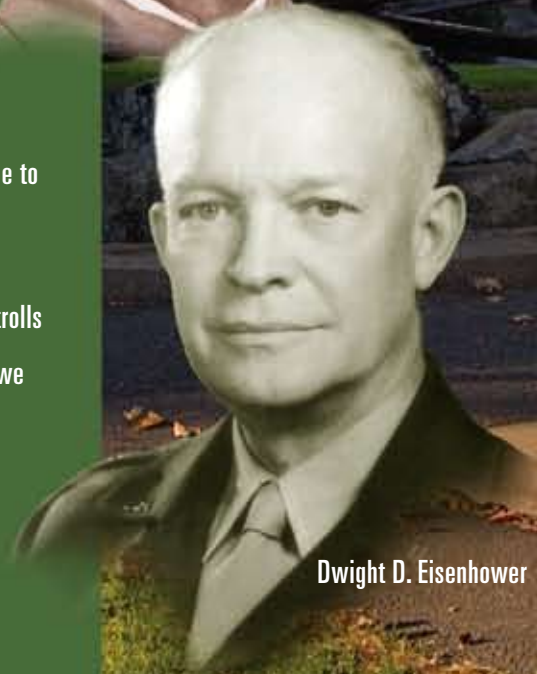
Ulysses S. Grant



Robert E. Lee



Douglas MacArthur



Dwight D. Eisenhower





The United States Military Academy (USMA) at West Point is renowned for its historic and distinguished reputation as a military academy and as a leading, progressive institution of higher education. Made legendary in books and movies produced over the years, the academy's "Long Gray Line" of graduates includes some of our nation's most famous and influential men: Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, George S. Patton, Omar Bradley, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower, and Norman Schwarzkopf. Because of this superb education and leadership experience, West Point graduates historically have been found in high-level leadership positions. Their numbers include two U.S. presidents and a number of ambassadors, state governors, legislators, judges, cabinet members, members of Congress, educators, astronauts, and corporate executives.

Today, West Point continues to provide thousands of young men and women the unique opportunity to develop physically, ethically, and intellectually while building a foundation for an exciting, challenging, and rewarding career as an active duty Army officer in the service of our nation. The rest of this booklet is designed to answer some of the very important questions you may have about West Point as you decide your future college and career plans.

"After visiting West Point when I was in high school, I decided it was the place for me. I worked hard to get accepted and did all I could to prepare for the experience. As I get closer to graduation, I'm looking forward to the large array of opportunities that the Army affords."

— Cadet SGT Dave Meador, Medford, OR



# The United States Military Academy

“When my friends in civilian institutions ask me about West Point I tell them, ‘I have never been challenged like this anywhere else, in any situation.’ West Point is not an easy school. It will challenge you in three aspects: academic, physical and military. But, if you’re up for the challenge, West Point will help you reach your full potential in all three aspects, and you’ll become part of an elite group.”

– Cadet PVT Vladislav V. Saveljjevs, Jasper, TN



**THE ACADEMY'S MISSION**

The mission of the United States Military Academy is to educate, train and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character, committed to the values of the Academy's motto – “Duty, Honor, Country” – and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation as an officer in the United States Army. The academy adheres to its motto by preparing and inspiring young men and women

to serve their country. The leader-development program encompasses academic, military, and physical training in a moral-ethical environment designed to produce officers of high moral character for our nation's Army. Upon graduation, cadets earn the rank of second lieutenant, ready to begin a career in a leadership role of great importance.

**THE CURRICULUM**

The academic program has evolved in response to the needs of the Army. Today's balanced offering of more than 40 majors in the arts and sciences leads to a Bachelor of Science degree and builds a solid foundation for future graduate study. The broad range of majors covers virtually all the liberal arts, science and engineering disciplines one would expect to find in a highly selective college.



*West Point is consistently ranked as one of the nation's best colleges.*

*Among other honors, West Point received these designations in 2009:*

- **#1 Public College in the Nation** (Forbes.com)
- **#1 Public Liberal Arts College in the Nation** (US News and World Report)
- **#5 Among Nation's Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs** (US News and World Report)
- **#1 Most-Accessible Professors** (Princeton Review)

Class size is small – usually between 12 to 18 cadets per class – so a cadet is far more than a face in a crowd. Small classes ensure cadets receive personal and individual attention. Tutoring and additional instruction are also available.

The West Point faculty is among the most up-to-date, dynamic faculties in the nation. Each year the faculty receives a fresh influx of young military officers educated in the country's finest graduate schools, who bring with them a mastery of the latest techniques and knowledge in their academic disciplines. This superb junior faculty is guided by an experienced, tenured faculty of senior commissioned officers with doctorate degrees and civilian professors who have taught at many prestigious colleges in the United States.

To satisfy the requirements of a major, a cadet must complete 10 specified courses in the major area and 30 core-curriculum courses that are equally balanced between the humanities and sciences. This provides the foundation for the academic program and the broad knowledge necessary for achieving success as a commissioned Army officer. Honors programs, which are extensions of the majors programs, have 12 baseline courses and grade-point entrance and exit requirements.

Cadets also participate in individual advanced academic training during the summers before their junior and senior years. There are more than 150 academic enrichment opportunities, which normally involve three weeks of active participation. Cadets might conduct research work in technical laboratories, take language training in foreign countries, or shadow medical practitioners at Walter Reed Medical Center.

The academic program successfully prepares cadets for future postgraduate study. Each year cadets participate in national scholarship competitions, earning Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships, Hertz Foundation and National Science Fellowships, and various other opportunities for postgraduate study.

**MILITARY/ PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

Cadet life is immersed in a military environment that is unique to West Point. The Corps of Cadets is organized as a “brigade” under the command of the Commandant of Cadets, who is a brigadier general in the U.S. Army. There is a Corps of Cadets chain of command, which mirrors the Commandant of Cadets chain of command, providing many opportunities to practice and develop personal leadership skills.

The bulk of “hands-on” military training occurs during the summer. Freshmen, or “plebes,” begin their West Point Experience with Cadet Basic Training. This six-and-one-half-week program focuses on basic Soldier skills, courtesies, discipline, personal



appearance, drill and ceremony, and physical fitness. Extensive demands are made on new cadets to test and strengthen their emotional stability, perseverance, and ability to organize and perform under stress.

After a few weeks of summer leave following the completion of academics, sophomores, or “yearlings,” begin Cadet Field Training in June at nearby Camp Buckner on the West Point military reservation. Cadet Field Training consists of nearly eight weeks of rigorous military training that emphasizes crew/squad- and platoon-level Soldier skills. Various weapons are fired for familiarization and a week is spent at Fort Knox, Kentucky, to become acquainted with armor and mechanized infantry operations and equipment.

During the third summer at West Point, between the sophomore – or “yearling” – year and the beginning of the junior – or “cow” – year, cadets spend time all over the world attending specialty training, such as Airborne School, Air Assault School and Mountain Warfare School. Additionally, cadets may be assigned to regular Army units at home and abroad to gain valuable leadership experience in positions of responsibility as Army platoon leaders.

Some “cows” take an active part in the training of the freshmen and sophomores at Cadet Basic Training and at Cadet Field Training.

Seniors, or “firsties,” assume leadership of the corps during both Cadet Basic Training and Cadet Field Training.

## LIFE IN THE CORPS

Cadets come from all 50 states and from all lifestyles. Several foreign countries are represented as well. This diversified mixture of young people provides an opportunity for establishing lifelong friendships.

A cadet’s daily schedule is busy. Classes, physical education, extracurricular activities, athletics, and study time are all part of the daily schedule.

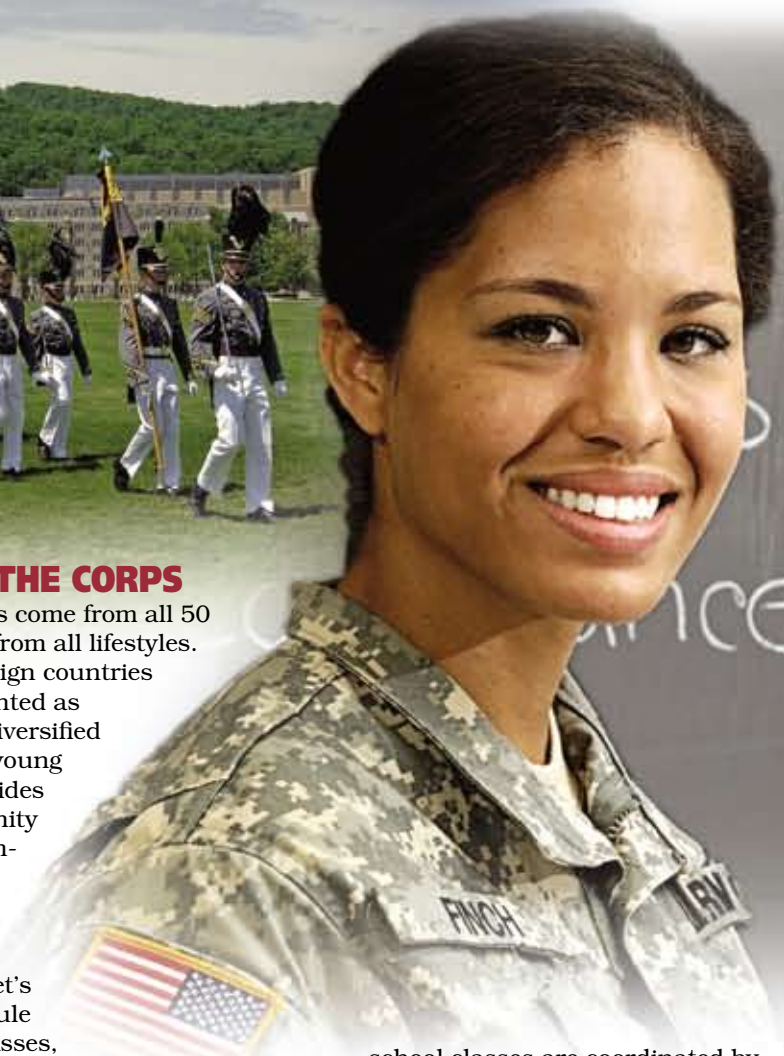
While many colleges like to describe their campus as a “community,” there is no better example of a true college community than at West Point. Instructors do not flood the roads leading off post at the end of the teaching day; most instructors reside on post, to they’re on-hand all week and most weekends – day and night – to help cadets with additional instruction. The officers coach athletic teams, teach Sunday school, and serve as advisors to the many extracurricular clubs and activities that meet in the afternoons. Officers and their families are totally immersed in the academy life and community activities.

The academy has a strong religious environment, with chapel services available on post and opportunities for special religious observances throughout the year. Retreats, Fellowship of Christian Athletes conferences, choirs, discussion groups and Sunday

school classes are coordinated by the numerous religious affiliations at the academy. A large and enthusiastic group of cadets participates regularly in activities of practically every faith.

Women were first enrolled at the United States Military Academy in July of 1976 and now number nearly 15 percent of each incoming class. Women take the same academic courses and participate in the same physical education courses as men with one exception: Female cadets take a combatives course instead of boxing and wrestling during their plebe year.

Why are women interested in attending the academy? Women have an interest in West Point for the same reasons men choose the academy: They want to become Army officers and want the academic, physical, and leadership challenges and opportunities available to them only at the United States Military Academy. Women, like men, also appreciate the wide variety of exciting career options available to them after graduation as commissioned officers in the world’s greatest Army.



**“I have had some amazing opportunities to take advantage of while I have been here; I’ve done everything from ‘cammoing’ my teeth to meeting Prince Philip, husband to the Queen of England. West Point has given me a wealth of experience in getting me to places I would never have had the opportunity to visit otherwise. I have spent time at all of our service academies and even trained with British officer-cadets at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.”**



– Cadet LT Edward A. Major  
New York, NY

The Corps of Cadets lives by the Cadet Honor Code, which states: “A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do.” The code is a vital and valued tradition, helping cadets foster a commitment to moral-ethical excellence. The code also helps cadets gain a better understanding of the comprehensive professional military ethic that is the cornerstone of the Officer Corps. The mutual trust fostered by the Honor Code makes everyday living at West Point more pleasant.

computer with wireless network connection, allowing unlimited access to the Internet. Information from virtually every aspect of the United States Military Academy experience is instantly available at every user’s fingertips.

The athletic facilities rate as highly as the academic facilities. Michie Stadium, home of Army Football, attracts crowds of nearly 39,000 during fall football weekends. The Michie Sports Athletic Complex



## FACILITIES

The immediate post covers some 2,500 acres, but with the addition of adjacent government-owned land, the total comes to almost 16,000 acres. A golf course, ski slope, and camping, boating, hunting, and fishing areas are included in this tract. In the main cadet area, the barracks, academic buildings, physical development center, activities center, and chapels are grouped within easy walking distance.

The academy maintains some of the finest academic computer facilities in the world and was recently named one of the top “wired” colleges in the nation. The West Point network has more than 8,000 active users, and approximately 120,000 electronic messages transit the network daily. Computer support is provided in the classrooms, laboratories and cadet rooms. Each cadet has a laptop

includes the Kimsey Athletic Center and Randall Hall. The Kimsey Center includes the Army Football locker room, visiting team locker room, sports medicine center, strength-development facility, Army Sports Hall of Fame and multi-purpose rooms. Randall Hall consists of three floors and includes a catwalk over Howze Place to the upper concourse of Holleder Center, where Army basketball and hockey teams compete at Christl Arena and Tate Rink. The men’s and women’s basketball offices and conference rooms can be found there on the third level. On the west side of the stadium is the Hoffman Press Box, featuring enhanced facilities for electronic and print media, and state-of-the-art television and radio broadcast facilities. Blaik Field features an artificial surface with the look and feel of natural grass.



“Relationships are one of the greatest treasures of cadet life. From the first day of Beast (Cadet Basic Training) until we walk across the stage at graduation, we are forced to rely on each other for survival. Yet, somewhere in the journey, those relationships become more than just a way to survive; they become a bond that will be there through anything, forever. We'll build numerous relationships throughout our careers, but the friendships that I developed here will exist for life.”

Arvin Cadet Physical Development Center, featuring swimming pools and wrestling, squash, racquetball, handball, and volleyball courts, recently underwent a major renovation to modernize and improve its facilities. The Shea Stadium outdoor track facility is newly renovated, with an eight-lane all-weather track, an artificial-turf football field and new lighting. There is also a redesigned 18-hole golf course, as well as a new Army softball complex with dugouts, bullpens, batting cages, lights and seating.

Lichtenburg Tennis Center provides the Army Black Knights a modern, indoor, year-round tennis facility. Nearby Gross Center serves as a gymnastics practice and competition facility, as well as practice facilities for the men's and women's basketball teams.

Although they are called “barracks,” the cadet dormitories are similar to those at civilian colleges. There are generally two or three cadets to a room. Cadets live with other members of their class within their cadet company; a company consists of about 135 cadets from all four classes. The barracks are co-ed in that women reside on the same floor as men, but room together with other women in their assigned companies.

For more than 25 years Eisenhower Hall, the modern “student union” that contains a 4,500-seat auditorium, has been the Hudson Valley's premier home for the performing arts. About 60 major productions, includ-

ing Broadway shows and musicals, are staged annually in the theater. Jerry Seinfeld, Bob Hope, Sarah Vaughn, Elton John, Billy Joel, Harry Belafonte, Bill Cosby, George Burns, Bob Dylan, Milton Berle, James Taylor, Dave Matthews, Hootie and the Blowfish, Randy Travis, Clay Aiken, and countless others have performed at the Eisenhower Hall Auditorium. Its theatre credits include “Aida,” “Cats,” “West Side Story,” “South Pacific,” “Camelot,” “Les Miserables,” “A Chorus Line,” “Annie,” “Evita,” “Starlight Express,” “The King and I,” “Sunset Boulevard,” “Hair-spray” and many more. This “student union” also has a 1,000-seat snack bar and cafeteria, a large ballroom, and other social and recreational rooms.

### ATHLETICS

The academy's historical commitment to athletics continues today. While serving as Superintendent of the United States Military Academy, General Douglas MacArthur emphasized the importance of athletics as part of the cadet leader-development training with his famous quotation: “Upon the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds, that upon other fields, on other days, will bear the fruits of victory.” In order to give every cadet an opportunity to compete, MacArthur focused on improving the academy's athletic program instituting intramural and competitive team programs, and fostering a strong intercollegiate sports program.

Army teams compete on the NCAA Division 1-A intercollegiate level, regionally and nationally, in 25 men's and women's sports. About 30 percent of the Corps of Cadets are intercollegiate athletes. Cadets also compete on 25 competitive club teams and participate in an extensive intramural program. Through athletics, every cadet competes and is challenged at the highest level of physical ability. It is an opportunity to develop a winning attitude, self-confidence, discipline, a sense of fair play, team spirit and the capacity to think and act under stress.

### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

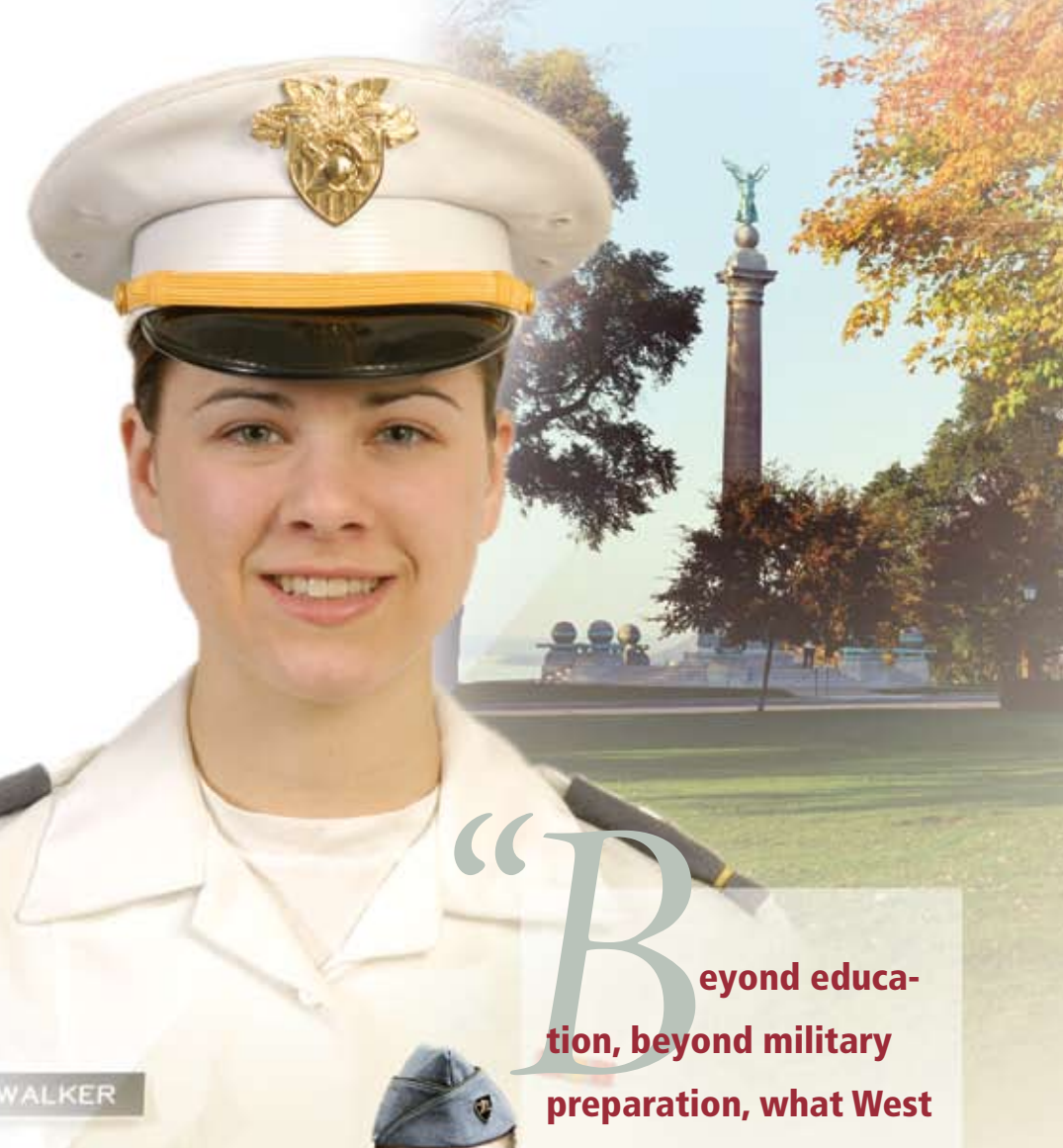
A vast array of extracurricular activities provides cadets an opportunity to participate, learn, and relax during their free time. Virtually every academic department sponsors an out-of-class activity, such as language clubs, aeronautics and astronautics club, computer clubs and several engineering clubs to support the major's program.

There are other recreation and athletic clubs, including such varied activities as trap and skeet, martial arts, and white-water rafting. Additionally, there are student publications such as the “Howitzer” yearbook and a small handbook for incoming freshmen called “Bugle Notes.” The academy also operates a fully equipped FM radio station, WKDT, that is cadet-staffed. The Cadet



#### Competitive Club Sports

- Boxing
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Fencing
- Judo
- Lacrosse
- Marathon
- Martial Arts
- Mountaineering
- Orienteering
- Parachute
- Power Lifting
- Rugby
- Women's Rugby
- Sailing
- Ski Nordic
- Men's Team Handball
- Women's Team Handball
- THBW
- Triathlon
- Volleyball
- Water Polo

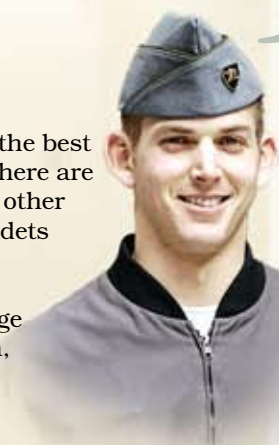


WALKER

Glee Club is one of the best in the nation, and there are a Gospel Choir and other chapel choirs for cadets to join. The Theater Arts Guild presents annual musical stage productions written, produced, and performed by cadets.

The Cadet Fine Arts Forum is one of the largest clubs at West Point. It offers cadets a chance to cultivate interests in dance, theater, photography, painting, films and music.

Cadet extracurricular activities are a vibrant and essential aspect of community life at West Point. These activities offer cultural enrichment and serve as a pleasant change of pace from academic and military training. A complete listing of the academy's extracurricular activities can be found at [www.WestPoint.edu/cadets.asp](http://www.WestPoint.edu/cadets.asp)



“Beyond education, beyond military preparation, what West Point provides is a laboratory for exercising judgment. Cadets face important decisions every day that range from the moral and ethical, to professional, to athletic, to academic. West Point's ability to make sound decision makers is unique.”

– Cadet CPT Grant L. Stone, Portland, OR

## THE ARMY CAREER

The choice to enter West Point is a choice to join a distinguished, time-honored profession that is rich in tradition. Becoming a cadet is only the first step in a demanding, exciting and extremely rewarding career that can be yours as an officer in the United States Army.

An officer must meet the challenges of leading, inspiring and motivating Soldiers to do – and be

camaraderie of their neighbors when they report to their first assignment. These shared experiences forge strong personal bonds.

Upon graduating, cadets are commissioned on active duty as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army and serve for at least five years of active duty as an Army officer. The Army has a wide variety of specialized fields called "branches." Each branch has its own brand of technical and tactical



– the best they can. An officer must master the technology of complex and sophisticated military equipment and weapons systems. An officer is expected to be an excellent leader, as leadership is the bedrock of the military system. West Pointers come away from their four-year experience with all the tools necessary to take on the responsibility – and privilege – of leading Soldiers in the world's finest Army.

The satisfaction of service is real. The Army was one of the first professions in America to judge a person on merit rather than on social class. Imagination and talent continue to be the keys to success in the Army. Continuing military and civilian education is melded with on-the-job experience that ensures professional growth. The majority of career West Point officers attain graduate degrees, with many funded by the government. New lieutenants enjoy the quick warmth and

expertise. Depending on the needs of the Army and their personal desires, cadets choose from several branch options that are available including Infantry, Field Artillery, Armor, Aviation, Engineer, Signal, Air Defense Artillery, Chemical, Military Intelligence, Ordnance, Military Police, Quartermaster, Transportation, Medical Service, Finance and Adjutant General Corps. For information on the branches visit the website <http://www.goarmy.com/RotcViewCareers.do>.

Regardless of the branch selected, cadets become active-duty second lieutenants after graduation, responsible for the training, health, welfare, safety, and morale of Soldiers and responsible for millions of dollars of Army equipment and vehicles. Worldwide assignments in unfamiliar environments and sometimes dangerous and complex situations will test their leadership skills acquired at West Point.

## THE HISTORIC HUDSON VALLEY

The historic Hudson Valley contains breathtaking scenery, restorations and monuments highlighting our nation's early history. There are stately mansions and a variety of leisure and sporting opportunities. The combination of beauty, history and recreation in the Hudson Valley makes these surroundings unique in America.

The Hudson Valley has something for everyone. Trails in the Catskill Mountains provide for both hiking and skiing. Excellent fishing and boating in our surrounding lakes and rivers offer plenty of excitement for outdoors enthusiasts, including white-water kayaking. The Hudson Highlands, West Point, the Franklin D. Roosevelt home and library, Revolutionary War battlefields, and the historic Catskill Mountain Region are among the attractions that make this area world famous.

New York City, one of the world's greatest cities, is just a 45-minute drive from West Point. The variety of opportunities to enjoy – Broadway shows, comedy venues, museums, professional sports competitions and world-class dining – make New York City one of the entertainment capitals of the world.

Cadets can tour the Metropolitan Museum of Art or see Major League Baseball as the New York Yankees tangle with their rivals. As a cadet, you can sit back and enjoy a Broadway musical, then venture to South Street Seaport for your favorite dining.

## IS WEST POINT FOR YOU?

You are the only one who can answer that question! However, when considering your college options, take a good look at what the United States Military Academy at West Point has to offer. Leadership development, a top-rated, fully funded education, and a rewarding Army career are all part of the West Point experience. The academy provides you with an excellent background for career success and future advancement.

Cadets say the highly respected academic program and West Point's storied tradition and reputation are among the primary reasons for attending. Most cadets, especially after 9/11, say they chose the United States Military Academy because they wanted more than just an education. They wanted a unique challenge, offering education and personal and professional growth that would enable them to make a difference in our nation and the world. They believe the West Point academic- and leadership-development programs are the keys to making them a "better person" and the world a "better place."

Much like other colleges and universities, the academy strives to attract the best-qualified candidates. Those who meet the admission standards explained at the end of this brochure have the mental, physical and moral-ethical qualities needed to successfully complete the rigorous four-year program. Additionally, graduates of the academy are assured the opportunity to enter a highly diversified and rewarding profession as an Army officer that is both exciting and challenging.

## CANDIDATE VISITS AND TOURS

The Admissions Office conducts orientation visits for prospective candidates (high school sophomores or older) beginning at 8:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, from late August through early May, excluding West Point's winter and spring breaks. Competitive candidates should take full advantage of this opportunity to see West Point firsthand. It will help you make a better decision if you are offered admission.

Cadets volunteer to escort each candidate individually, offering the candidate an opportunity to visit a class, view the barracks, eat lunch in the Cadet Mess Hall, attend an Admissions briefing and speak with an Admissions officer. A group orientation is provided simultaneously for parents.

During the summer and holiday periods, no orientation visits are conducted, but the Admissions Office is open. Two-weeks' notice is required to schedule an orientation visit. Candidates with open files should schedule a visit online at the Admissions homepage ([www.Admissions.WestPoint.edu](http://www.Admissions.WestPoint.edu) – "Candidate Tours USMA" link at the bottom of the page). All other candidates may call the Admissions Public Relations office at (845) 938-5760 to schedule a daily visit.

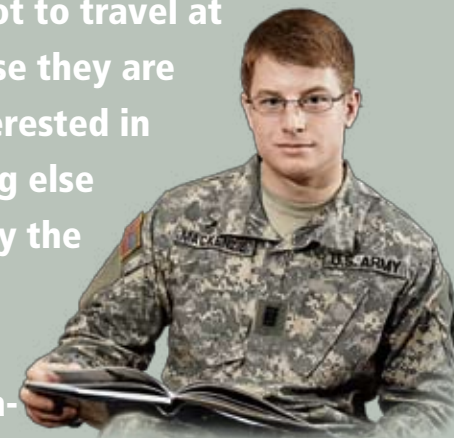
Visitors without a scheduled appointment or other business on West Point grounds may enter the post only by guided tours. The Visitors Center provides the central starting point for all visitors to West Point. The center offers historical and informational videos, parking, restrooms, a gift shop, maps, pamphlets, a full-scale cadet barracks room, a movie theater and guided bus tours. Tours may be cancelled at any time. The Visitors Center and West Point Museum are open to the general public daily from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., excluding Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. It is strongly recommended that visitors call the Visitors Center, (845) 938-2638, to obtain information and to check on the status of the tours the week they are traveling to West Point. For the current schedule of tours, call West Point Tours, Inc., at (845) 446-4724. There are no guided tours on Football Saturdays, during Graduation Week, or on days the Visitors Center is closed or closes early.

Outside tour groups should contact West Point Tours, Inc., or the Visitors Center. Manifests must be provided at least 48 hours in advance. A photo ID is required for all persons 16 years or older to take a tour. An adult must accompany children.

The Gift Shop's telephone number is (845) 446-3085.

**Please remember that everyone over the age of 16 must have a photo ID to enter the grounds at West Point.**

"West Point opened the door to global travel to me in ways no other institution ever could. West Point has sent me to nine countries to interact with their cultures, governments and militaries. I spent six months living and studying in Chile not only as a student, but as a representative of America to their armed forces. I got my hands dirty in the jungles of Ecuador, hiked across glaciers in Argentina, and drank tea in remote Vietnamese villages. Still, the amazing thing about West Point is that travel is just one of dozens of unique opportunities afforded to cadets—West Point offers so many extracurricular activities that many cadets choose not to travel at all because they are more interested in something else offered by the academy. Such a concentration of world-class opportunities you'll likely never find anywhere else in the world."



– Cadet CPT William A. MacKenzie IV, Oxford, MS

# Admissions Information

West Point annually enrolls about 1,300 cadets. Cadets are admitted from each of the 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands as well as from overseas areas. The following pages describe the criteria and process to compete for admission to the United States Military Academy.



## APPLICATION

This Prospectus provides you with information to help you decide whether or not to apply to West Point for your college education and to pursue a career as an officer in the U.S. Army.

The time to activate your file for admission is during the spring of your junior year in high school. If you are a senior in high school, are in college or are already in the Army, you should open your admissions file now by completing the Candidate Questionnaire online at the Admissions website ([www.Admissions.WestPoint.edu](http://www.Admissions.WestPoint.edu)) Students who are in their sophomore year of high school or lower grades and are interested in seeking admission should go to the "Start Young" page on the Admissions web site (<http://admissions.WestPoint.edu/startyoung.cfm>), where they can submit their information to be placed in admissions files and be sent information on how to prepare for admission to West Point. During the spring of their junior year, the students will be contacted to complete the Candidate Questionnaire to activate their admissions files.

For additional information or assistance you are strongly encouraged to visit the Admissions homepage ([www.Admissions.WestPoint.edu](http://www.Admissions.WestPoint.edu)) and review the contents under "Apply" (in the right-side menu) and "Steps to



West Point," which is on the left side of the "Apply" page. If you still have questions, after reviewing the "Steps to West Point," you can ask questions through the "Virtual Advisor," also accessed on the "Apply" page.

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission to West Point, you must first meet basic requirements outlined in the U.S. Code of Law, and you must receive a nomination from an authorized source.

### Basic Eligibility Requirements

Candidates must be United States citizens, at least 17 and not yet 23 years old on July 1st of the year of admission. Candidates must not be married, pregnant or have a legal



obligation to support a dependent. Naturalized citizens, citizens born abroad or those who have dual citizenship must provide documentation of citizenship.

## NOMINATIONS

Admission to West Point is gained through a unique system of nomination, evaluation, qualification and selection. A nomination is the legal authority for the U.S. Military Academy to consider a candidate for admission. You should apply for nominations at the same time you complete the Candidate Questionnaire to open your file for admission.

Legal nominating sources are the president; vice president; U.S. senators; U.S. representatives; delegates to the House of Representatives from Washington, D.C., Guam and the Virgin Islands; the governors of American Samoa and Puerto Rico; the resident commissioner from Puerto Rico; the resident representative from the Northern Mariana Islands; and the secretary of the Army.



Every U.S. citizen has at least four legal nominating sources: two U.S. senators, a member in the U.S. House of Representatives and the vice president. Each office has its own application form(s), so candidates should go to the applicable members' websites, which can be found at <http://www.house.gov/> for representatives and <http://www.senate.gov/> for senators.

Nominating officials may have different times that they accept nomination requests; therefore,

it's important to contact each official as early as possible to request a nomination in time to complete the nomination process for each.

### Congressional Nominations

Each Member of Congress has five cadetships or vacancies at West Point. They may nominate up to 10 candidates to compete for each vacancy.

Candidates found fully qualified for admission but not selected for the specified vacancy for which they were nominated are placed on a national waiting list. Each year several hundred candidates are offered admission from the national waiting list.

As a member of the U.S. Senate, the vice president also has five cadetships for which to nominate 10 candidates each for appointment to the academy. Any candidate residing in the 50 United States may request a vice presidential nomination. Candidates must submit vice-presidential nomination requests to the vice president's office not later than November 1. You can obtain a vice-presidential nomination form from the vice president's webpage: [www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice\\_president\\_biden/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/vice_president_biden/).



# Admissions Information

## Military Service-Connected Nominations

Certain citizens with a military connection are eligible for one or more of the following types of military service-connected nominations. If eligible, candidates may fill out the form accessible via the candidate portal

**PRESIDENTIAL:** Sons and daughters of career military personnel are eligible for this nomination. The category "career military personnel" refers to members of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or 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 are (or who died while they 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, Reservists 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.

## CONGRESSIONAL AND GUBERNATORIAL CADETSHIPS

### (At any one time)

Vice-President – 5  
100 Senators (5 ea.) – 500  
435 Representatives (5 ea.) – 2175

### Delegates in Congress from:

District of Columbia – 5  
Virgin Islands – 3  
Guam – 3  
Governor/Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico – 6  
Governor of American Samoa – 2  
Northern Mariana Islands – 1



## SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF DECEASED AND DISABLED ARMED FORCES VETERANS:

This category is for sons and daughters of deceased or 100% disabled Armed Forces veterans whose death or disability was determined by the Veterans' Administration to be service-connected, and for sons and daughters of military personnel or federally employed civilians who are in a missing or captured status.

## SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF PERSONS AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR:

Sons and daughters of Medal of Honor awardees are eligible under this category.

## REGULAR ARMY AND RESERVE COMPONENTS:

This category is for Soldiers of the Regular Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard. To request a nomination under this category, submit your commander's endorsement with your application. The Commander's Endorsement form is online at [www.admissions.usma.edu/prospectus/step\\_02bs.cfm](http://www.admissions.usma.edu/prospectus/step_02bs.cfm). Soldiers who are not offered an appointment to West Point are automatically considered for enrollment in the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS). For more information visit the Admissions website and view the information for Soldiers (<http://admissions.usma.edu/Soldiers/>).

**ROTC PROGRAM SCHOOLS:** Candidates enrolled in a junior or senior Army Reserve Officer Training Corps program are eligible for a nomination in this category. The candidate's Professor of Military Science or Senior Army Instructor submits the nomination to the Director of Admissions, U.S. Military Academy. The Request for ROTC Nomination (USMA Form 5-497) is used to request this type of nomination. Candidates enrolled in JROTC programs of another branch of service

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CADETSHIPS

The Secretary of the Army is annually allocated cadetships in the following categories:

Presidential – 100  
Sons and Daughters of Deceased or 100% Disabled Veterans – 20 (approximately)  
Sons and Daughters of Persons Awarded the Medal of Honor – unlimited  
Enlisted Members of the Regular Army – 85  
Enlisted Members of the Army Reserve/National Guard – 85  
Army ROTC & JROTC, Other Honor JROTC – 20

are eligible only if that school has been designated as an Honor Unit with Distinction. The ROTC nomination forms are available online at [http://admissions.usma.edu/Prospectus/step\\_02a.cfm](http://admissions.usma.edu/Prospectus/step_02a.cfm).

## EVALUATION

Candidates will be evaluated for admission based on their academics, demonstrated leadership, and physical fitness. To compete for admission, candidates must also meet medical qualification standards.

## ACADEMICS

Your complete scholastic transcript and extracurricular record, the results of your ACTs or SATs, your high school class rank, and the recommendations of your faculty are used to determine academic qualification. Please note that West Point does not accept score reports on standardized tests taken by students who require extended test-taking time.

Also, please note that the formerly optional writing portion of the ACT is now mandatory for application to West Point. ACT scores will not be considered without a score from the writing test.





# Admissions Information



You can best prepare yourself for the academic curriculum at West Point by completing four years of English with strong emphasis on composition, grammar, literature and speech; four years of college-preparatory mathematics, including algebra, geometry, intermediate algebra and trigonometry; two years of a foreign language; four years of science, including two years of a laboratory science class, such as chemistry and physics; one year of U.S. history; and courses in geography, government and economics. If offered at your school, you are strongly encouraged to also take a course in pre-calculus and calculus, along with a basic information technology or computer course.

## Leadership

You should strive to develop the personal traits that will allow you to be an effective leader. You will be evaluated on demonstrated leadership roles by your participation in school, church, scouting and other community activities. Participation in secondary school extracurricular activities, both athletic and non-athletic, and the attainment of responsible leadership positions in those activities provide valuable experience. You should try to make significant contributions while

leading athletic teams, club and class activities, and church, scout, civic and community activities. Working to provide family financial support or being home schooled may limit participation in extracurricular activities. If so, that should be noted in your application.

## Physical

Your physical fitness qualification is determined by your performance on the Candidate Fitness Assessment or CFA. The CFA consists of six events: a modified basketball throw from a kneeling position, cadence pull-ups (or flexed-arm hang for females who cannot perform pull-ups), timed 40-yard agility run, two minutes of abdominal crunches, two minutes of push-ups, and a timed one-mile run.

You should remember that your score is a combination of your best efforts on each of the six events. You will be mailed a CFA test form and instructions to give to the CFA administrator. Your physical education instructor or any Army officer may administer the CFA to you.

You must pass the CFA in order to qualify for admission to the United States Military Academy. The Academy accepts the Naval and Air Force Academies' CFA results, provided you meet West Point standards for qualification. A good way to prepare is to practice



the unique events of the CFA prior to taking the test. You should practice in the order that the events will be taken on the day of the CFA.

To prepare for the CFA and for the physical demands that will be placed upon you as a cadet, you should reach the level of physical conditioning required for participation in a strenuous team sport. Vigorous conditioning exercises, cross-country running, and swimming are recommended. You should place emphasis on a variety of strenuous activities rather than on one sport.

## Medical Qualification

Although medical accession standards differ among the various commissioning programs of the Armed Services (notably vision standards), only one medical examination is needed to meet the application requirements of all service academies and the four-year ROTC scholarship programs. If you are a competitive candidate, you will receive instructions for taking the qualifying medical examination directly from either the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DoDMERB), 8034 Edgerton Drive, Suite 132, U.S.A.F. Academy, CO 80840-2200, or their civilian contractor (Concorde) at the appropriate time. Your medical examination will be accomplished at a facility near your home. Upon review of your completed medical examination, DoDMERB

will notify you of the results. Questions on your medical status should be directed to DoDMERB at (719) 333-3562, or you can visit the website <https://dodmerb.tricare.osd.mil> to obtain medical information.

Please note: Tattoos and brands visible on the neck, face or head are prohibited. Tattoos on any part of the body that are prejudicial to good order and discipline and/or detract from a soldierly appearance are prohibited.

You must also report if you have ever been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) on your candidate questionnaire. This will also be discussed during your medical examination and could be a reason for DoDMERB to determine you do not meet the medical standards. Asthma, including reactive airway disease, exercise-induced bronchospasm or asthmatic bronchitis, reliably diagnosed and symptomatic after the 13th birthday is a reason for DoDMERB to determine you do not meet the medical standards.

## Application Testing Requirements

Test scores from the standardized timed versions of the ACT or SAT are required. West Point does not accept score reports on standardized tests taken by students who require extended test-taking time. ACT and SAT scores are updated electronically. By agreeing to electronic test score updates, you can speed the application process.

**DEADLINE:** Candidates should check with their guidance offices for the dates and deadlines for the ACT and the SAT examinations. The final date for taking the ACT for admission to the next West Point class is normally the scheduled February examination. The final date for taking the SAT examination is normally the January test date.

The ACT and SAT are administered at test centers throughout the world. A testing fee and advance registration of several weeks are required.



For information on ACT and SAT testing in your area, consult your high school counselor.

For more information on the ACT, visit their web site at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org). To ensure West Point receives your test results, list the ACT College code number for USMA (2976) on the registration form. **PLEASE NOTE:** If taking the ACT, candidates MUST take the formerly optional writing portion of the exam in order for ACT scores to be accepted and evaluated for admission.

To ensure your congressional representatives receive your test results, record the specific code number for each member of Congress. Those code numbers are listed in your test registration booklet or can be obtained on the ACT web site at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org). Your ACT results will be mailed to each member of Congress identified on your registration form.

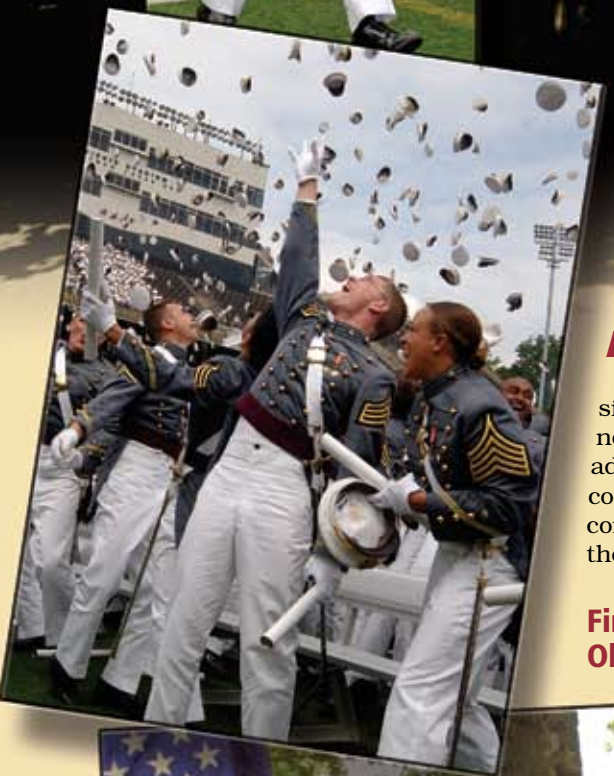
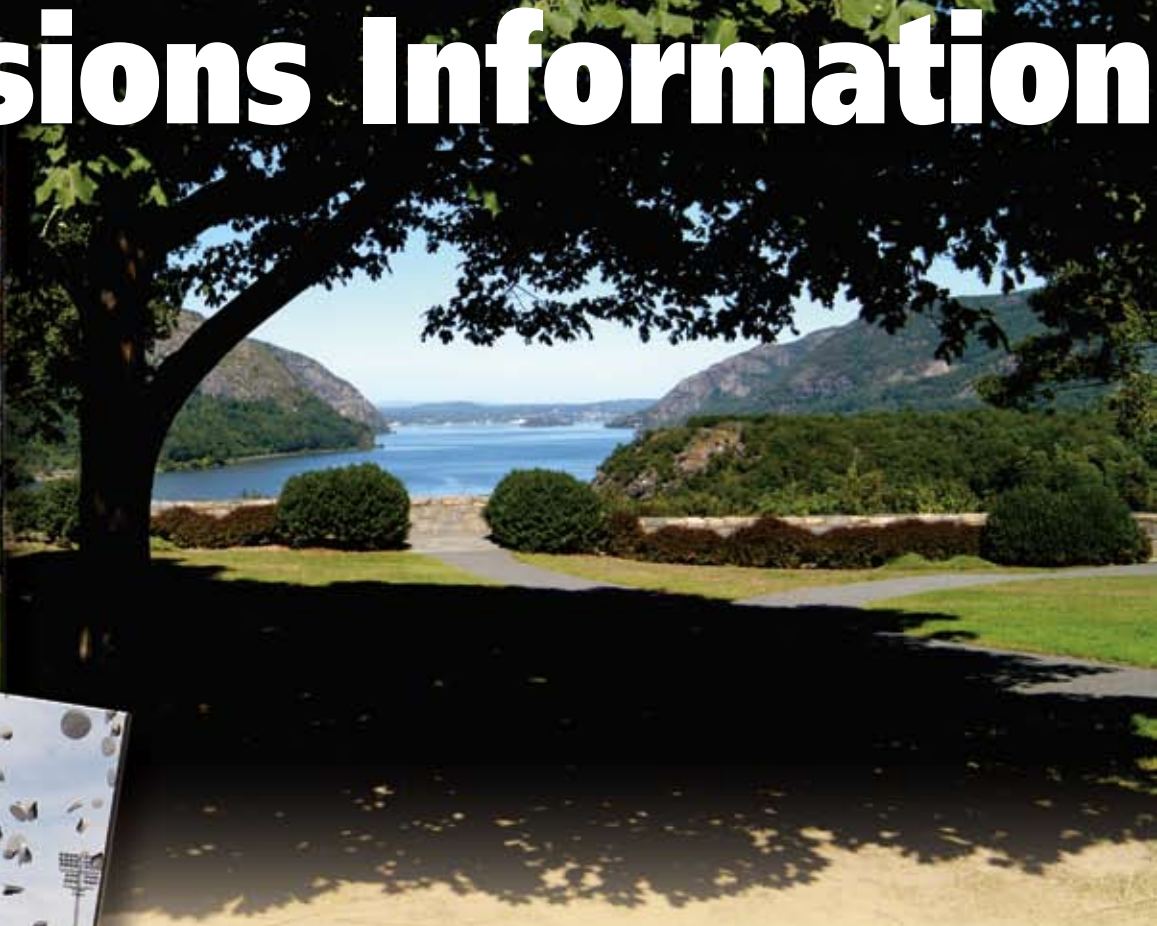
For more information on the SAT, visit their web site [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). To ensure West Point receives your test results, list the SAT college code number for USMA (2924) on the registration form.

To ensure your congressional representatives receive your test results, follow one of these procedures: (1) Contact your congressional representatives to obtain their College Board code numbers and record each number on the registration form; (2) or if your congressional representatives do not have specific College Board code numbers, contact the College Board at (609) 771-7600 to obtain the proper code numbers and place them on your registration form. Your test results will be mailed directly to your congressional representatives.

We recommend that you take both the SAT and ACT at least twice, as the Academy accepts the highest score from either of those tests.



# Admissions Information



## ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

West Point has a rolling admissions policy. Outstanding, qualified, nominated candidates will be offered admission as their records become complete. All admissions files must be complete, to include nominations, by the last workday in February.

## Financial and Service Obligation

As a cadet, you are a member of the U.S. Army and receive a full scholarship and an annual salary of more than \$10,000 from which you pay for your uniforms, textbooks, a laptop computer, and incidentals. There is no tuition charge, but there is a requirement for an initial deposit. Room, board, and medical and dental care are provided by the United States Government.

Upon graduation, you will be awarded a Bachelor of Science degree and an active duty commission in the U.S. Army.

In turn, you are obligated to serve five years on active duty in the U.S. Army and three years on an inactive Reserve status.

During your four years at West Point, you will receive extensive military training, visit Army units and posts, and graduate fully prepared to meet the exciting challenges of being an officer in today's Army.

## WEST POINT FIELD FORCE

West Point Admissions enjoys the assistance nationwide of representatives who provide service to candidates in their local areas, the West Point Field Force. The Field Force includes West Point graduates, both in and out of the Active Duty military, U.S. Army Reserves liaisons, and other dedicated volunteers who have been trained at West Point for this specific program. These people are available to assist you in the admissions process and will answer your questions about West Point programs. Through them, we hope to maintain a flow of information about the West Point Experience that will increase your understanding and ease your pursuit of an appointment to the military academy. If you need to know who your field representative is, you can call the Admissions Office, (845) 938-5705.



Director of Admissions

U.S. Military Academy

606 Thayer Road

West Point, NY 10996-1797

(845) 938-4041

[www.WestPoint.edu/Admissions](http://www.WestPoint.edu/Admissions)

[admissions@usma.edu](mailto:admissions@usma.edu)



**West Point**  

---

**The United States Military Academy**