**Service Academy Application Timeline**

**Sophomore Year**

* Research each Academy and their admission requirements. Explore each Academy’s web site. Schedule a day visit if possible.
* Take a rigorous course schedule and develop your leadership profile. Inform your guidance counselor of your interest in an Academy. Stay involved in school activities.

**Junior Year**

* Continue with a rigorous course load, assume leadership positions in your school activities.
* Take the SAT/ACT test.
* Begin the Academy application in the winter of your junior year. Check for the dates when the application will open.
* In the spring, contact your Congressional offices and inquire about their Service Academy nomination application/interview process.
* Ask your math and English teachers for letters of recommendation.
* Get all transcripts and other required information from the guidance office.
* If you are deemed a competitive candidate arrange for the DODMERB physical examination early in the summer between your junior and senior years.
* Begin writing your application essays.
* Consider taking the SAT/ACT test again to improve your scores.
* Schedule your Academy interview with their local representative. Finish and submit your fitness test results (CFA).
* It is also important to formulate a plan “B”, “C” and “D”. Research other colleges that interest you. Consider applying for ROTC scholarships as another option to becoming an officer. Look at and consider all of your other college options.

**Senior Year**

* Make every effort to have your Academy applications completed by October. Each Academy has different application deadlines. It is beneficial to complete the applications early.
* Continue to earn good grades in a rigorous course sequence. The Academies will request a senior year semester 1 transcript.
* Schedule and prepare for the Congressional interviews.
* Apply for the Vice Presidential nomination.
* Update your application file with any noteworthy achievements, higher SAT/ACT scores, academic honors, making captain, additional academic and/or leadership awards.
* Apply to other colleges so you have options if the Academies do not work out.
* Highly qualified candidates with completed applications may receive offers of appointments beginning in the early fall of their senior year. Most Academy appointments occur between late January and April.
* Usually by mid-April of their senior year candidates will know the status of their application. Generally there are three outcomes; an offer of appointment, a spot on a waiting list or a rejection notice. A small number of candidates may be offered a spot in prep school. Candidates on the waiting list may not receive final notification until mid-June so it’s important to have other post-secondary options available.
* For those offered appointments, the freshman year begins in late June or early July. Freshmen are known as Plebes at the Merchant Marine, Military and Naval Academies, Doolies at the Air Force Academy, and Fourth Class Cadets at the Coast Guard Academy. After a grueling six to eight week indoctrination to the military and the traditions of each Service Academy the academic year begins in late August.