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The Service Academy Application Process:

it's not that hard – really!

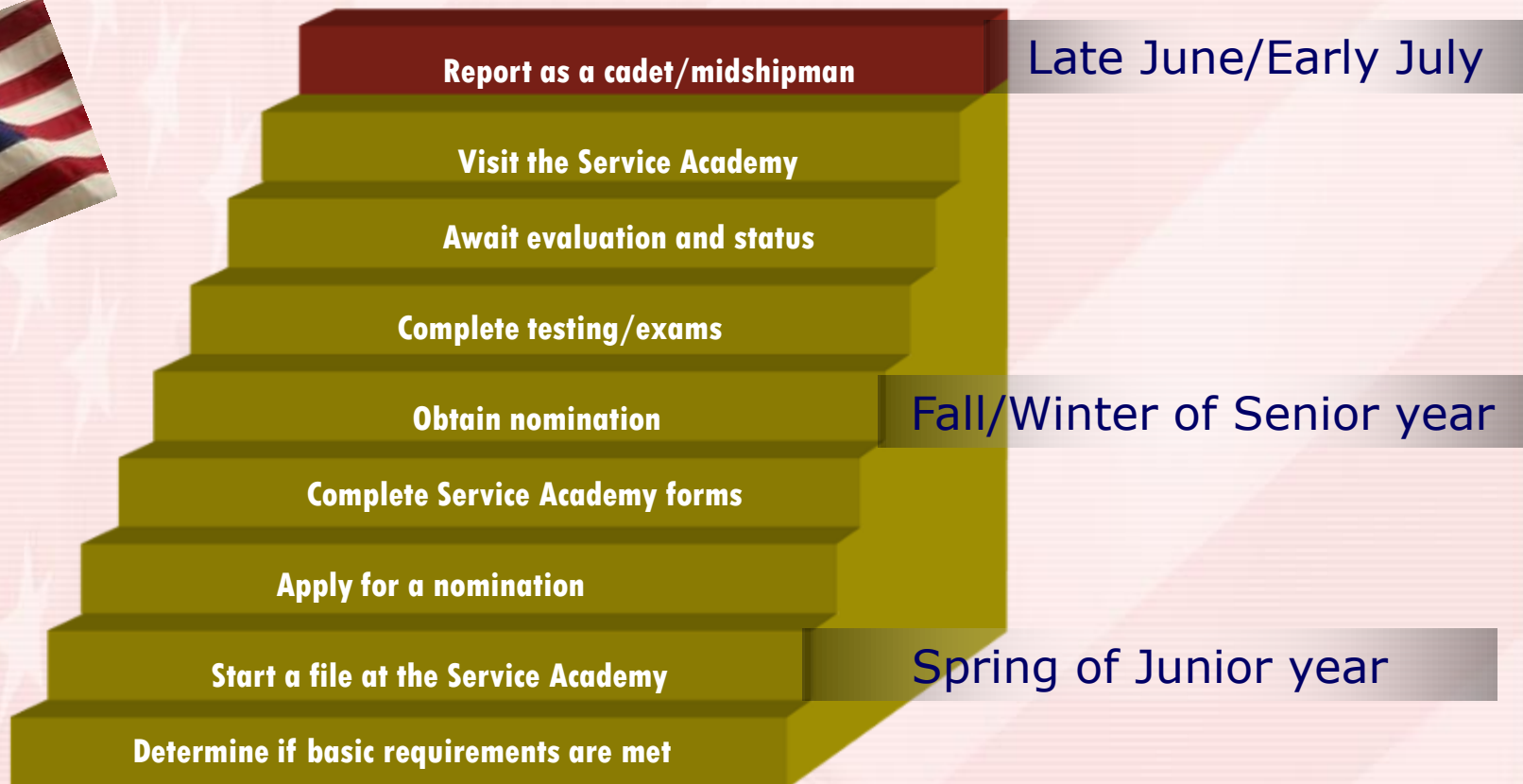
Know the Vocabulary

- Appointment –
- Nomination –
- Candidate –
- Medical exam –
- DODMERB –
- Candidate Fitness Test –
- Service obligation –
- Commissioned Officer –

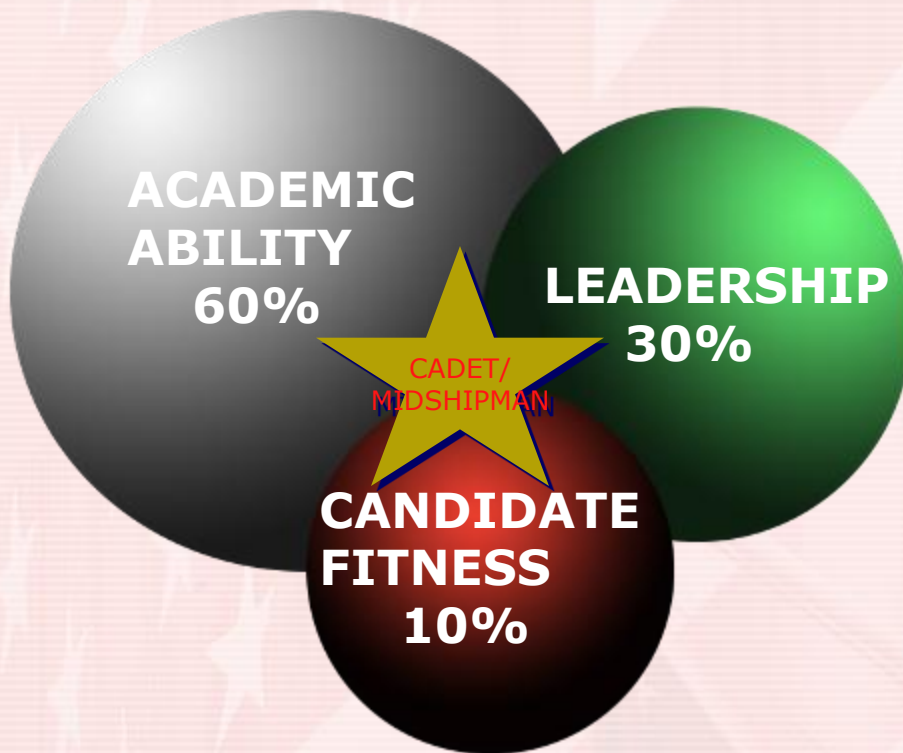
The Right Stuff

- Legal Requirements:
 - 17-22 years old
 - United States Citizen
 - Unmarried
 - Not pregnant; with no legal obligation to support a child
- Leadership/character
 - Clearly demonstrated in school, community, church, scouts, etc.
- Academic Qualifications:
 - Above-average High School or College academic record
 - Strong performance on ACT/SAT
- Medical Qualifications:
 - Good physical and mental health
 - Pass a Qualifying Medical Exam
- Physical Qualifications:
 - Above-average strength, endurance, and agility
 - Good performance on Candidate Fitness Assessment

The steps to become a cadet/midshipman



Evaluation process



- Academic (60%)
 - High School Rank
 - SAT and/or ACT (with Writing)
 - Transcript
- Leadership (30%)
 - Extracurricular Activities
 - Athletic Participation
 - Faculty Appraisals
- Candidate Fitness Assessment (10%)
 - Basketball Throw
 - Pull-Ups
 - 40-Yard Shuttle Run
 - Modified Sit-Ups
 - Push-Ups
 - 1-Mile Run

Academic Preparation

English	4 Years
Mathematics (including Trigonometry and Pre-Calculus)	4 Years
Laboratory Science (Bio/Chem/Phys <u>plus</u>)	3+ Years
Foreign Language	2 Years
Social Sciences (History/Econ/Govt plus)	3 Years
Computer Technology	1 Year

Evaluation of Academic Ability

Academic

Ambition/Aspirations

- Adequacy of program
- Extent of program
- Teacher comments
- Program attempted vs. available



Academic Aptitude

- SAT/ACT
 - Best, not latest or average
 - Trend
 - Age of data
- Teacher comments

Academic Achievement

- High School Record
 - Course grades
 - GPA/QPA
- Post secondary school record
- Teacher comments
- Competitive environment

Evaluation of Leadership Potential

Athletic Program

Participation

- Varsity Letters
- Captain or Co-Captain
- Years of Participation
- Achievements



Faculty Appraisals

- English
- Math
- Science

Extracurricular

- Academic, scouting, church, civic
- Leadership positions
- Years of Participation
- Achievements

Evaluation of Overall Fitness

Candidate Fitness Assessment Score

- Basketball Throw
- Pull-ups (m&w)/Flexed Arm Hang (w)
- 40-Yard Shuttle Run (30' x 4)
- Modified Sit-Ups
- Push-Ups
- 1-Mile Run

Athletic Activity

- Opportunity
- Major vs. minor sports
- Size of school
- Years of participation
- Achievements



Coast Guard Academy Physical Fitness Exam Score

- Push-Ups
- Modified Sit-Ups
- 1.5-Mile Run

Other Considerations

- Field Force comments
- Height and weight

The Medical Qualification Process

- **“Qualified Pre-Screened”** Candidates Full Scheduled
- Electronic request sent to DoDMERB by Academy
- DoDMERB sends medical scheduling information to candidate
- Candidate schedules exam (almost always at contract facilities)
- Candidate takes exam
- DoDMERB receives exam results/has 14 days to issue medical status notification(Qualified, Remedial, Disqualified)
- DQs can be waived at discretion of Academy
- Candidates seeking DQ waivers and addressing Remedials must act in a time-sensitive manner
- Candidates should keep copies of all correspondence sent to DODMERB

Medical Red flags

- Asthma, wheezing, asthma-like symptoms
- Orthopedic repairs
- LDD / ADD / ADHD
- Vision not correctable to 20/20
- Use of drugs / alcohol
- Eating disorders / anorexia
- Suicidal gestures or attempts

Nominations

Congressional

- Each Member of Congress is authorized five (5) cadetships at each Service Academy at any one time.
- Each Member may nominate up to ten (10) young people to fill each vacancy.
- The Vice President has five (5) cadetships for applicants from the United States at large.

Service-Connected

- Presidential: Sons and daughters of career military members
- Regular Army and Reserve Components
- ROTC and JROTC schools
- Sons and daughters of deceased and 100% disabled veterans
- Sons and daughters of Medal of Honor awardees

Coast Guard only Service Academy that does not require a Nomination

Helping the determined but “denied on the first try” student

- Academy prep schools
- Civilian prep schools
- College/University course work
- College/University ROTC programs
- Enlistment options

Prep Programs

Sponsored

- Service Academy offers prep slot, provides financial assistance, and gives precedence over graduating high school applicants
- Majority are weak academically/great in all other areas

Self

- Voluntary enrollment with no sponsorship by a Service Academy
- No Service Academy application advantage over graduating high school seniors
- Excellent path to other commissioning sources

Service Academy-run prep schools: USAFA - Air Force Prep (CO); USMA – USMAPS (NJ); USNA – NAPS (RI)

Service Academy-affiliated civilian prep schools: USCGA – New Mexico Military Institute (NM) and Marion Military Institute (IN); USMMA - NMMI

Summer Exploration Programs

- Air Force Academy Summer Seminar: 2 week-long sessions in June
- Coast Guard Academy AIM program: 3 week-long sessions in July
- Military Academy Summer Leaders Seminar: 2 week-long sessions in June
- Naval Academy Summer Seminar: 3 week-long sessions in May/June
- Cost approx. \$350.00

Resources

At the Academy

Air Force: www.usafa.af.mil

Army: www.usma.edu

Coast Guard: www.cga.edu

Merchant Marine:
www.usmma.edu

Navy: www.usna.edu

In the local community

Air Force: Admissions Liaison
Officers

Army: Military Academy Liaison
Officers

Coast Guard: Admissions Partners

Merchant Marine: Admissions
Field Representatives

Navy: Blue and Gold Officers

Each Academy Admissions office has staff responsible for specific geographic areas or special programs.