



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

ADMISSIONS

We encourage a diverse array of applicants to compete for an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Some may need to take specific preparation or application steps. All should prepare to be the most competitive applicant possible. Get insights for your application, [here](#).

ALL APPLICANTS

The United States Air Force Academy is a challenging environment by design. We pursue our mission by inspiring and encouraging excellence in our applicants. Competition for an appointment to the Academy is fierce. In assessing the “whole person” we assess academic, athletic, character and leadership potential as demonstrated by the life experiences and achievements of each applicant. There are many ways you can prepare yourself to shine in our applicant pool.

How Competitive Is Academy Admissions?

To get a sense of the level of competition to get into the Academy, note that out of more than 12,000 applicants each year, we are able to admit just over 1,000 as cadets. As you can see, the best and the brightest compete for the limited number of appointments available.

Admissions Profile: Class of 2017

Applicants	9,706
Candidate Pool	6,967
Qualified Candidates	2,277
Offers of Admission	1,475
Total Admitted	1,190
New Cadets	1,168
International Cadets	16
Turnbacks	5
Reappointee	1
Minorities	30.0%
Women	22.9%

Becoming a Competitive Applicant

If you are interested in pursuing an appointment to the Academy, you can take steps to ensure that your application is competitive by preparing academically, physically, through leadership activities and character.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Academic potential is assessed by reviewing your past academic performance and your test scores. Take steps to ensure you are taking a strategic approach to choosing high school courses and to college admissions testing. Get more information on Academic Preparation.

Academic Profile: Class of 2017

AVERAGE SAT SCORES

SAT Verbal	642
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SAT Math	669
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AVERAGE ACT SCORES

ACT English	30.0
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ACT Reading	30.4
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ACT Math	30.3
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ACT Science Reasoning	29.8
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PHYSICAL PREPARATION

At the Academy, cadets hit the ground running — literally. Fitness is a major part of the application process. Ensure that you understand the admissions fitness requirements and get suggested training routines and tips. Get more information on Physical Preparation.

Physical Profile: Class of 2017

EXERCISE	Average for Men	Average for Women
Basketball Throw	70'	42'
Pull-Ups	12	3
Flexed Arm Hang (women)		24 sec
Shuttle Run	8.4 sec	9.5 sec
Modified Sit-Ups (crunches)	81	81
Push-Ups	63	43
One Mile Run	6:12	7:03

CHARACTER PREPARATION

The activities you choose demonstrate your character and your leadership potential. Remember that quality is more important than quantity. Earning leadership positions in a few selected activities is more valuable than being a member of many. Get more information on Character Preparation.

Leadership Profile: Class of 2017

ACTIVITY	% OF CLASS
Athletic Letter Award	79
National Honor Society	69
Scouting	23
Class President or VP	18
Boys/Girls State or Nation	17
Valedictorian/Salutatorian	11

What Else Should I Consider?

All those who wish to compete for appointment to the United States Air Force Academy should take care to understand the admissions requirements and application steps required.

The majority of our applicants are high school and college students who attend public or private schools in the United States. Some applicants have different backgrounds which may require specific preparation or application steps. For more details, please see the advice to applicants regarding your situation:

- High School and College Students
- Home Schoolers
- Enlisted Airmen
- Former Cadets
- International Students

Note also that we are interested in applicants who have diverse backgrounds. For more details on how diversity is defined by the Academy, please see Outreach Events.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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**U.S. AIR FORCE
ACADEMY**

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Application Steps

STEP 1

Check Your Eligibility

To win appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, you must be of good moral character and meet high leadership, academic, physical and medical standards. To be eligible to compete for appointment, you must first meet basic eligibility requirements.

Before you apply, check that you meet these requirements. For more detail on each requirement, see below. You must be:

- At least 17 but not past your 23rd birthday by July 1 of the year you enter the Academy**
- A United States Citizen**
- Unmarried with no dependents**

Age Requirements

The age requirement is public law and cannot be waived. You must be at least 17 but not past your 23rd birthday by July 1 of the year you enter the Academy.

Citizenship Requirements

You must be a citizen of the United States. Your citizenship must be finalized prior to entering the Academy. You must submit proof of citizenship if you were foreign born or naturalized.

Birth Certificate

You must use your name as it appears on your birth certificate on all official records unless the Admissions Office has received legal evidence authorizing a name change.

Regarding nominations, if you are adopted and claim eligibility in a nominating category through an adoptive parent, you must submit a copy of the court order of adoption. Also, adoption proceedings must have begun before your 15th birthday.

Social Security Number

You must have a social security number to open an admissions file. If you don't have one, ask for an SSA-5 Form from your local Social Security Administration Office.

You must furnish evidence of your date of birth, identity and U.S. citizenship to get a social security number.

For tax purposes, international students will obtain a valid social security number when they arrive.

Dependent Requirements

You must have no dependents. Furthermore, if admitted to the Academy, you may not acquire any dependents while a cadet.

This means your marital status must be single, and you must have no children. Dependents include a spouse by marriage, having a birth child, step child, or adopted child whether or not you provide support to said dependent.

If a marriage or paternity/maternity were to occur while a cadet but not be known to Air Force authorities until after graduation, you may be subject to disciplinary or administrative action as an officer.

STEP 2

Find Your Admissions Liaison Officer

It is recommended that you make contact with your Admissions Liaison Officer (ALO) early in your application process. Your ALO is qualified to answer any questions you might have about admissions, the Academy, or what it means to be an officer in the Air Force.

To contact an ALO near you, see Find Your Admissions Liaison Officer.

Note that later in the process, you will complete a personal interview with your ALO. It is in your best interest to build a relationship with this Academy representative and to stay in contact throughout your application process.

STEP 3

Complete Your Pre-Candidate Questionnaire

To become a candidate for appointment to the Academy, you must complete and submit a Pre-Candidate Questionnaire. You may begin as early as March 1 of your Junior year of high school. It must be completed by December 31st.

You must have the following information available to complete the Pre-Candidate Questionnaire:

Full Legal Name, Birth Date and Social Security Number

Mailing Address, Home Phone and Email Address

High School Name, Class size

Class Rank and Grade Point Average (on a weighted 4.0 scale)

One or More Test Scores: PSAT, PLAN, SAT, and/or ACT

Your class rank, grade point average, test scores and answers to questions regarding your situation and activities will determine whether you will be granted candidate status.

In addition to the information listed above, it is recommended that you become familiar with all Academy admissions requirements, particularly the Academic Performance and Extracurricular Activities factors, so that you understand what we are looking for in a candidate.

Once you complete your Pre-Candidate Questionnaire, our system will send you an automated email reply to verify we have received it. Those Pre-Candidates who will be granted candidate status will receive an email and Candidate Kit Instructions online.

STEP 4

Seek Your Nomination

To be eligible to accept an offer of appointment to the Academy, you must be nominated by a legally authorized nominating entity. The process of securing a nomination is competitive and lengthy. It is recommended that you begin applying for a nomination at the same time that you are completing your Pre-Candidate Questionnaire.

Read more about Nominations to determine the categories for which you are eligible, then contact the appropriate nominating authority to make your request. You should request a nomination in all categories for which you are eligible, and do so as early as possible.

Most congressional offices begin accepting nomination requests on September 1 and require that requests be initiated before October 31. We recommend you make your request by September 30. Regardless of when you initiate the process, your nomination must be received by the Academy no later than January 31.

STEP 5

Request Transcripts and Teacher Evaluations

In the Pre-Candidate phase, you self-reported your grade point average and class rank. Now, in the Candidate phase you will request official transcripts from your school to verify your past academic record.

You will be provided with a Request for Secondary School Transcript (USAFA Form 148) to give to your high school counselor. Ensure that your counselor completes and mails it to us, including your high

school's profile and senior class schedule. For more details, see the Academic Performance admissions factor.

To gain further insight into your academic preparation and character, we require three teacher evaluations. If you are in high school, the instructors evaluating you **MUST** be your:

11th or 12 grade English instructor

Math instructor

One other instructor (preferably Science, but may be History, etc.)

You will be able to print the form for them. For more details, see the Character Evaluation admissions factor.

STEP 6

Train for and Take the Candidate Fitness Assessment

In order to qualify for admission to any of the Service Academies, you must take the Candidate Fitness Assessment (CFA). Become familiar with the six events in this fitness test and practice them to score well.

The events are administered consecutively with specified start, finish, and rest times. Although the CFA is Pass-Fail, it is imperative that you perform to the best of your ability on each of these events, failure can disqualify you in the application process:

- Basketball Throw
- Pull-Ups/Flexed Arm Hang
- Shuttle Run
- Modified Sit-Ups (Crunches)
- Push-Ups
- One-Mile run

Note that you are responsible for finding your own examiner and providing them with official instructions on how to set up and administer the test. Your Physical Education instructor or a coach are good options.

If you need help finding a qualified examiner, your Admissions Liaison Officer can help. For more on the specifics of the exam and how to prepare, see the Fitness Assessment admissions factor.

STEP 7

Complete Your Extracurricular Activities Record

Participation in athletic and non-athletic activities is an asset in preparing for the demanding Air Force Academy program, and is a competitive factor in your application to the Academy. Sustained participation and leadership in a few activities is desirable.

You will complete the Candidate Activities Record to receive credit for any activities you have participated in at school, in organizations outside of school or at work.

For more on extracurricular activities appropriate to a competitive application, see Advice to Applicants: All Applicants. For more on completing the Candidate Activities Record, see the Extracurricular Activities admissions factor.

STEP 8

Complete Your Writing Sample and Personal Interview

As part of the admissions process, you will be required to submit a writing sample and to conduct a personal interview with an Admissions representative. Both of these steps allow you to speak to the selection panel in your own words. For more on these admissions requirements, see the Character Assessment admissions factor.

If you have not done so already, make contact with your Admissions Liaison Officer (ALD) and schedule your personal interview. **Treat this as a job interview, as it is an important piece of our holistic review.**

As for your writing sample, you will have the choice of providing a written response to two out of three questions provided in your online application. Responses should reflect who you are using specific, concrete details. Responses should also demonstrate critical thinking, organizational and grammatical abilities.

STEP 9

Submit Your Personal Data Record and Drug/Alcohol Abuse Statement

The Air Force Academy wants individuals of high moral character to further develop into future leaders of the Air Force and our nation. The Personal Data Record and Drug/Alcohol Abuse Statement are two critical aspects of your admissions file. For more detail on these admissions requirements, see the Character Assessment admissions factor.

You must provide details of your personal record, including any legal issues such as arrests or citations. The Candidate Personal Data Record must be completed including details of any and all incidents. If selected as a cadet, a complete background investigation will be accomplished for purposes of granting a security clearance.

By this time, you should already be in contact with your Admissions Liaison Officer. Note that to receive access to the Drug/Alcohol Abuse Statement portion of the online application, you must contact your ALO and receive instructions. These instructions can be received over the phone or in person.

STEP 10

Complete Your Medical Evaluation

All candidates admitted to the U.S. Air Force Academy must meet the medical and weight standards for a commission in the United States Air Force. The Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB) is responsible for determining your medical qualification.

Note you must complete three of the following five application steps BEFORE your name will be forwarded to DODMERB to schedule your examination. For more detail on item 1 below, see the Fitness Assessment admissions factor. For more detail on items 2 – 5 below, see the Character Assessment admissions factor.

- Candidate Fitness Assessment (USAFA Form 158)
- Candidate Personal Data Record (USAFA Form 146)
- Candidate Activities Record (USAFA Form 147)
- Teacher Evaluations (USAFA Form 145)

- Writing Sample (USAFA Form O-878)

You should know that it can take up to 30 days to schedule your initial medical evaluation, 60 days for completion and possibly another 30 days for a medical waiver if required. This can result in up to a **4-month process for candidates**.

Applicants should become familiar with examination requirements and medical standards to ensure a complete and competitive application to the Academy. For more detail on this admissions requirement, see the Medical Evaluation admissions factor.