

# TRUE BLUE AND GOLD

WHAT DOES IT MEAN  
TO ATTEND THE  
NAVAL ACADEMY?



UNITED STATES  
NAVAL ACADEMY  
Annapolis, Maryland

The Navy is a branch of the military that specializes in maritime operations. From the sea, it guards our nation, protects vital trade routes, and conducts cutting-edge research. The United States Naval Academy trains young people like you to enter the service as officers, but that's not all. USNA also instills skills that transfer to highly valued civilian operations in technology, engineering, communication, and leadership.



# ATTENDING THE NAVAL ACADEMY OFFERS A FULL COLLEGE EXPERIENCE.

The USNA has many of the hallmarks of classic college life. Midshipmen choose their own majors, participate in athletics, and earn Bachelor of Science degrees after four years of study.

- There are [more than 100 extracurricular activities](#) to choose from, including Greek life, cultural associations, spiritual groups, and more.
- [USNA academics](#) focus heavily on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects, but majors are available in foreign language study, English, history, and political science as well.
- [Academic research](#) opportunities are available in all departments. Check out some [recent projects](#) here.
- [U.S. News & World Report](#) ranks [USNA](#) as the #1 public school in the nation.

**FACT:** All USNA students are referred to as “midshipmen.”



# MIDSHIPMEN RECEIVE UNIQUE ADVANTAGES THAT CIVILIAN SCHOOLS RARELY PROVIDE.

Each midshipman has his or her own reasons for choosing USNA. Here are some factors our graduates noted as being important:

- Financial benefits—The Navy covers 100% of tuition, room, board, and medical costs in addition to paying midshipmen a salary.
- Values to live by—Midshipmen follow the core pillars of honor, courage, and commitment. They live by the Honor Concept and adhere to strict ideals of integrity and fairness.
- Career security—Midshipmen are **guaranteed employment**. Upon graduation, they commit to five years of active duty service in the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps.

**FACT:** Not only is attending USNA free but Midshipmen also receive a monthly stipend.



# WHAT MAKES THE USNA EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT FROM A TYPICAL COLLEGE?

Most significantly, the Naval Academy is structured to reflect the hierarchy of the Navy. The student body is referred to as the “Brigade of Midshipmen,” and the Brigade is divided into six battalions with five companies each. (See illustration below.) Midshipmen in the same company eat, sleep, study, drill, play, and compete as close-knit teams.



Daily life in the Brigade is on a tight schedule. All hands are out of bed by 6:30 a.m., and morning, noon, and evening meals are 45 minutes each.

Physical activity and military precision are key components of midshipman success. This discipline is meant to push you beyond your perceived limits so that by the time you graduate, you are ready to lead even in high-pressure situations.



## **YOU CAN BEGIN PREPARING FOR USNA RIGHT NOW!**

Another important difference between the Naval Academy and a civilian school is the application process. A medical exam, a physical fitness test, and an official nomination are all required to be considered for admission. Here's what you can do each year of high school to prepare.

### **9th Grade**

- Focus on getting good grades and establishing effective study habits.

## **10th Grade**

- Find extracurricular activities that hone your leadership skills and keep you physically active. Look into honors or advanced placement classes, too.
- January to April—Apply for the [Summer STEM Program](#).
- [Visit the Yard!](#)

## **11th Grade**

- January to April—Complete the [USNA Summer Seminar](#) application if you want to get a weeklong taste of life at the Naval Academy.
- April—Complete a [preliminary application](#) (if you did not apply to the Summer Seminar). [Begin reaching out to official sources to receive a nomination](#). Do not wait to hear back about your application—secure your nomination ASAP!

## **12th Grade**

- Summer—Complete your [medical examination](#) and [fitness assessment](#).
- Complete any steps you didn't get to in the 11th grade.
- Keep a close eye on deadlines—the USNA application is a multi-step process, and you will be receiving instructions for your next action after each step.

[Click here for a more detailed list of steps you can take in each year of high school.](#)

It takes a certain strength of character to meet the demands of the USNA. You're off to a great start just by showing the drive to learn more!

You're welcome to [visit the Yard](#) to see USNA life for yourself. Admission briefs are held twice a day Monday through Saturday, and appointments are not required. You can also [experience the brief online](#).

Feel free to contact the Office of Admissions by phone at [410-293-1858](tel:410-293-1858) or by email at [inquire@usna.edu](mailto:inquire@usna.edu).



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