

MILITARY PATHWAY ROADMAP

Freshman to Senior Year | Enlistment, ROTC, service academies, Guard & Reserve

MILITARY OPTIONS: Active Duty | National Guard | Reserve | ROTC + college | U.S. Service Academies | Military careers & technical training

9TH | EXPLORE

- Build strong grades and habits in English, math, science, history/social science, and electives.
- Learn about all military branches and the careers each offers.
- Explore JROTC if available, but know it is not required to serve.
- Begin healthy fitness habits and stay involved in school, leadership, service, sports, or clubs.

10TH | BUILD

- Keep academics strong; challenging math, science, technology, language, and leadership courses can expand future options.
- Learn about the ASVAB and what different military jobs require.
- Explore dual enrollment, especially courses tied to technology, engineering, health, communication, or career interests.
- If interested in ROTC or a service academy, begin researching college and nomination requirements early.

11TH | PREPARE

- Take an ASVAB practice test and identify areas to strengthen; ASVAB scores help determine job eligibility.
- Compare enlistment, ROTC scholarships, service academies, National Guard, and Reserve options.
- Speak with recruiters from more than one branch and ask about jobs, contracts, education benefits, service commitments, and bonuses in writing.
- Continue fitness, leadership, service, and strong academics.

12TH | DECIDE

- If enlisting, complete the ASVAB, recruiter process, medical screening, and other eligibility steps required by your branch.
- Read the enlistment contract carefully and understand the job/MOS/rating/AFSC, service commitment, training, and benefits before signing.
- If pursuing ROTC or a service academy, complete college, scholarship, nomination, medical, and fitness requirements by their deadlines.
- Graduate with a high-school diploma and keep a backup education/career plan.

DUAL ENROLLMENT: College courses can strengthen academic preparation and help students explore fields used in the military, such as cybersecurity, engineering, health sciences, foreign language, criminal justice, aviation, and communication. Strong college coursework may also support future college or officer pathways.

WORTH MORE TIP: The military is not one pathway. Compare branches, jobs, active-duty versus Guard/Reserve service, college options, and long-term goals. Never choose a military job based only on a bonus or verbal promise - understand the written contract and commitment.

There's Just Not One Pathway to Success. | Plan early. Know your options. Choose your pathway.

Current as of August 2026. Each military branch sets its own age, medical, fitness, education, testing, and eligibility standards. Requirements can change. Official reference: USA.gov military requirements and official branch/recruiting resources.