

Admissions

Contributed by Mike Lyman
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The most important advice we can give young men and women who are interested in attending West Point is **DON'T ELIMINATE YOURSELF!** As many of our "old Grads" can testify, you don't have to be a genius to be successful at West Point. You should start a file with the West Point Admissions Office in the Spring of Junior year in high school or Summer before Senior year. It should be noted that a number of young men and women are admitted after one or more years of college (or Prep School).

A career in the military is a rewarding way to challenge yourself professionally while you serve your country. West Point graduates have formed the core of the leadership of our country for 200 years, and the Academy is always looking for qualified young men and women to continue that tradition. If you are interested in a career in the military, and would like to investigate West Point as a way to begin that profession, there are a number of sources of information available to help you:

- The West Point website has an entire section dedicated to the admissions process. Click here for more information or e-mail admissions@usma.edu

Military Academy Liaison Officers: USMA has a nationwide network of Military Academy Liaison Officers ("MALOs") to provide service to candidates. MALOs are the "Field Force" in the admissions process. MALO Representatives for the Greater Huntsville Area are:

- Joshua Kennedy, MAJ Office: 256-842-7937, Cell: 256-541-2594, josh-kennedy@us.army.mil - 4th and 5th Congressional Districts

- Gregory L. Mattson, LTC (256) 653-0373, gmattson@tecolote.com - all of Alabama.

The West Point Society of the Tennessee Valley, which is the alumni association for West Pointers in the Huntsville area, has numerous grads who would be happy to talk with you. E-mail Dick Jackson, rkjackson61@bellsouth.net, our Society point of contact for admissions.

- By far, the single best written resource you can obtain is the West Point Handbook. It is an invaluable guide to the admissions process and securing your best chance to gain an appointment. You might also enjoy reading *The Corps of Cadets: A Year at West Point*. Both of these books are available at the west-point.org bookstore.

Helping prospective candidates? If you are a Grad who is helping a prospective candidate, it might be useful to review the NCAA rules for athletic recruiting.