



# How to Get Into a Military Service Academy: A Step-by-Step Guide to Getting Qualified, Nominated, and Appointed

By Michael Singer Dobson

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## How to Get Into a Military Service Academy: A Step-by-Step Guide to Getting Qualified, Nominated, and Appointed By Michael Singer Dobson

The five United States military service academies are some of the most elite schools in the nation, taking the finest high school students and turning them into commissioned officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine. Over 60,000 students a year begin the arduous process of applying, and about 4,000 get in. At West Point alone, over 15,000 candidates start the applications process. Less than a third of them finish it. Some figure out that they aren't going to be competitive, some get derailed with specific problems, and some get lost and drop out even though they might have gotten in.

From applications to Congressional nominations, from athletics to medical qualifications, the process is unlike any other for getting into college. This book leads students and their families through the process step by step, offering the tools needed for the very best chance of success.

Covering special issues and concerns like LGBTQ, women and minorities, criminal records, and more, the author also discusses whether attending a service academy is RIGHT for the prospective student, and what he or she can expect upon acceptance, admission, and attendance. Using his personal experience in helping his son through the applications process, Michael Singer Dobson provides all candidates with the ins and outs of the competition for a spot at one of these prestigious schools.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

Dobson wrote this book to fill a void he discovered when his son applied to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Readers will find practical advice on how to decide if a service academy is the right fit for them. The author covers high school coursework and extracurricular activities, including leadership and community service. Students and parents will appreciate the step-by-step discussion of the application process. The explanation of how to secure a nomination to an academy will be of special interest to those unfamiliar with the system. Dobson's skill as a writer is apparent as he explains the complex admissions process in a way that makes it clear. The author is honest in the description of the work required to be accepted into and in attending an academy; his tone is always positive. He provides practical advice on how to reapply should one not get accepted and how to address potential stumbling blocks in one's record. VERDICT Attending a U.S. military academy isn't for everyone, but Dobson's guide is a must-read for anyone considering this career path. Highly recommended for high school, public, and college libraries. (*Library Journal, Starred Review*)

Popular writer and workshop leader Dobson has put together the telling story of the complex and daunting process by which a young man or woman wins appointment to a US service academy. Based on his own experience as a parent of an applicant, the author provides a description of each of the five premier military service academies, and goes on to detail pertinent topics concerning high school preparation, physical fitness, the application process itself, and the all-important notification process. The book's four appendixes cover law, class profiles, resources, and sample nomination letters. The bibliography offers sources that give a glimpse of the academies in 2015. Most valuable is the author's accompanying free, downloadable PDF, which promises to update the information in the book on a regular basis. Parents who have successfully gone through this process themselves (as has this reviewer) can affirm that readers of this book will appreciate having a one-stop resource to help navigate the complex, 18-month process. With success, the journey will culminate in the achievement of an appointment at one of the most prestigious institutions of higher education in America. Summing Up: Recommended. For public libraries and high school or community college students. (*CHOICE*)

This book leads students and their families through the process step by step, offering the tools needed for the very best chance of success. (*Intelligencer*)

For those considering beginning their military careers through acceptance at a service academy this is the perfect source. Michael Singer Dobson's book covers every aspect an aspiring candidate needs to know about the admissions process. Referencing this book as a guide, once you have decided to seek a nomination, will smooth your pathway to admissions. (Jillian Ventrone, author of *From the Marine Corps to College: Transitioning from the Service to Higher Education*, *From the Navy to College*, and *From the Army to College*)

If knowledge is power, then Michael Singer Dobson's newest book is a powerhouse. The labyrinthine service academy appointment process has rightly earned a mystique that seems daunting to the young people who dare to venture onto that path. Armed with the well-organized, thorough, and complete information offered in *How to Get Into a Military Service Academy*, those aspiring soldiers and sailors will find that the maze is navigable after all. Dobson's work sheds light on every step of the process, from the first expression of interest to the moment of entering the ranks of either of America's service academies. (Deborah Roszel,

speaker and author of *The Mom's Guide to Surviving West Point*)

As an executive with the leading firm that specializes in placing military officers into Corporate America, I see the strong demand from Fortune 500 companies for leadership talent – specifically service academy graduates – every day. This book is a great starting point and an invaluable roadmap - a must read for any student AND parent considering a service academy education and the benefits it is sure to yield in the future. (Michael Arsenault, Vice President, Candidate Services, Bradley-Morris Inc.)

About the Author

**Michael Singer Dobson** is an internationally known consultant, author, and lecturer. He's the author of twenty books on various aspects of project management, office politics, organizational dynamics, and personal growth. A popular seminar leader and keynote speaker, Dobson brings a practical real-world background, good humor, and a dynamic personal style to make his topics come alive. His book *Enlightened Office Politics* (with Deborah Dobson) was named one of *Library Journal's* Top 100 Business Books for 2001. His novels *Fox on the Rhine* and *MacArthur's War* (both with Douglas Niles) were selections of the Military Book Club. His simulation game *Battlesystem* won the H. G. Wells Award. Dobson's professional career has included work as a researcher with the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum; ownership of a career counseling and résumé firm, Michael Dobson & Associates; and senior management roles in the game and toy industry. He was Director of Marketing and Games Development for Dungeons & Dragons® publisher TSR, Inc., US Vice President of Games Workshop, and Vice President of Discovery Software International.

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Roy Brown:**

The book *How to Get Into a Military Service Academy: A Step-by-Step Guide to Getting Qualified, Nominated, and Appointed* has a lot of information on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was published by the very famous author. The writer makes some research previous to write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after scanning this book.

**Diana Saffold:**

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the time or they will get large amount of stress from both daily life and work. So , if we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely of course. People is human not a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to you of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, the book you have read is definitely *How to Get Into a Military Service Academy: A Step-by-Step Guide to Getting Qualified, Nominated, and Appointed*.

**Dorothy Penland:**

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