

Teen to Adult

IS JOINING THE MILITARY THE RIGHT PATH FOR YOU?

How to Assess Your Options.



In seeking to become an independent adult, one option to consider is joining the military. It can provide you with a career or job to earn money. You can also gain life skills while serving. The military can help you earn money to go to school.

Another financial benefit includes purchasing a home with a Veteran's Administration (VA) mortgage loan. So how do you go about researching your options in the US military?

First, there are five (5) branches of the military to consider for service:



Army

www.go.army.com

www.army.mil



Navy

www.navy.com

www.navy.mil



Marines

www.marines.com

www.marines.mil



Air Force

www.airforce.com

www.af.mil



Coast Guard

www.gocoastguard.com

www.uscg.mil



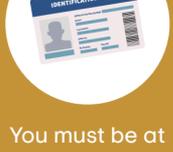
Each branch has an official website where you can research the job opportunities available, enlistment requirements, benefits available, and requirements to join. Your first step is to determine which branch you find attractive and have an interest in investigating further. If nothing stands out, look at all the branches and make a decision based on your research. Depending on your educational background, you can join as an enlisted soldier or as an officer. The website will tell you the paths available given your background and skills.

Military Minimum Requirements:

The minimum requirements to join the military vary by branch. According to www.Military.com, below are the basic minimum qualifications required:



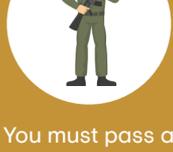
You must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien.



You must be at least 17 years old (17-year-old applicants require parental consent).



You must (with very few exceptions) have a high school diploma or General Educational Development Test Certificate (GED).



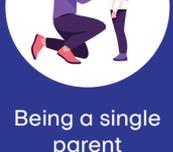
You must pass a physical medical exam.

You should confirm the requirements for each branch since these can change. There are numerous websites on the military, but one that I suggest you take a look at is www.careersinthemilitary.com/options as this site does a comparison of requirements and benefits by military branch.

There are also things that can prevent you from joining the military:



Being convicted of a felony or domestic abuse



Being a single parent



Having tattoos that are offensive or visible above the neckline or below the wrist.



Certain body mutilations

You need to look at the specific requirements and prohibitions of the branch you are considering joining. For example, given your tattoos, you may be able to join one branch but not another.

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Test

Yes, you have to take a test to join the military. Yes, your test score will determine whether you can join a branch and the type of position you can obtain. All positions and career paths require a minimum score. The good news is you can study for the test and take practice exams to increase your score before taking the real one.

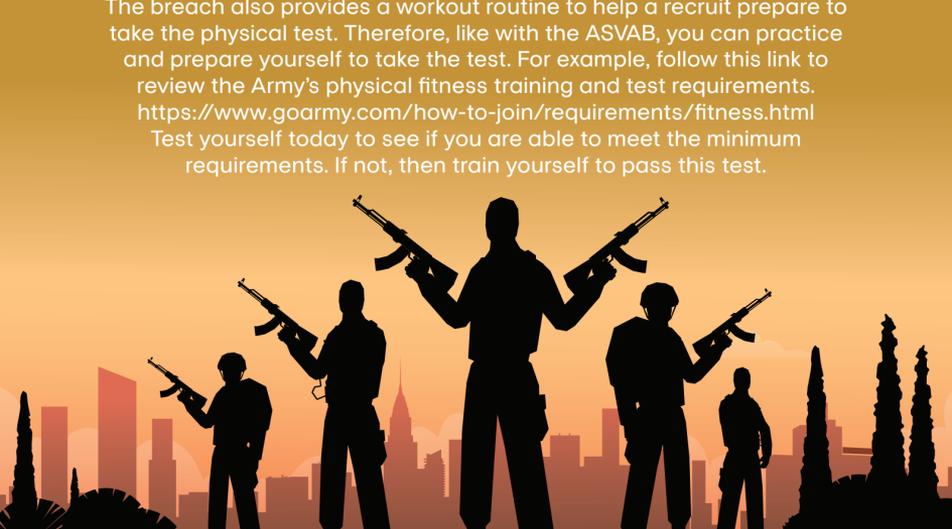


For example, by studying the position you have an interest in pursuing, the website will tell you the minimum score required. If you take a practice test and fail to obtain the minimum score, then you can study for the test and take practice exams to increase your score. Perform a Google search using these examples: Free practice tests for the ASVAB or free ASVAB study guides. You can certainly pay for study materials and practice tests, or you can search online for free study materials and practice exams, depending on your financial resources. But the point is, you can study to get the score you need to get the job you want to train for.

How do I get in physical shape to join the military?

Each branch has a minimum exercise test a recruit must pass. The physical tests and the minimal requirements are provided on the website. The branch also provides a workout routine to help a recruit prepare to take the physical test. Therefore, like with the ASVAB, you can practice and prepare yourself to take the test. For example, follow this link to review the Army's physical fitness training and test requirements. <https://www.goarmy.com/how-to-join/requirements/fitness.html>

Test your goody to see if you are able to meet the minimum requirements. If not, then train yourself to pass this test.



Conclusion

The military is not for everyone, but it is an avenue worth considering if you don't know your next move and are standing still in your life. It can certainly help you develop discipline, determination, general life skills, and survival skills. There are jobs and careers in the military that don't require you to fight in a war as a soldier if that role is not attractive to you. There are numerous financial benefits to serving in the military. You must research the website above to educate yourself on the requirements, and benefits of the military in general and of each branch specifically. Time in the military with a focus on personal growth will certainly lay the foundation for becoming an independent adult. Take the time to research this option to determine if this path makes sense for you at this time in your life.

As part of your research, review the posts that I have on my website discussing the options and benefits of joining the military at StewartPublishing.com. I also have a free Military Prequalification Assessment Guide to assist you in researching the military. You can get this free guide at: <https://stewartpublishing.aweb.page> So, what are you waiting for?

Sign up for our free guide, read the series of posts on the benefits of the military, and become part of our community. Start your journey towards becoming an independent adult!
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