

## Advise to Our Cadets

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College is a challenging environment by design. Colleges and post-secondary Military Academies pursue their mission by inspiring and encouraging excellence in their applicants. Oftentimes, competition for entrance to your preferred college or for an appointment to a Military Academy is fierce. In assessing the “whole person,” universities and Military Academies assess academic, athletic (in the case of Military Academies), character, and leadership potential as demonstrated by the life experiences and achievements of each applicant. There are many ways you can prepare yourself to shine in their applicant pools.

### **How Competitive Is College And Military Academy Admissions?**

To get a sense of the level of competition to get into college or a Military Academy, note that many colleges and all Military Academies take the top percent out of the thousands of applicants each year. For example, in the case of a high profile university such as the University of California at Berkeley, only 15% of applicants are admitted.

Consider Boston University. Below is a profile of the freshman class admitted for the fall of 2017.

*Total Applicants:* 60,815

*Total Freshmen:* 3,400

*Percent Admitted:* 25%

*Average Rank in High School Class:* Top 7%

*Average Overall Grade:* A-

In the case of the Air Force Academy, they are able to admit just over 1,000 cadets out of some 12,000 that apply each year.

As you can see, the best and the brightest compete for the limited number of admissions and appointments available.

### **Becoming A Competitive Applicant**

If you are interested in pursuing an appointment to a Military Academy, or entrance to your preferred college or university, you can take steps to ensure that your application is competitive by preparing academically and physically (in the case of the Military Academies), through leadership activities and character. You can learn more about becoming a more competitive applicant in each of these areas by speaking to your BRACE Advisor and Guidance Counselor.

### **Academic Preparation**

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Academic potential is assessed by reviewing your past academic performance and your test scores. Take steps to ensure you are taking a strategic approach to choosing courses at Hollywood Hills High School and to college admissions testing. Talk to your BRACE Advisor and your Guidance Counselor to get more information on Academic Preparation.

Again, let's look at the academic profile for a recent Class at Berkeley:

*Test Score Average:*

ACT: 29-34

GPA: 3.88

In the case of Boston University:

SAT Composite (Average): 1452

ACT Average: 32

Consider the academic profile for the Air Force Academy, Class of 2017

*Test Score Averages:*

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SAT Verbal: 642

SAT Math: 669

ACT English: 30.0

ACT Reading: 30.4

ACT Math: 30.3

ACT Science Reasoning: 29.8

### Physical Preparation



At the Military Academies, cadets hit the ground running—literally. Fitness is a major part of the application process. Ensure that you understand the admissions fitness requirements and get suggested training routines and tips. Get more information on Physical Preparation from your JROTC instructors. Consider the physical fitness requirements at the Air Force Academy:

*Air Force Academy, Physical Profile of Class of 2017*

### EXERCISE

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### *Average for Men*

Basketball Throw 70'

Pull-Ups 12

Shuttle Run 8.4 sec

Modified Sit-Ups (crunches) 81

Push-Ups 63

One Mile Run 6:12

### *Average for Women*

Basketball Throw 42'

Pull-Ups 3

Flexed Arm Hang (women) 24 sec

Shuttle Run 9.5 sec

Modified Sit-Ups (crunches) 81

Push-Ups 43

One Mile Run 7:03

### **Character Preparation**

The activities you choose demonstrate your character and your leadership potential. Remember that quality is more important than quantity. Earning leadership positions in a few selected activities is more valuable than being a member of many. Get more information on Character Preparation from your BRACE Advisor.

Let's look at the Air Force Academy again.

*Leadership Profile: Class of 2017*

ACTIVITY

% OF CLASS

Athletic Letter Award 79

National Honor Society 69

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Scouting 23

Class President or VP 18

Boys/Girls State or Nation 17

Valedictorian/Salutatorian 11

**What Else Should I Consider?**



All those who wish to compete for admissions to their preferred college or university, or for an appointment to a Military Academy should take care to understand the admissions requirements and application steps required.

Note also that most colleges and Military Academies are also interested in applicants who have diverse backgrounds. For more details on how diversity is defined by the Military Academies and most universities, please see your BRACE Advisor.

In the case of Boston University, they look for students who will create a unique, diverse community at BU: people who are doers—volunteers, entrepreneurs, and artists; students who are passionate about a single pursuit or exploring a wide variety of subjects. That's why they consider extracurricular activities and interests, special

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talents and skills, along with recommendations from teachers, counselors, community leaders and others who know you well.

If you are a Hollywood Hills Entrepreneur and Leadership Military Academy Cadet and would like to begin preparing to pursue admission to your preferred college or university, or to a post-secondary Military Academy, please speak to your BRACE Advisor and Guidance Counselor.

For any and all questions regarding the admissions process, speak to your BRACE Advisor. For information regarding what it means to be an Officer in any of the Military Academies, we encourage you to speak to your JROTC Instructor.

