

# Military Officer Pathways

There's more than one way to become a military officer. Encourage your teen to explore their options so they choose the officer pathway that makes the most sense for their education, career, and military goals.

Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)	Service Academy or Senior Military College	Officer Candidate School/Officer Training School	Direct Commission Officers
<p>This is a great way for students to "try out" military service while experiencing a traditional college education.</p> <p>ROTC programs are offered at more than 1,700 colleges across the US. One weekend out of the month, students participate in ROTC training, which combines field exercises and classroom education.</p> <p>Students can receive scholarships if they promise to serve in the military after graduation.</p>	<p>These schools offer a four-year college experience while fully immersing students in military culture. Students receive scholarships in turn for military service after graduation.</p> <p>All students who graduate from one of the five federal service academies must serve in the military, but senior military colleges only require students to serve if they've received ROTC scholarships.</p>	<p>After completing a four-year degree, graduates may enroll in Officer Candidate School (OCS). This is also known as Officer Training School (OTS) in the air force and as the Platoon Leaders Course (PLC) in the marine corps.</p> <p>OCS/OTS/PLC varies in length between branches but generally lasts 10 to 17 weeks. Courses focus on military subjects, physical training, and leadership skills.</p>	<p>Civilians with special skills needed for military operations can become direct commission officers (DCOs). These individuals typically have professional degrees in fields such as medicine, law, religious studies, engineering, or intelligence.</p> <p>Before joining as an officer, DCOs must attend Officer Indoctrination School or its equivalent, depending on which service branch they join.</p>

# Military Officer Pathways



Earn a High School Diploma or GED

Earn a four-year degree from an accredited college or university



Participate in an ROTC program

Earn a four-year degree from a federal military academy or senior military college

Earn a four-year degree from an accredited college or university

Attend Officer Training School

Earn a four-year degree from an accredited college or university

Earn a professional degree (PhD, JD, MD, etc.)

Attend Officer Indoctrination School

Become a Military Officer