



The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA)?

- The United States Merchant Marine Academy, located 20 miles east of New York City in Kings Point, NY, is a federal service academy that educates and graduates licensed Merchant Marine officers.

2. When was the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy founded?

- The USMMA was dedicated by the federal government in 1943 and became a four-year academic institution authorized to issue the degree of Bachelor of Science in 1949.

3. What do students of the USMMA study?

- Students, who are called midshipmen, can choose from six courses of study: marine transportation; maritime operations and technology; logistics and intermodal transportation; marine engineering; marine engineering systems; and marine engineering and shipyard management. Graduates earn a Bachelor of Science degree, a U.S. Coast Guard license, and an officer's commission in the U.S. armed forces.

4. How are midshipmen selected?

- In addition to the rigorous academic and physical requirements for admission, applicants must be nominated by a U.S. Representative or Senator. All midshipmen must pass the U.S. government's requirements for a security clearance.

5. How many midshipmen graduate from the Academy each year?

- The target graduating class size is 226 students. In total, the Academy's regiment of midshipmen is approximately 950 young men and women.

6. What do USMMA midshipmen do after graduation?

- All graduates have a service obligation upon graduation. Graduates must sail on U.S. Flag vessels on their U.S. Coast Guard license for five years and serve eight years as an officer in any reserve unit of the armed forces, or—with prior approval—serve on active duty in any of the nation's armed forces for five years.

About the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association and Foundation

The U.S. Merchant Marine Alumni Association and Foundation exists to serve, assist, and perpetuate the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY, its Regiment of Midshipmen, Faculty, Staff, and Alumni. It supports the Academy's mission of educating and graduating Merchant Marine officers who will become leaders in the commercial and defense transportation services of the United States. The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is a world-leader in maritime education and one of the five federal academies.