

Military Ready Checklist



Each branch of the military has a unique scope and mission. Here is some brief information to help you start your research. Whichever branch you determine would be the best fit, Bank of North Dakota wants you to **Be Confident** with your decisions.

Branch	Scope	Sample Careers
Air Force	Defends the U.S. and its global interests—to fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace	Aircraft maintenance; special investigations officer; pilot; flight nurse
Air National Guard	Supports the Air Force with combat-ready reserve air forces, while protecting their states	Pilot; weather officer; airfield management; drone pilot
Army	Protects vital national interests, and to fulfill national military responsibilities on land	Infantryman; cryptologic linguist; medical corps officer
Army National Guard	Supports active duty military in responding to domestic emergencies and threats abroad	Mechanics and maintenance; logistics specialists; cybersecurity
Coast Guard	Conducts maritime first response, law enforcement, search and rescue, environmental protection, ice operations, ports, waterways and coastal securities	Survival technician; public affairs specialist; maritime enforcement specialist
Marine Corps	Serves as an expeditionary force that operates on land, sea and air, as well as provide forces to naval ships and ground operations	Combat infantry; cybersecurity technician; military working dog handler
Navy	Maintains, trains and equips combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining the freedom of the seas	Intelligence specialist; pilot; nuclear engineer; EOD technician; medical corps officer
Space Force	Responsible for organizing, training, and equipping for global space operations	Cyber and space operations; intelligence officer; astronautical and aeronautical engineers

Classes and Grades

Throughout High School

- Meet with your counselor to create your class plan.
- Work hard in gym class, be active outside of school and eat healthfully. Physical fitness is important in all branches of the military.
- Begin taking dual credit courses. Learning how to study and take tests are valuable skills you'll use no matter what your plan is after high school.
- Keep on top of your behavior, both in and out of school. You don't want an impulsive decision to negatively affect your plans for the future.
- Do your best academically. There are many jobs available in the military that require writing, communication and math skills. Career and technical education classes will also be valuable.

During Your Junior and Senior Years

- Take your Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test. This test helps determine the jobs you may be good at and in which branch. These scores could even impact enlistment bonuses!

Outside-of-School Activities

Throughout High School

- Expose yourself to new experiences and community issues by volunteering outside of your school.
- Enhance your teamwork and leadership skills by participating in extracurricular activities like sports, youth group activities, music or the arts.
- Visit with an adult who has military experience. Discuss the branch they were in, their job and daily life in the military.
- Ask your parents or another trusted adult about money management and take control of your finances, so you're well practiced by the time you're on your own. Start saving early because you will be financially independent earlier than some of your classmates.

During Your Junior and Senior Years

- Consider the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) if you are undecided about joining the military or going to college. ROTC offers the opportunity to do both.
- Work with a recruiter to learn about the enlistment procedures and requirements of the branch you will enter. Some students enlist while they are in high school and complete basic training between their junior and senior years.
- Before you leave for basic training, visit with your family about who will take care of items like getting your mail, paying your bills and handling any other personal matters.
- Create your free account on **SmartWithMyMoney.nd.gov** to learn about financial considerations when you're in the military.



Point your phone or tablet camera at the QR Code to access more helpful information

