

Legal requirements to join the U.S. military

Citizenship and residency

Both U.S. citizens and certain non-citizens that meet specific criteria are able to enroll in the U.S. military.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, you must:

- Have a U.S. Permanent Resident Card (Green Card)
- Speak, read, and write English fluently

It is not allowed to join the U.S. military with the goal of entering the U.S. or to get a visa.

Age limits

Each U.S. military branch has age limits to enlist in active duty, as for the three main branches presented, here are the age limits:

- Air Force: 17-42
- Navy: 17-41
- Army: 17-35

The age limit may vary if you enlist as an officer / join the Guard or Reserve.

Education/testing requirements

Everyone who wishes to enlist in the military is required to take the *Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery* (ASVAB). Each branch sets its own minimum score to join.

It is recommended that you contact a recruiter, who will be able help you take the ASVAB and tell you about the scores you will need.

You must also have a high school or general equivalency diploma (GED) to enlist in the military.

You must have a degree from a four-year college to join as an officer.

Physical/medical requirements

Once you enlist for the U.S. military, you will be subjected to a mandatory medical examination, which will assess whether you are healthy enough to join the military.

Each branch requires you to have a certain level of physical fitness. You will have to pass a physical fitness test as part of your enlistment process. For more information, it is recommended to speak with a recruiter.