United States Merchant Marine Academy

OFICE OF ADMISSIONS, KINGS POINT, NY 11024-1699 • ADMISSIONS: 516-773-5391 • FAX: 516-773-5390

CAMPUS LIFE
Quality of Life Rating 66
Fire Safety Rating 60*
Green Rating 60*
Type of school public
Environment village

STUDENTS
Total undergrad enrollment 1,058
% from out of state 87
% frosh from public high school 72
% ugrads live on campus 100
# of fraternities 0
# of sororities 0
# of countries represented 4

ACADEMICS
Academic Rating 67
% students returning for sophomore year 92
Calendar Trimester
Profs interesting rating 67
Profs accessible rating 67
Most classes have 10–19 students.
Most lab/discussion sessions have 10–19 students.

MOST POPULAR MAJORS
engineering; naval architecture and marine engineering; transportation and materials moving

SPECIAL STUDY OPTIONS
Honors program, independent study, internships. Career services: Alumni network, alumni services, career/job search classes, career assessment, internships.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL
Known for having the hardest academics out of all the military academies, the United States Merchant Marine Academy offers students free tuition, rigorous academics, and the widest range of career options available to graduates of U.S. service academies following graduation (including officers in any branch of the armed forces, or a number of civilian occupations). Professors are undoubtedly more than qualified in their fields of study, ranging from former NASA scientists to highly decorated and accomplished officers in the military.

The notorious freshman year is spent inducting students into a completely new way of life, in which they learn new terms, the quality of endurance, how to perform under pressure, and the definition of a wakeup call at “0-dark-thirty.” The “sea year” spent studying on merchant vessels gives students a hands-on perspective that not many other engineering schools offer, and students typically visit ten to fifteen countries in the course of the school year. When liberty time is allowed, students have access to New York City, as well as a multimillion-dollar waterfront packed with powerboats (not to mention the know-how to use them). At the end of it all, students graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree, as well as the specialized training for licensing as a merchant marine officer, the military knowledge for commissioning in a reserve component of the armed forces, and a strong network of alumni that know how capable a USMMA graduate really is.

The United States is a maritime nation, and every hour of every day, ships of all types ply the waters in and around it. It’s a dangerous and lucrative business, and that’s why the country relies on graduates of the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York, to serve the economic and defense interests of the United States through the maritime industry and armed forces. This “prestigious academy, paid for by the federal government” offers “opportunities upon graduation [that] are endless.”

BANG FOR YOUR BUCK
After graduation, students are automatically qualified to enter any branch of the armed forces as an officer, including Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, or NOAA. Virtually 100 percent of graduates obtain well-paying employment within six months of commencement, with the majority at work within three months, and most with offers of employment before graduation day. Most students that attend the USMMA have their sights set on a solid job that only requires them to work six months out of the year. The Academy’s four-year program centers on a regimental system that turns its students—called midshipmen (a term used for both men and women)—into “top notch officers who are not only capable at sea, but have the ability to work under stress in any situation.”

STUDENTS
1,058
undergrad enrollment

ADMISSIONS
2,211 18% 67% EARLY NR NR
applicants admitted enrolled ADMISSIONS applicants accepted

3.6 avg. high school gpa
26–30 reading math
570–660 611–686
0 ACT range 36
200 SAT range 800
GRADUATION RATES
NR of students graduating within 4 yrs
NR of students graduating within 6 yrs
United States Merchant Marine Academy

FINANCIAL AID: 516-773-5295 • E-MAIL:admissions@usmma.edu • WEBSITE:WWW.usmma.edu

STUDENT BODY
Students are quick to form a “mutual bond with one another” and “get along very well.” “Outgoing and focused,” “everyone is strong-willed and generally respectful.” The vast majority of students describe themselves as “white, male, intelligent, athletic, conservative, and competitive.” Students are bonded by a fraternal patriotism and a strong work ethic. Regiments inspire an “esprit d’corps.” “We are tight. We know everybody, and we are dedicated to everyone’s success.” Freshman year “is tough, both regimentally and academically.” “As a plebe, a freshmen, you are an outcast from the rest of the regiment in order to build unity among their class. Plebes must complete a long series of steps before they become recognized.”

Why Students Love U.S. Merchant Marine

“If you need help with something, somebody will be there for you.”

WHY STUDENTS LOVE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY
With “strong alumni support,” and “100 percent job placement,” the “academically challenging” USMMA “will push you far beyond what you thought you could do; it will also train you to assume a leadership role in any company.” Many students cite “the ability to do whatever you want after graduation” as a huge draw of the school, as well as “the bond the students have with each other.” Not to mention the fact that “they put us on a boat for months at a time and let us sail around the world learning in real life.” With each midshipman carrying a specific responsibility, “the regiment is primarily run by the students. All life revolves around going to sea.” On weekends (well, once you’re past your first year), students can engage in a more traditional college experience, and because “New York City is sixteen miles east of school . . . students take frequent trips on the weekends and enjoy the city life.”

GENERAL INFO

BOTTOM LINE
The federal government pays for all of a student’s education, room and board, uniforms, and books; however, midshipmen are responsible for the payment of fees for mandatory educational supplies not provided by the government, such as the prescribed personal computer, activity fees (athletic, cultural events, health services, student newspaper, yearbook, etc.), and personal fees. These fees range from $755 to $2,530, depending on class year (loans are available). The service commitment for each student is determined by their choice of career following graduation.