The United States Naval Academy

Annapolis
The City of Annapolis has been home to the Naval Academy for all but four years since the founding of the school in 1845 on the grounds of what originally was the Army’s Fort Severn. The Academy moved its location to Newport, Rhode Island, from 1861-1865 during the Civil War.

Bancroft Hall
Named after the former Secretary of the Navy (1845-46) and founder of the Naval Academy George Bancroft, Bancroft Hall serves as the dormitory for the entire Brigade of Midshipmen. Its 33 acres of floor space and nearly five miles of hallways makes it one of the largest dorms in the world.

Brigade of Midshipmen
The 4,300-member student body at the Naval Academy is called the Brigade of Midshipmen. The Brigade is organized into ...

• 2 regiments
• 6 battalions
• 30 companies

Class Ranks
First-year students at the Naval Academy are referred to as “plebes” during their initial or “Fourth Class” year in school, while sophomores at Navy, members of the “Third Class,” are called “youngsters.” Juniors at the school are designated as “Second Class,” with seniors called “Firsties” in reference to their “First Class” year.

Co-Ed
Women were first admitted to the Naval Academy during the summer of 1976. Today, women comprise roughly 15 percent of the student body.

Commissioned Officers
When a student graduates from the Naval Academy, they have the option to enter either the Navy or the Marine Corps as an officer. If they choose to join the Navy, they are commissioned as Ensigns, while those entering the Marine Corps are given the rank of Second Lieutenant.

Marine Corps
Those officers entering the Marine Corps have the choice of service selecting one of the following fields ...

• Aviation -- air command and control, anti-air warfare, aviation maintenance, aviation supply, pilot, naval flight officer.
• Ground -- armor, artillery, communications (information systems), engineering, financial management, infantry*, logistics, military police

Navy
Graduates of the Naval Academy entering the Navy have the following service options available to them ...

• Aviation -- flight officer, pilot
• Nuclear Propulsion -- ships, submarines
• Restricted Line and Staff Corps -- civil engineering, cryptology, intelligence, maintenance, medicine, meteorology/oceanography, supply
• Special Operations -- explosive ordinance disposal, explosive ordinance management, mine countermeasures, operational diving and salvage
• Navy SEALs
• Surface Warfare -- conventional, nuclear powered
• Submarines

Summer Training
Summers remain a busy and challenging time of year for midshipmen. Their initial tenure at the Naval Academy begins around July 1 prior to the start of the freshman year at the school with “Plebe Summer.” Instead of taking academic classes, plebes receive military indoctrination and learn basic seamanship and sailing.

The summer following plebe year is spent aboard various ships to gain knowledge and experience of the workings of the Navy. Included in this time is a three-week cruise aboard either a 44-foot Naval Academy sailboat or a Yard Patrol craft traveling on the East Coast.

Portions of the summer before the start of a second-class year is spent visiting bases of both the Navy and the Marine Corps. That leads up to the next summer when midshipmen join an operational unit of the Navy or Marine Corps for several weeks. In addition, rising firsties also begin to accept leadership roles at either the Naval Academy for plebe summer, the Naval Academy Prep School (Newport, R.I.) or aboard a yard patrol or sailing cruise.

The Yard
“The Yard” is another name for the grounds of the Naval Academy. Originally just 10 acres, The Yard has grown to a size of 338 acres.
Naval Academy Traditions

Anchors Aweigh

“Anchors Aweigh” was written by Lt. Charles Zimmerman, musical director of the Naval Academy, in 1906, with the lyrics provided by Alfred H. Miles ’06 as a fight song for the 1907 graduating class. The song made its debut at the 1906 Army-Navy game and when the Mids won, the song became traditional at the contest.

Stand Navy down the field,
Sails set to the sky,
We’ll never change our course,
So Army you steer shy,
Roll up the score, Navy,
Anchors Aweigh,
Sail Navy down the field,
And sink the Army,
sink the Army Grey

Bill the Goat

The first recorded use of a goat as the mascot for Navy teams was in 1893 when an animal named El Cid (the Chief) was presented to the Brigade by officers of the USS New York. El Cid helped Navy to a 6-4 win over Army that year and a goat became the permanent mascot of the Academy in 1904.

Blue & Gold

Now, colleges from sea to sea
May sing of colors true;
But who has better right than we
To hoist a symbol hue?
For sailors brave in battle fair,
Since fighting days of old,
Have proved the sailor’s right to wear
The Navy Blue and Gold

Midshipman

The original 17th Century meaning of the word “midshipmen” designated those men who stood watch “amidships”, or in the middle portion of a ship. The middle “s” was later dropped to give the current form of the word. Midshipmen were originally young boys who were apprenticed to sea captains to learn the trade.
In the early days of the Navy, midshipmen were trained aboard ship until they were commissioned as ensigns.

Nickname

The official nickname for all of Navy’s athletic teams is Midshipmen. “Mids” is an appropriate nickname, while “Middle” is inappropriate.

N-Star

Members of varsity teams who qualify for the varsity letter receive an N-Star for their letter sweaters if they participate in a victory over Army in any sport-designated Star Game.
The varsity N and corresponding N-Star were initiated during the early 1890s.

School Colors

Each class at the Naval Academy produced their own set of class colors until 1892 when Navy Blue and Gold were established as the official colors for the entire Naval Academy.
In The Community

Navy’s student-athletes are fully aware that wearing the Navy Blue and Gold means representing a nationally-recognized athletic program, the United States Navy and Marine Corps and themselves as individuals. They are encouraged to respond to a public that respects their efforts, while learning important lessons about making a positive impact in the lives of others and within the community.

The Naval Academy Athletic Association works with the local schools to expose youth to the Midshipmen, with the hope of providing a lasting impression. The Midshipmen speak to students about life at the Academy and the experiences of competing for a Division I athletic program. Navy’s student-athletes also share what valuable lessons they have learned as a midshipman and are willing to answer the multitude of questions posed by the students.

Top Right: Football players Josh Meek, Antron Harper and Andrew McGinn sign autographs at a Baltimore Orioles game; Right: Volunteers look on as a participant in the Special Olympics held at Navy competes in the long jump.

Christopher Zipf, of the squash team, spends time with members of CitySquash, a not-for-profit after-school enrichment program.

Reggie Campbell reads to a class of elementary school students; The tennis team poses with kids from the MaliVai Washington Kids Foundation; A Midshipman presents a member of the Special Olympics with a medal.

Christopher Zipf, of the squash team, spends time with members of CitySquash, a not-for-profit after-school enrichment program.
Success In The Classroom

Majors
Students at the Naval Academy can select one of 43 different majors within 19 fields of study. The 19 fields of study are grouped into three different divisions: Division of Engineering and Weapons (aerospace engineering, electrical engineering, general engineering, mechanical engineering, Naval architecture, ocean engineering), Division of Math and Science (chemistry, computer science, general science, information technology, mathematics, oceanography, physics, quantitative economics) and the Division of Humanities and Social Science (economics, English, history and political science).

In addition to graduating with a Bachelor’s of Science, students can attain a minor in one of seven different languages.

CoSIDA Academic All-Americans
Naval Academy student-athletes have been selected as an Academic All-American by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) 65 times over the years, with Mids garnering 31 awards since 2000.

The list of honorees from the 2007-08 year include Evan Barnes (third team, men’s soccer), Kari Weniger (first team, women’s soccer), Rachel Dougherty (second team, women’s volleyball), Eric Gardiner (first team, at-large), Chris Renninger (first team, at-large) and Kelly Zahalka (first team, at-large).

Lowe’s Senior CLASS Award
Navy has been well-represented in the nomination process for the Lowe’s Senior CLASS Award, started in 2001 by Dick Enberg in response to the growing trend of men’s basketball players leaving school early for the NBA. The award honors the attributes of senior student-athletes in four areas: classroom, community, character and competition.

During the last two years, Navy has had a pair of first-team honorees in their respective sports, as 2008 grad Evan Barnes was men’s soccer’s inaugural award winner in 2007. He, and women’s basketball player Kate Hobbs (2007), were both first-team honorees.

2007-08 Graduation Success Rate
For the third year in a row, the United States Naval Academy is at the head of the class for graduating NCAA student-athletes on the Division IA level. Navy graduated 100 percent of its student-athletes in 12 of the 19 sports reported on and no sport graduated lower than 94 percent.

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<th>Sport</th>
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<td>Men’s CC/Track</td>
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The Naval Academy Athletic Association dedicated the Dyer Tennis Clubhouse in ceremonies held in November of 2000.

The facility is named to honor the late Vice Admiral George Dyer (Academy Class of 1919) by his daughter and her husband, Jo and Weston Burnett. Mr. Burnett is also an Academy graduate ('43) and retired with the rank of Commander. The Burnett’s are longtime supporters of the Navy tennis program.

“This is a suitable facility for not only an excellent tennis team, but also a proper way to honor Vice Admiral George Dyer,” said Mr. Burnett. “He was well known throughout Annapolis for his charitable works, and this will only add to his legacy.”

The building includes coaches offices, a racquet stringing room, locker rooms for both coaches and players, a lounge, a public address system and a viewing deck overlooking the courts.

“We greatly appreciate the generosity of the Burnetts to the Navy tennis program,” said then-Director of Athletics, Jack Lengyel. “The Dyer Tennis Clubhouse will only help to enhance and strengthen an already highly successful program.”

“We are very grateful to the Dyer family for their contribution to the Navy tennis program,” said Navy head coach John Officer. “The Dyer Tennis Clubhouse is one of the finest facilities of its kind in the nation. It is a wonderful building the team will be able to enjoy for many years to come.”
The U.S. Naval Academy dedicated and opened the Tose Family Tennis Center and the entire Thornton D. and Elizabeth S. Hooper Brigade Sports Complex during the fall of 2007. The tennis portion of the facility, named after Maurice (’78) and Terri Tose and their family, features six indoor and six outdoor tennis courts, with the indoor hard courts encompassing some 49,000 square feet. The outdoor courts include the Fluegel-Moore Tennis Stadium, named after Rick (’61) and Donna Fluegel and Bill (’61) and Sandra Moore, while one indoor court has been dedicated in the name of James (’58) and Rosemary Adkins.

“Our new indoor tennis facility will be a tremendous addition for our team training, as well as a draw for future recruits,” said Navy head coach John Officer. “The facility is first class and already has to be considered one of the finest in the country.”

Located across the Severn River and adjacent to the Naval Academy Golf Course, the 150,000-square-foot facility was privately funded and built at a cost of $18.5 million. In addition to the tennis wing of the complex, it also includes hockey and rugby venues, an indoor hitting, chipping and putting facility for the golf team and club members, a fitness center, a restaurant, the pro shop for the golf course, athletic training rooms, numerous locker rooms for all of the Navy and visiting teams, office space for the various coaches and meeting rooms for each of the programs.
The Patriot League

In its second decade of combining academic and athletic excellence, the Patriot League sponsors championships in 23 men and women’s sports. Initially started as an NCAA Division I-AA football conference in 1986, the Patriot League became an all-sport conference in 1990 and includes American, Army, Bucknell, Colgate, Holy Cross, Lafayette, Lehigh and Navy as full members and Fordham and Georgetown as associate members. These institutions are among the oldest and most prestigious in the nation and their alumni have, and continue to play leadership roles in shaping our country.

Since 1998, the Patriot League has ranked first each year among all Division I conferences awarding athletic aid in the NCAA Graduation Rate Report. The League finished at the top spot with 97 percent of its teams reporting a graduation rate of 90 percent or higher in the most recent data. In addition, 79 Patriot League teams earned NCAA Academic Performance Program Public Recognition Awards after posting academic progress rate scores in the top 10 percent of all squads in their respective sports.

Patriot League student-athletes and teams continue to enjoy success at the national level, with opening round victories coming in several NCAA Championships including Bucknell’s victory over national No. 4 seed Florida State in baseball and Navy’s triumph against national No. 4 seed North Carolina in men’s lacrosse during the 2007-08 campaign. Patriot League teams previously recorded consecutive first-round wins in men’s basketball, a final four appearance in men’s lacrosse and a sixth-place finish at the NCAA Cross Country Championship to highlight the League’s NCAA success.

The Patriot League’s mission is simple, to provide successful competitive athletic experiences while maintaining high academic standards, and to prepare its student-athletes to be leaders in society.

During the 2007-08 academic year, Patriot League student-athletes and teams accomplished the following:

- 14 Patriot League student-athletes were named ESPN The Magazine Academic All-Americans, including first-team honors for Navy’s Karl Weniger (Women’s Soccer), Chris Renninger (Golf) and Kelly Zahalka (Women’s Swimming).
- Bucknell won its 14th overall and women’s Patriot League Presidents’ Cup trophy, while Navy won its first-ever men’s trophy.
- Navy’s Evan Barnes won the inaugural Lowe’s Senior CLASS Award for men’s soccer.
- Bucknell defeated national No. 4 seed Florida State, 7-0, in the first game of the NCAA Baseball Regionals.
- Two teams qualified for the NCAA Men’s Lacrosse Tournament with Colgate receiving an automatic bid and Navy earning an at-large bid and then recording the Patriot League’s sixth win in the event with an 8-7 victory over No. 4 seed North Carolina in the first round.
- Four Patriot League players were drafted by Major League Lacrosse – Army’s Adam Fullerton, Colgate’s Matt Lalli and Chris Eck and Navy’s Nick Mirabito. The four selections are the most in a single year for the Patriot League in the Collegiate Draft.
- Navy’s Thuy-Mi Dinh competed at the NCAA Women’s Swimming and Diving Championship and the United States Olympic Trials.
- Navy’s Greg Sprink was named an Honorable Mention All-American by the Associated Press.
- Navy’s women’s lacrosse team set an NCAA record for wins by a first-year program with 13.
- Six men’s lacrosse student-athletes received USILA All-America status.

Pictured from top left, clockwise: Women’s swimmer Kelly Zahalka earned Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors in women’s swimming and for all sports; Cassie Conedine was Navy’s first women’s basketball rookie of the year since 1996; Men’s tennis coach John Officer was named coach of the year for the second-straight time after his team repeated as league champions; members of the men’s track & field team pose with the trophy after winning the outdoor title for the first time; Jordan DiNola earned defensive player of the year honors after leading the Mids to their fifth-consecutive NCAA Men’s Lacrosse Tournament appearance.