

## **U.S. Merchant Marine Academy: Contemporary and Historical Information Resources - Transcript**

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Good afternoon everyone. I am with my colleague. We have a great webinar for you today. U.S. merchant Marine Academy. With this today is our presenter. He has presented many webinars for us and hope he presents many more. He is the government information history and political science at Purdue University. With that, I will hand the virtual microphone over who will take it from here.

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Thank you very much. Actually good afternoon or morning to everyone who is listening. I would like to present information about the U.S. merchant Marine Academy contemporary and historical information resources. This is the Academy's website. Pictures. The Academy is located in Kingsport New York which is about 15 miles northeast of LaGuardia Airport. It is currently close to the public to the pandemic last I checked. Not sure what the situation is right now. The purpose of the Marine Academy is educating leaders committed to serving national economic needs and marine transportation as merchant Marine officers and commissioned on forces officers. Their motto is deeds not words. Their various other requirements. To get a degree from the Academy, yet actually earn more credit hours for bachelors degree than any other service Academy. In addition they need to have a seer experience our hands on real work experience working at military vehicles selling to ports from the world. The Academy is funded by the Transportation Department maritime industry. Midshipmen who master the curriculum receive a bachelor of science degree. A U.S. Coast Guard license and officers commission in the Armed Forces. Once they graduate including working five years into the maritime industry with at your service as an officer and five years active duty. Merchant sips can be ordered for national emergency. With the U.S. and allied forces. Operating as a navel auxiliary. Merchant Marine is a central component of American power. In addition to the New York State base Academy, there are some state merchant Marine Academy's. In states like California. Michigan and Maine. And Texas. As well as elsewhere in New York. These are colleges within state universities and they do not require congressional endorsement. They still include the induction theory. And merchant Marine along with U.S. Coast Guard license. I saw this quote from the Academy's website. It is talk about how important the U.S. currently imports 85 percent of some 77 strategic monies. Even though we as a nation account for the world's population we purchased nearly 1/3 of the world's raw material output. 99 percent of these materials are transported by merchant vessels. Is kind a complicated process to get into the merchant Academy. It begins by contacting nations officers arrived by geographic origins. For the Midwest, raining from Michigan and Minnesota. At the south. There was her name and contact information. You have to be at least 17 years old. Before July 5. You to be a U.S. citizen. Very moral Quaker requirements. Be congressionally nominated and submit a completed application and qualify scholastically. Then you can go to this online website and provide this information. You had to be nominated by U.S. representative senator from your stage. You do not necessarily have to get a nomination from your congressional representatives. Just getting nomination itself is very competitive. It does not guarantee you will be nomination itself is very competitive. It does not guarantee you will be appointed to the Academy. It is recommended you submit your nominations by January 31. The year you want to be admitted. The merchant Marine Academy does not accept military connected nominations including presidential. Regular reserve Armed Forces with the reserved officer training course ROTC. You to take either the SAT or the ACT. There is additional information that you should speak with your counselor. To improve your scores. There are various physical fitness test. You test your strength and agility speed and endurance. It tells more information that you have to make chances to pass the fitness assessment. It also mentions the importance of having strong swimming skills. You also have to take a medical exam. You have to meet

varies Navy physical standards. Including maximum body fat percentage for men and women. He had to report to the Academy's indoctrination meeting. Strong heart and vascular systems. As well as other things. You cannot be admitted if you have attention deficit disorder. Some of the scholastic requirements. The need to have at least 15 units of credit from your high school. Physics or chemistry. Mechanical drawing and machine shop coursework. They do not recommend as high as you may think. They also recommend courses like engineering based courses. And other technical subjects. Non-technical liberal arts courses are not recommended. These are paid for by taxpayers. Some personal services are paid through midshipmen fees. I have included over on the right some different examples for the incoming 2021 2022 academic year class. Here is some demographics. It information. There is a 12 to 1 student faculty ratio. How many first-year students reported. That includes international students. There is a breakdown between males and females. Between various ethnic groups. They also list the composite SAT reading and math scores for various class years. Historical background. Since the administration, there have been various federal programs. By 1936, this became somewhat standardized. The Cadet Corps was established. As were were to erupted, the Academy construction began and completed in approximately 15 months. The instruction that was reported two years. Over 6600 graduates. Over 142 midshipmen were killed. They were received that year made permanent by Congress. The first woman were just two years before the other service academies. This include the Arizona U.S. senator. Businessman and author. Transportation Secretary during those years. Jennifer Boykin. The president of Newport News ship. This is the strategic plan for 2018 through 2023. Empathizing leadership. Global understanding. Here they're talking about some the educational programs. Academic honors and summer school. Retention rates. Various other categories. Institutions of higher learning as well. This is sort of a sample daily schedule. You can see there pretty busy from 6 AM until well in the evening. This is a sample as a Marine engineering systems major. You get up and eat breakfast. They mention to make up all the lost hours of study for Friday night and Saturday. This is just some sample curriculum that cadets can take. There is also lots of nautical courses. Engineering and history. Business. These are going to be broken down by the different terms. Including the four years of study. There are a number of different academic departments that are at the Academy. Mathematics and science. Transport naval sites. There is not as much information I would've liked on the credentials. Here examples of a couple of individuals. These are all the different academic majors. Marine transportation and engineering. Some of these courses will prepare mid-shipment. The science courses. Celestial navigation. Marine materials handling. Pollution control. Maritime communications and various other attributes. Maritime business is very important. This will require students to take courses in the transportation business. Business law. Maritime economics. Various forms of maritime security. In order to prepare. The Navy reserve. It mentions that take courses in strategic leadership and ethics. Some of the naval science courses are included here. For instance. I strategic see list. For 2 class hours per week. It gives introduction they play. In other words that the U.S. were to engage in the military operation overseas. The merchant Marine will play a critical role in supplying equipment and weapons. To the theater deployment. This is the naval science senior seminar. Then here is information about the maritime economics class. The maritime seaboard transport systems. Shipping market organizations. Shipping cycles on demand. Various other characteristics. The economic impact of regulations. There is international law. That also. That is going to play a role in determining the missions carried out by the nautical scale. This is cargo operations. It is important for midshipmen. The desk operations. I should say deck operations on have various engine compartments operate. As they conduct missions. Port and terminal operations. How to enter and unload then reload cargo on ports. Before leaving those ports. Labor-management relations. There is a merchant Marine Museum. At the facility. I actually think this Museum is open. They have had some different funding proms over the years but now they think they're on a reasonably stable financial situation. This is a picture people visiting. They keep kind of banker hours. There is their address. Some include this engine. It is the only engine still in existence. This

is a photo of the ship. The Museum can also help out with various kinds of merchant marine researchers. Turning a individual is eligible for veteran status. There is a merchant Marine personnel and licensing records. They announced they scanned documents at their St. Louis Missouri facility. They have a lot of genealogical information. Including photographs and ID cards. There is a link where you can find more details. They also mentioned the genealogy websites can be good sources of merchant Marine information. Can include passenger list. Then here is just another example of some the archival files they have in the Museum collection. It was a picture of the secretary. In the middle of the top rope. With just a white shirt. He is being with the merchant Marine personnel at the department headquarters back in 2015. There are some U.S. research available. This is a 2019 study on gender relations done at the merchant Marine Academy. Here is some information about how they're trying to improve sexual assault and harassment programs. It gives you some methodological information. They have a highly regimented schedule which can produce stressful environments. Just some other things. They describe about the findings. You can also find some historic reports on properties. This is the multivolume series on property maintenance and repair the merchant Marine Academy. So here they tell you more information about some the different kinds of reports. There is a eight volume series. A compilation of reports they had covering all kinds of this physical structure. Then, many merchant Marine personnel are merchant Marine topics are also discussed as part of the curriculum and writing projects. This is a example of this. If you do any reading into merchant Marine policy, you will find reference to the Jones act. It is codified in that section. The merchant Marine act of 1920. It says only U.S. constructed owned vessels can conduct maritime trade. This was a paper done at the Naval war College about a year and a half ago. It is part of the national security seminar. This author argues that the Jones act part of it should be repealed to make the Marine industry more effective and revitalize it by increasing the size of the merchant. Enhancing the competitiveness of the U.S. shipyards. There is a lot of literature out there on the decline of the U.S. merchant Marine and I will not go into that. That is another subject you would want to look at. If you want to do a deep dive into issues affecting the U.S. merchant Marine. This is a table of contents. This is a very short paper. This is to have a lot of useful information. During operation enduring freedom. It provides the majority of the sustained effort shipping more than 31 million tons. And more than 31 million tons. Of cargo on commercial ships. Talked about the domestic product. The importance of the initiative from China. And I realize on global maritime trade network as a key component. Images the current health the maritime industries as a national security risk. That I mentioned earlier the transportation department. This is just their website. Perhaps some other time a webinar can be done on their information resources. Going back to the Museum. This is a picture of a World War II surrender sort that was given to General MacArthur when the Japanese surrendered and on January 2, 1945. He gave the sword to the Academy. Then a 2015 review of the sword by specialist in the Japanese arm and armors for the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art said it was a good sword. It was a naval style samurai sword on by someone of high rank. Then this is just another example of a ship model at the merchant Marine Academy Museum. This is another picture inside some the collections at the merchant Marine Academy Museum. Here is another picture with the exhibits on various things. This is a stairway inside a museum. Ships made America. As a Museum model. Then midshipmen at the Academy also participated in intercollegiate athletics. This is the website. Men and women purchase a variety of different sports. The NCAA Division III program. They participate in the skyline conference which persist of the colleges and universities. They are included right there. I think we can gain from the U.S. information resource. The institution's history. The role it has played in emerging U.S. civilian and maritime policy. Learning about admission requirements. Learning about the curriculum and research programs of cadets in the past there eligible for once they graduate. I think most importantly, a enhanced awareness of the merchant Marine historical significance and the role played by the Transportation Department. You can learn about families and friends who may have attended this institution. Gaining appreciation of the vital importance they play in current and emerging U.S.

economics policymaking. If we live in the inland areas of the United States, we probably do not think very much about the importance of shipping. In our daily lives. If you live in a oceanic area. Physically Neary international port, that should be particularly irrelevant. With that, this is a history of the merchant Marine Academy. With that I will take your questions.

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Thank you. Another great webinar. Really appreciate it. Any questions for Bert?

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Let me see.

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Kara wants to know can we see the book. There it is.

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Very nice.

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Any questions. I have some questions in the meantime. Please get those questions in. But you had mentioned earlier and it went by me. A service commitment after you graduate.

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Writes. It can be in the Naval reserve or the merchant Marine. Let me go back up here. you can work in the maritime industry are as an officer in any Armed Forces reserve unit or five years active duty in any Armed Forces branch.

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You do not and Sally have to have any kind of government commitment.

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Writes. They want to close cooperation between the government and the maritime industry.

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That makes sense. Is a soft copy of the presentation available. The me the PowerPoint? That would be available probably tomorrow. You can listen again. That will be in our Academy archives. Any more questions for Bert? I had a few more. I think the service Academy had a 17 to 25 age. It seems in this day and age. I do not know if they have ever. If all of these academies have ever toyed with changing. It seems kind of like an arbitrary number.

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They probably have reasons for doing that.

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You probably have to check with some of the admissions personnel at these different academies. For what specific rationale they have for particular age groups.

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Any more questions? I have a few more to fill in. But please get those in the chat. Ships captains. When I see all of these captains in these giant container ships. And the big cruise lines. I guess merchant Marine people. I am wondering how much they make as a ship captain. It seems like they would make quite a bit.

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I'm going to check the occupational Outlook .

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Sorry to get into a rabbit hole. I see these giant ships. Those people must make a lot of money.

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They may require Coast Guard. Certification. I'm not sure there is a difference.

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You had also mentioned in your presentation. A certain percentage of goods that are shipped by ship. I'm sure it is a high percentage.

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I think it was close to 99 percent.

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Let's see. Water transportation workers. The medium pay was \$59,250 per year.

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My guess on captains of the ship will be multiple hundreds of thousands.

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Let me try something else will quick. I do not want to hog all of the questions. Please put them in the chat.

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Marine engineer pays \$95,440 per year. I would think it would be in the six figures.

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I would think over 300,000 given the responsibility. They just put in the satisfaction survey in the chat box.

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Do a detailed search in the occupational Outlook handbook.

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Relating to ships. Containers came in. That kinda revolutionized. I do not know if you know offhand about when that came in.

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I want to say the 60s. I am not totally certain of that. They had a huge impact on shipping. You can store so much in a container on a ship. You do not need as many personnel. To unload it. The same is true with loading things. Everything is highly compartmentalized.

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I should have known this before him. At one time, they were a depository. Maybe not top of your head. I do not know if they're still in that program.

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I did not see any evidence that they were.

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Mary makes a comment. What other percentage of graduates going into active duty. I know my son and quite a few in his class of 2019 went in.

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I am not sure. I did not see anything specifically on the Academy's website. You may want to check the website or contact them directly.

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Do you know. Are there resources. Person or librarian can maybe download from the website or the library?

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You can check and see what is available on the Academy's website. You also want to see and look at resources. The MA. Other resources you can use would be congressional oversight committees. So you can see what the presidential ministrations. Submitted to Congress for their budget request. You can check congressional committee hearings to see what kind of feedback those request have been getting. Check Government accountability office reports. Agency inspector general's reports. You will want to check the Transportation Department's. Congressional research service reports.

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I was thinking. What they may offer someone.

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Reports from the merchant Marine. Maybe downloadable.

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You may also want to look at the military's transportation command. Trans calm.

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There are lots of think tanks that focus on national security related research. Including may be specific branch.

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Actually, under the either were overnight or had dropped out. If they are in the FDO P. There in the federal budget library like all of our good ones. Carl asked are the reports in the General accountability office?

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There should be. Probably more likely be on maybe the merchant Marine. Let me do a quick check.

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You have to focus your search by time period. There will be things like congressional testimony. Contract bids. I guess in November of last year. They issued a report. The merchant Marine Academy had I guess excepted unrestricted gifts for food. You can go to the website. So there's lots of stuff on the merchant Marine service.

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Any more questions?

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The link to our service Academy. Going to put this in the chat here. This is our link from our relatively new federal depository. If you're interested. The link to that library. Let's see. Any other questions for Bert? We still have a little bit of time here. This is very interesting. I think this is all the service academies and more.

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A couple more to do some webinars on.

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Some of the war colleges and such. Bert will also be presenting our upcoming fall conference.

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Yes. It will be on the special Inspector General for Afghanistan reconstruction.

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That is a timely topic. Were they effected by hurricane Ida or hurricane Sandy?

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I am not sure. I know some areas of New Jersey. If anybody is on this from the New York City area can tell us.

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Keep those questions coming in. We still have a little more time left. First I would like to thank Bert for another terrific webinar. It is always great when he presents. I would like to thank my colleague for keeping things running smoothly. We have five more webinars scheduled. The next one is tomorrow. Former USGS library research for environmental studies aspects of uranium mining and nuclear energy. So that will be a terrific webinar. Do not forget to register for the fall conference. All virtual October 18 through the 20th. It is in the afternoon each day. Should be a great conference. You will receive notice of all of our upcoming webinars. It is linked to in the section at the bottom of the FDO P homepage. You can be a calendar of upcoming webinars and other events and access past webinars. You can also get links to a form to volunteer to present. I'm sure people in this audience could present great webinars. How you manage your library. Anything FDO P were into government information. Think about volunteering is Bert has done. Do we have any other questions.

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Any last questions? We still fill out that satisfaction survey. For any other webinars. Please put that in the satisfaction survey. And new presenters. Let's see. We had scheduled this for 45 minutes. So if you want to sneak in a last question.

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I hope you enjoyed looking at some of these materials and doing some additional research on merchant Marine maritime trade.

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I think you have covered all the service Academy.

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I have not done Army University which also includes the Army command. In Kansas. I have not done the Naval postgraduate school.

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Okay. That is probably coming up sometime in the future.

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That is at Monterey California. Also..

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Any last questions? Last chance. Bert also presents on intelligence issues. A number of those. They're all in our webinar. The last three years. The last three years of our webinar. It looks like all the questions are getting close. Maybe I can post things out. Thank you one last time. We always appreciated. We're looking forward to your conference presentation. Thank you audience. Come on back to the FDO P Academy for more great webinars and conference presentations. Come on back tomorrow. He always has terrific webinars. Thank you again. Have a great rest of your day. [Event Concluded]