

**§ 51104. General authority of Secretary of the Navy**

The Secretary of the Navy, in cooperation with the Maritime Administrator and the head of each State maritime academy, shall ensure that—

- (1) the training of future merchant marine officers at the United States Merchant Marine Academy and at State maritime academies includes programs for naval science training in the operation of merchant vessels as a naval and military auxiliary; and
- (2) naval officer training programs for future officers, insofar as possible, are maintained at designated maritime academies consistent with Navy standards and needs.

(Pub. L. 109–304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1570.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
51104 .....	46 App.:1126-1(a) (last sentence), (b).  46 App.:1295 (last sentence cl. (2)).	Pub. L. 94-361, title VI, §603(a) (last sentence), (b), July 14, 1976, 90 Stat. 929; Pub. L. 97-31, §12(76), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 160.  June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XIII, §1301 (last sentence cl. (2)), as added Pub. L. 96-453, §2, Oct. 15, 1980, 94 Stat. 1997; Pub. L. 97-31, §12(142)(B), Aug. 6, 1981, 95 Stat. 166.

**CHAPTER 513—UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY**

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|--------|---|
| Sec.   |   |
| 51301. | Maintenance of the Academy.   |
| 51302. | Nomination and competitive appointment of cadets.                         |
| 51303. | Non-competitive appointments.   |
| 51304. | Additional appointments from particular areas.                            |
| 51305. | Prohibited basis for appointment.   |
| 51306. | Cadet commitment agreements.  |
| 51307. | Places of training.   |
| 51308. | Uniforms, textbooks, and transportation allowances.                       |
| 51309. | Academic degree.  |
| 51310. | Deferment of service obligation under cadet commitment agreements.        |
| 51311. | Midshipman status in the Navy Reserve.                                    |
| 51312. | Board of Visitors.  |
| 51313. | Advisory Board.   |
| 51314. | Limitation on charges and fees for attendance.                            |
| 51315. | Gifts to the Merchant Marine Academy.                                     |
| 51316. | Temporary appointments to the Academy.                                    |
| 51317. | Adjunct professors.   |
| 51318. | Policy on sexual harassment and sexual assault.                           |
| 51319. | Sexual assault response coordinators and sexual assault victim advocates. |

AMENDMENTS

- 2016—Pub. L. 114–328, div. C, title XXXV, §§3510(b), 3511(b), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2785, 2786, added items 51318 and 51319.
- 2011—Pub. L. 111–383, div. A, title X, §1075(d)(25), Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4374, amended Pub. L. 111–84, §3503(b)(1). See 2009 Amendment note below.
- 2009—Pub. L. 111–84, div. C, title XXXV, §3503(b)(1), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2719, as amended by Pub. L. 111–383, div. A, title X, §1075(d)(25), Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4374, added item 51317.
- 2008—Pub. L. 110–417, div. C, title XXXV, §3506(g)(2), (h)(2), Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4765, added items 51315 and 51316.

Pub. L. 110–181, div. C, title XXXV, §3523(a)(1), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 598, substituted “Navy Reserve” for “Naval Reserve” in item 51311.

**§ 51301. Maintenance of the Academy**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall maintain the United States Merchant Marine Academy as an institution of higher education to provide instruction to individuals to prepare them for service in the merchant marine of the United States, to conduct research with respect to maritime-related matters, and to provide such other appropriate academic support, assistance, training, and activities in accordance with the provisions of this chapter as the Secretary may authorize.

(b) RECRUITMENT.—The Secretary of Transportation may, subject to the availability of appropriations, expend funds available for United States Merchant Marine Academy operating expenses for recruiting activities, including advertising, in order to obtain recruits for the Academy and cadet applicants.

(c) SUPERINTENDENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The immediate command of the United States Merchant Marine Academy shall be in the Superintendent of the Academy, subject to the direction of the Maritime Administrator under the general supervision of the Secretary of Transportation.

(2) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall appoint as the Superintendent—

(A) an individual who has—

- (i) attained a general or flag officer rank in the Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and
- (ii) served at sea in any rank;

(B) an individual who has—

- (i)(I) served at sea in the Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; or
- (II) held a valid Coast Guard merchant mariner credential; and
- (ii) demonstrated exemplary leadership in the education of individuals in the Armed Forces or United States merchant marine; or

(C) if a qualified individual described in subparagraph (A) or (B) does not apply for the position, an individual who has—

- (i) attained the grade of captain or above in the Navy, Coast Guard, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or colonel or above in the Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps; and
- (ii) served at sea in any grade.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Secretary of Transportation may appoint an individual who is the best qualified candidate, even if such individual does not fully meet the criteria described in paragraph (2).

(Pub. L. 109–304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1570; Pub. L. 111–383, div. C, title XXXV, §3504, Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4518; Pub. L. 112–81, div. C, title XXXV, §3503, Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1716; Pub. L.

112-239, div. A, title X, § 1076(i), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1955; Pub. L. 114-328, div. C, title XXXV, § 3506(a), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2777.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
51301 .....	46 App.:1295b(a).	June 29, 1936, ch. 858, title XIII, § 1303(a), as added Pub. L. 96-453, § 2, Oct. 15, 1980, 94 Stat. 1998.

## AMENDMENTS

2016—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 114-328 added subsec. (c).  
2013—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 112-239 substituted “IN GENERAL” for “IN GENERAL” in heading.

2011—Pub. L. 112-81 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and added subsec. (b).

Pub. L. 111-383 inserted “as an institution of higher education” after “Academy” and substituted “States, to conduct research with respect to maritime-related matters, and to provide such other appropriate academic support, assistance, training, and activities in accordance with the provisions of this chapter as the Secretary may authorize.” for “States.”

## SAVINGS CLAUSE

Pub. L. 114-328, div. C, title XXXV, § 3506(b), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2777, provided that: “Nothing in this section [amending this section] may be construed to require any change to the current leadership of the United States Merchant Marine Academy.”

## CLASS PROFILES

Pub. L. 114-328, div. C, title XXXV, § 3516(b), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2789, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than August 31 of each year, the Superintendent of the United States Merchant Marine Academy shall post on the Academy’s public website a profile of each class at the Academy.

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each profile posted under paragraph (1) shall include, for the incoming class of the Academy and for the 4 classes that preceded that class at the Academy, the number and percentage of students by—

- “(A) State;
- “(B) country;
- “(C) gender;
- “(D) race and ethnicity; and
- “(E) prior military service.”

### § 51302. Nomination and competitive appointment of cadets

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—An individual may be nominated for a competitive appointment as a cadet at the United States Merchant Marine Academy only if the individual—

(1) is a citizen or national of the United States; and

(2) meets the minimum requirements that the Secretary of Transportation shall establish.

(b) NOMINATORS.—Nominations for competitive appointments for the positions allocated under subsection (c) may be made as follows:

(1) A Senator may nominate residents of the State represented by that Senator.

(2) A Member of the House of Representatives may nominate residents of the State in which the congressional district represented by that Member is located.

(3) A Delegate to the House of Representatives from the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or American Samoa may nominate residents

of the jurisdiction represented by that Delegate.

(4) The Resident Commissioner to the United States from Puerto Rico may nominate residents of Puerto Rico.

(5) The Panama Canal Commission may nominate—

(A) residents, or sons or daughters of residents, of an area or installation in Panama and made available to the United States under the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977, the agreements relating to and implementing that Treaty, signed September 7, 1977, and the Agreement Between the United States of America and the Republic of Panama Concerning Air Traffic Control and Related Services, concluded January 8, 1979; and

(B) sons or daughters of personnel of the United States Government and the Panama Canal Commission residing in Panama.

(c) ALLOCATION OF POSITIONS.—Positions for competitive appointments shall be allocated each year as follows:

(1) Positions shall be allocated for residents of each State nominated by the Members of Congress from that State in proportion to the representation in Congress from that State.

(2) Four positions shall be allocated for residents of the District of Columbia nominated by the Delegate to the House of Representatives from the District of Columbia.

(3) One position each shall be allocated for residents of the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa nominated by the Delegates to the House of Representatives from the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, respectively.

(4) One position shall be allocated for a resident of Puerto Rico nominated by the Resident Commissioner to the United States from Puerto Rico.

(5) One position shall be allocated for a resident of the Northern Mariana Islands nominated by the Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(6) Two positions shall be allocated for individuals nominated by the Panama Canal Commission.

(d) COMPETITIVE SYSTEM FOR APPOINTMENT.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall establish a competitive system for selecting individuals nominated under subsection (b) to fill the positions allocated under subsection (c). The system must determine the relative merit of each individual based on competitive examinations, an assessment of the individual’s academic background, and other effective indicators of motivation and probability of successful completion of training at the Academy.

(2) APPOINTMENTS BY JURISDICTION.—The Secretary shall appoint individuals to fill the positions allocated under subsection (c) for each jurisdiction in the order of merit of the individuals nominated from that jurisdiction.

(3) REMAINING UNFILLED POSITIONS.—If positions remain unfilled after the appointments are made under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall appoint individuals to fill the positions in the order of merit of the remaining individuals nominated from all jurisdictions.