United States Air Force Preparatory School
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

MILITARY STATUS/INFORMATION

BASIC TRAINING and PREPARATORY SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

FINANCIAL

USAFA ADMISSIONS / APPOINTMENTS

CLOTHING/HOUSING

WHAT TO BRING

ACADEMICS

HEALTH CARE / INSURANCE

SECURITY CLEARANCE

ARRIVAL/IN-PROCESSING
**USAFA PREPARATORY SCHOOL FAQ**

**MILITARY STATUS/INFORMATION**

Q: If I am a direct entry, what is my military status?

Q: If I am a direct entry and I disenroll from the Preparatory School, is there any military service obligation?

Q: If I am a prior enlisted entry, what is my military status?

Q: Does my time at the Prep School count towards time in service?

Q: Do we wear uniforms and work like the active duty military?

**BASIC TRAINING and PREPARATORY SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS**

Q: How long is basic training?

Q: What are the completion requirements for the Preparatory School?

**FINANCIAL**

Q: If I received a scholarship, may I use it at the Preparatory School?

Q: Why do I need to bring money to in-processing? I thought all expenses were covered.

Q: Will I be paid while at the Preparatory School?

**USAFA ADMISSIONS / APPOINTMENTS**

Q: If I complete the Preparatory School, will I automatically receive an appointment to the US Air Force Academy?

Q: Do I need to apply/re-apply for a nomination?

**CLOTHING/HOUSING**

Q: What are the living arrangements like?

Q: Do I have to prepare my own meals?

Q: Will I be able to wear civilian clothing?

Q: I have questions with regards to clothing size/AAFES items (issued item questions/Star Card) whom do I contact?

Q: I am a prior enlisted and have household goods, should I have them shipped to the Preparatory School?
USAFA PREPARATORY SCHOOL FAQ

WHAT TO BRING

Q: **How much civilian clothing should I bring?**
Q: **Should I pack a warm jacket?**
Q: **If I am a recruited athlete, do I need to bring my own gear?**
Q: **Should I pack athletic clothing?**
Q: **How should I wear my hair when I arrive?**
Q: **May I bring my cell phone?**
Q: **May I bring Electronics or Appliances with me?**
Q: **May I bring perishable items with me to training?**
Q: **Will I have a mail box and mailing address?**
Q: **How do holiday breaks/vacation work?**
Q: **May I bring a personal knife or gun for target practice?**

ACADEMICS

Q: **Can you provide an overview of how academics will work?**

HEALTH CARE / INSURANCE

Q: **Once I am in‐processed at the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School as a Cadet Candidate, do I need to remain on my parents’ health insurance plan?**
Q: **How do I enroll for healthcare while at the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School?**
Q: **I take prescription drugs; should I bring them with me?**
Q: **How do I receive primary and specialty care services while at the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School?**
Q: **What happens if I am away from the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School and need Emergency Care?**
Q: **What happens if I disenroll (voluntary/involuntary) from the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School before I am enrolled in the United States Air Force Academy 4-Year program and still need medical treatment?**
Q: **Am I allowed to consume marijuana now that it is legal in Colorado?**
Q: **Do I need to turn in my medical records?**
Q: **Does the Preparatory School do random drug testing?**
SECURITY CLEARANCE

Q: If I have a Top Secret Clearance, do I need to renew it while at the Prep School?
Q: As a prior enlisted Cadet Candidate, do I need to complete a new SF86?

ARRIVAL/IN-PROCESSING

Q: What do I do about receiving plane tickets to get to the Preparatory School?
Q: If I am a direct entry, what is my military status?
A: Direct Entry Cadet Candidates include anyone not enlisted in the USAF, USAFR, or ANG. While attending the Preparatory School you will be an Air Force Reserve airman called to active duty for the period of time necessary to complete the Preparatory School program and enter the USAF Academy.

Q: If I am a direct entry and I disenroll from the Preparatory School, is there any military service obligation?
A: Direct Entry Cadet Candidates (C/C’s) who disenroll from the Preparatory School are discharged from the United States Air Force with no further obligations. Upon disenrollment, 18-year old males are required to register for Selective Service just as all other 18-year old male US citizens.

Q: If I am a prior enlisted entry, what is my military status?
A: Regular Air Force Airmen will remain in regular airmen status. All other service members will be transferred to the Air Force Reserves and maintain the pay grade earned/effective prior to the first day of in-processing. If you are selected for promotion but have not “pinned on” before in-processing, you will not move to the next pay grade. You be will addressed as Cadet Candidate and not by your previous rank. If you disenroll from the Preparatory School, you are required to fulfill the rest of your enlistment contract (as determined by AFPC) and will be reassigned after disenrollment is completed.

Q: Does my time at the Prep School count towards Time In Service (TIS)?
A: Yes, you will continue to accrue TIS. For example, if you are an E-3 with 3 years of service, you will graduate with approximately 3 years, 10 months TIS.

Q: Do we wear uniforms and work like the active duty military?
A: All cadet candidates will wear Air Force uniforms and be subordinate to the cadet candidate rank system of the Preparatory School. In addition, students may be given Letters of Counseling, Admonishment, or Reprimand; and/or an appropriate probation due to substandard performance. Any of these may result in extra duties and/or loss of privileges. Additionally, cadet candidates are subject to discipline and punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) for infractions of military laws.

Q: How long is basic training?
A: Cadet candidates will complete an 18-day Basic Military Training (BMT) program when they arrive at the Preparatory School, prior to the start of the academic year.
USAFA PREPARATORY SCHOOL FAQ

Q: What are the completion requirements for the Preparatory School?
A: To complete the Preparatory School successfully, each Cadet Candidate must have demonstrated an aptitude for commissioned service and leadership by performing satisfactorily in conduct and personal integrity; and must have successfully met all physical, academic, and military requirements.

Q: If I received a scholarship, may I use it at the Preparatory School?
A: The United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) Financial Management (FM) Office may not accept cadet candidate scholarships containing restrictions. Restrictions are any conditions or limitations an agency places on the use of their scholarship funds. Some examples include “must be used for tuition, room and/or board”, “student is required to maintain a specific grade point average (GPA)”, “scholarship funds will be paid back if cadet candidate disenrolls”, etc. Cadet candidate scholarships without restrictions or silent on restrictions will continue to be accepted. Educational investment funds (e.g., 529 plans) may not be accepted due to their federal and state tax restrictions and, based on the specific plan, may have other restrictions on how the funds are used. Normally a university financial aid office monitors scholarships and investment plan proceeds; however, USAFA is not eligible to participate in the student aid program and does not have a financial aid office. We do not charge for tuition, room or board like other universities or have the authority to maintain separate billing and receiving accounts required to monitor the restrictions levied by law.

   Scholarships should be payable directly to the cadet candidate. When the agency is unable to make payment directly to the cadet candidate, the scholarship may be accepted by FM for credit to the cadet candidate’s pay account provided there are no restrictions on the scholarship and the check is payable to the U.S. Treasury. Scholarships silent on restrictions will be treated as non-restrictive and accepted. Scholarships accepted by FM are never refunded to the agency granting the scholarship, even if the cadet candidate disenrolls. Checks shall be made payable to “U.S. Treasury” and mailed to:

   HQ USAFA/FMF
   2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 2200
   USAF Academy, CO 80840-5035.

   Checks will not be accepted until after 15 Sept 18 for the Class of 2019. The cadet candidate’s full name and social security number must be included in the memo area of the check or on an attached memo.

   Questions should be directed to Mr. Woodrow B. Fogleman at 719-333-6972.

Q: Why do I need to bring money to in-processing? I thought all expenses were covered.
A: While the Preparatory School does not charge for tuition/lodging, Cadet Candidates are required to pay for fees such as textbooks, school supplies, some clothing items such as personal items (undergarments) which cannot be returned to the Air Force. Many of these expenses are due up-front at the start of in-processing in order to issue items to the Cadet Candidates upon arrival. Required fees are approximately $1,400. Cadet Candidates will be enrolled in the Government’s EZ-Pay cash advance card during in-processing to cover these expenses. There are three ways to pay off the balance of the EZ-Pay Card: (1) loan/debt
USAFA PREPARATORY SCHOOL FAQ

repayment via monthly paycheck deduction over the first few months while attending the Prep School; (2) cash on hand; or (3) scholarships that meet specific criteria (see the Cadet Candidate Scholarship memo for details).

Return to Financial Questions

Q: Will I be paid while at the Preparatory School?
A: Cadet Candidates will be paid at a monthly rate of 35 percent of the basic pay of a commissioned officer in the pay grade of O-1 with less than 2 years of service if they are currently a civilian or member of any other branch of service other than the United States Air Force. If Cadet Candidates currently serve as a member of any component of the Air Force, they will be paid the equivalent of their respective pay grade as of in-processing, as long as they have had no break in service.

Return to Financial Questions

Q: If I complete the Preparatory School, will I automatically receive an appointment to the US Air Force Academy?
A: Successful completion of the Preparatory School does not guarantee an appointment to the US Air Force Academy. Cadet Candidate performance must meet minimum performance criteria to graduate, and more demanding criteria to receive an appointment recommendation. The Preparatory School Commander reviews Cadet Candidate performance with the Preparatory School staff at the end of each academic quarter, and provides each cadet candidate with actionable feedback to improve performance. The Preparatory School Commander will provide recommendations during the fourth quarter to the Academy Board who is the final authority concerning appointments to the US Air Force Academy.

Return to USAFA Admissions/Appointments Questions

Q: Do I need to apply/re-apply for a nomination?
A: YES! ALL Cadet Candidates, including prior enlisted and recruited athletes, must apply/re-apply for a nomination during the first quarter of the academic year. Directions for this process will be provided, but it is up to each Cadet Candidate to complete their individual application per their District and State Representative’s guidance.

Return to USAFA Admissions/Appointments Questions

Q: What are the living arrangements like?
A: Cadet Candidates live in one of three Preparatory School dorms from arrival until graduation at no cost. This lodging is not available to friends or family of cadet candidates. All dorms are co-ed; however, females reside on the 1st floor within each dorm.

Return to Clothing/Housing Questions

Q: Do I have to prepare my own meals?
A: Cadet Candidates eat in the High Country Inn dining facility at no cost. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily.
USAFA PREPARATORY SCHOOL FAQ

Return to Clothing/Housing Questions

Q: Will I be able to wear civilian clothing?
A: Cadet Candidates are NOT authorized to wear any civilian clothing for the first several months at the Prep School. Privileges, such as civilian clothing, are earned and will be awarded as the year progresses based on Cadet Candidate performance.

Return to Clothing/Housing Questions

Q: I have questions with regards to clothing size/AAFES items (issued item questions/Star Card) whom do I contact?
A: You can contact Military Clothing Sales by calling (719) 474-6024 and you can contact AAFES by calling (719) 472-0861 ext. 100.

Return to Clothing/Housing Questions

Q: I am prior enlisted and have household goods, should I have them shipped to the Preparatory School?
A: DO NOT have your household goods (HHGs) shipped to the USAFA Preparatory School. There is NO space available to store it in the dormitories. Non-temporary storage is authorized at your losing base. Contact your TMO to arrange pick up and storage of your HHGs. If you must ship your goods to this location, you will need to arrange for a storage facility off base, which is not reimbursable. Shipment of HHGs to Home of Record is authorized, however this authorization must be included in your PCS orders. Contact your servicing Military Personnel Flight to ensure this clause is included in your orders. If you earn an appointment to the US Air Force Academy, you will NOT be authorized shipment or storage of HHG there either, so it is recommended you make long term arrangements for your HHG prior to your arrival at the Preparatory School.

Return to Clothing/Housing Questions

Q: How much civilian clothing should I bring?
A: You may bring civilian clothing, but minimal storage space is provided. All civilian clothing and luggage must fit into one standard-size carry-on suitcase. Civilian clothing must be non-offensive and tasteful. It is recommended to have civilian clothing sent to you after that privilege is authorized. Cadet Candidates should arrive at in-processing with minimal baggage, and wearing comfortable clothing to include running shoes. High heels, micro-minis, visible underwear, skirts, etc. are inappropriate.

Return to What To Bring Questions

Q: Should I pack a warm jacket?
A: Cadet Candidates should bring a ski jacket or warm coat, or plan to have one sent to them after Basic Military Training (BMT). The Preparatory School is located approximately 2.5 hours from several ski resorts, and colder weather normally starts in September.

Return to What To Bring Questions

Q: If I am a recruited athlete, do I need to bring my own gear?
USAFA PREPARATORY SCHOOL FAQ

A: Recruited athletes should contact their coach prior to arrival for specific instructions regarding personal hand-carry versus issued athletic gear. Cadet Candidates who must wear a brace for a pre-existing or previously treated injury should that equipment with them.

Return to What To Bring Questions

Q: Should I pack athletic clothing?
A: ALL Cadet Candidates must wear a pair of running shoes on in-processing day. Individuals who show on in-processing day without their running shoes on will be sent to change their footgear. You can choose to have a second pair of running shoes packed in your luggage. Other physical conditioning clothing (shorts, socks, shirts, sweats, etc.) will be issued after arrival. Prior-enlisted Cadet Candidates will need to bring shoes and PT gear for Priors Week.

Return to What To Bring Questions

Q: How should I wear my hair when I arrive?
A: Cadet Candidates must NOT arrive with hair worn in extreme or faddish styles (i.e., unnatural dyed hair, hair extensions, pig tails, dog ears, bleached hair, etc.). Failure to comply will result in added expenses. Additionally, hair relaxers should be applied before arriving, if needed. All male Cadet Candidates will receive a military haircut upon arrival. Female hairstyles must be conservative and hair length must be shorter than a parallel line drawn along the bottom of the collar of the military uniform; or arranged into an approved hairstyle (bun, French braid, etc.) according to regulatory standards (listed below) in less than 5 minutes. Female Cadet Candidates unable to comply will have their hair cut to within Air force standards on in-processing day.

While assigned to the Preparatory School, hair styles will conform to Air Force standards. Personal grooming standards will be adhered to at all times. Air Force Standards are as follows (taken from AFI 36-2903):

1) Men’s hairstyle will:
   a) Be clean, well-groomed and neat. If dyed, it must look natural.
   b) Have a tapered appearance on both sides and back, both with and without headgear. A tapered appearance is one that when viewed from any angle outlines the individual’s hair so that it conforms to the shape of the head, curving inward to the natural termination point. Block cut is permitted with tapered appearance.

2) Men’s hairstyle will NOT:
   a) Contain excessive amounts of grooming aids, touch eyebrows when groomed or protrude below the front band of properly worn headgear.
   b) Be worn in an extreme or fad style or in such a way that exceeds length or bulk standards or violates safety requirements.
   c) Touch the ears or collar (only closely cut or shaved hair on the back of neck may touch the collar).
   d) Exceed 1 ¼ inches in bulk, regardless of length and not exceed the ¼ inch of natural termination point.
   e) Contain or have any visible foreign items attached to it.

3) Women’s hairstyle will:
USAFA PREPARATORY SCHOOL FAQ

a) Be clean, well-groomed and neat. If dyed, it must look natural.
b) Styled to a professional appearance. Plain and conservative pins, combs, headbands, elastic bands, and barrettes similar to the individual's hair color are permitted and highly encouraged to keep hair in place (acceptable styles are French braids (less than 3-inches in bulk) or hair pulled into a bun.)

4) Women’s hairstyle will NOT:
a) Contain excessive amounts of grooming aids, touch eyebrows when groomed or protrude below the front band of properly worn headgear.
b) Be worn in an extreme or fad style or in such a way that exceeds length or bulk standards or violates safety requirements.
c) Extend in length on all sides below an invisible line drawn parallel to the ground at the bottom edge of the shirt collar at the back of the neck.
d) Exceed 3 inches in bulk or prevent proper wear of headgear.
e) Include ornaments such as ribbons, jeweled pins, or other accessories with a design on them.

Q: May I bring my cell phone?
A: Cadet Candidates are allowed to have cell phones but only during certain times as explained below:
   a) Cadet Candidates will turn in their cell phones upon arrival for BMT and are NOT allowed to make or receive personal phone calls except during scheduled times during
USAFA PREPARATORY SCHOOL FAQ

BMT. Calls to family/friends must be made prior to arrival at the Preparatory School.

b) Cell phones will be returned to Cadet Candidates once the academic year begins, at the discretion of the Preparatory School Commander.

c) In the event of a bona-fide emergency, Cadet Candidates can be reached by contacting the Preparatory School Headquarters during the duty day (M-F from 0730-1630) at 719-333-7737 (719-333-PREP), or after duty hours by contacting the Preparatory School Duty Officer at 719-338-5648.

Return to What To Bring Questions
Q: May I bring Electronics or Appliances with me?
A: Listed below are the rules regarding electronics and appliances:
   a) Cadet Candidates will be issued laptop computers at the conclusion of BMT for use
during the academic year, to include email and internet access. Personal computers are
not recommended.  
   *NOTE: Per the Preparatory School Honor Code: Copied movies, music, etc. are
considered stealing. Do NOT bring these items.
   b) A small clock, no larger than 8” in height, 12” in width, and 24” in length is permitted
during the academic year; but will be confiscated during BMT.
   c) Television sets, refrigerators, and microwaves are provided in dormitory common areas.
These items are NOT permitted in Cadet Candidate dorm rooms, nor are they allowed
during BMT.
   d) Humidifiers and small desk fans no larger than 18” are allowed. All other small
appliances must be approved by Squadron permanent party leadership. Energy Star
compliance is required.
   e) Do NOT bring large radios, tape recorders, stereos, etc. Storage space is limited for
Cadet Candidates.
   f) Reference the Packing List and the Prohibited Items list, both located in the Preparatory
School Appointee Toolkit.

Return to What To Bring Questions

Q: May I bring perishable items with me to training?
A: Do NOT bring any perishables or foods with you such as candy, cookies, fruit, cakes, etc. These
items will be confiscated during BMT and will NOT be returned unless in factory sealed
packaging.

Return to What To Bring Questions

Q: Will I have a mail box and mailing address?
A: Cadet Candidates will receive their PO Box mailing addresses during in-processing. Family and
friends should NOT send mail in care of the Preparatory School. Cadet Candidates may not
receive boxes/packages until the end of BMT.
   a) Bring a supply of stamps and stationery to correspond with family and friends during
BMT since e-mail is not accessible until after BMT.
   b) First Class mail (letters, cards, and boxes) delivered by the United States Postal
System (USPS) should be addressed to your PO Box address.
   c) United Postal Service (UPS) or Federal Express (FEDEX) delivered mail cannot be
addressed to your PO Box address. Address these packages to:
      C/C  (your name)
      5220 Cedar Drive
      USAF Academy, CO 80840

Return to What To Bring Questions

Q: How do holiday breaks/vacation work?
A: Cadet Candidates will accrue 25 days of leave (paid vacation) at the rate of 2.5 days per month
throughout their enrollment at Preparatory School. If a Cadet Candidate takes more than 25
days of leave, he/she will be required to pay back the government prior to graduation and
his/her last paycheck will reflect the deduction for any unearned leave. Reference the academic calendar for your school year online for vacation dates which require you to take leave (Winter Break and Spring Break). Thanksgiving Holiday Break is considered a Pass Period. Cadet Candidates receiving an appointment to USAFA will be charged Excess Leave (unpaid vacation) during the Summer Break while awaiting USAFA In-processing. The time period between Preparatory School Graduation and USAFA In-processing is approximately 5 weeks.

a) **NOTE 1:** Allow for travel time, weather, traffic, and security delays when scheduling airline reservations. Plan to depart on a flight from Colorado Springs Airport (COS) no earlier than 2.5 hours after last military duty. Plan to depart on a flight from Denver International Airport (DEN) no earlier than 4 hours after last military duty.

b) **NOTE 2:** Prior Service Airmen are NOT required to bring their leave balance to zero prior to arrival and will also earn 25 days (2.5 days per month) while enrolled at the Preparatory School. However, any leave balance remaining at the end of the Summer Break will be forfeit. Excess Leave rules also apply if a Prior Service Cadet Candidate has a zero leave balance after Preparatory School Graduation.

Q: **May I bring a personal knife or gun for target practice?**

A: Weapons are NOT permitted at the Preparatory School. Weapons include, but are not limited to, all projectile and thrown weapons regardless of type of propellant, knives of any type or size, edged/blunt weapons or tools, and training weapons, to include non-functioning “dummy” mock-ups. All items will be confiscated and may be destroyed.

Q: **Can you provide an overview of how academics will work?**

A: Below is a brief summary of how grading and classes will run at the Preparatory School.

a) **Grading**
   - We use a half-letter grading system (A, A-, B+, etc.), with course grades for each class given at the mid-quarter (Progress Review) and the end of the quarter (Final) times.
   - Be prepared for a demanding program based on excellence.

b) **Classes**
   - Cadet Candidates will take 4 or 5 courses per 9-week quarter with 4 quarters per year.
   - Each class meeting is 75 minutes in length with 5 minute passing periods.
   - During each grading period, Cadet Candidates will take two mathematics courses (algebra/math applications and trigonometry/calculus), one English course, and one science course (chemistry). Cadet Candidates will also have a life/study skills class first quarter, and a may have a reading course during one of the final three quarters. Advanced courses are offered in the Spring Quarters for those who qualify.
   - Mandatory study time occurs each evening, Sunday through Thursday. Expect 4 hours of homework each day and as many as six assignments per week. It is critical that you study on weekends. Most successful students put in 8-12 hours per weekend.
   - Courses taken at the Preparatory School are solely to prepare Cadet Candidates for success at the Air Force Academy. Therefore, courses are non-accredited and college credits are not awarded. Cadet Candidates may receive a copy of their student grade transcript upon request.
USAFA PREPARATORY SCHOOL FAQ

c) Instructional Support
   • All instructors will provide extra instruction (EI) during a designated time period.
   • Additional EI may be scheduled by appointment.

d) Additional Requirements
   • All Cadet Candidates are required to have their own graphing calculator and should bring the accompanying manual. Any brand of graphing calculator is permitted, but the Mathematics Department teaches with Texas Instruments calculators. Cadet Candidates who do not currently own a graphing calculator are encouraged to purchase one before coming to the Preparatory School. If you arrive without a graphing calculator, expect to spend $120 to purchase a calculator by the end of Parents Weekend. The TI-83 Plus, TI-84 Plus, or other brand of calculator with comparable capability will meet all math requirements. We do not recommend high-ordered (higher cost) calculators such as the TI-89 or 92 since their capabilities are beyond the requirements of our courses, and Cadet Candidates will not be allowed to use the TI-89, TI-92, N-Spire, or equivalent calculators. Questions should be directed to Dr. Rich Schooff, Math Department Head, at 719-333-7162 or rich.schooff@usafa.edu.

Return to Academics Questions

Q: Once I am in-processed at the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School as a Cadet Candidate, do I need to remain on my parents’ health insurance plan?
A: Parents are highly encouraged to maintain their Cadet Candidate as a beneficiary on their health insurance for at least the first year. This ensures the Cadet Candidate remains covered in the event he/she is disenrolled or decides to self-evaluate from the program.

Return to Health Care / Insurance Questions

Q: How do I enroll for healthcare while at the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School?
A: Cadet Candidates who successfully in-process the Preparatory School will be enrolled in TRICARE Prime. TRICARE Prime is the Department of Defense Healthcare Program and is similar to a civilian HMO. In this program, you will be assigned to a Primary Care Manager (PCM) and will receive all your primary care/specialty care at the United States Air Force Academy Military Treatment Facility (MTF).

Return to Health Care / Insurance Questions

Q: I take prescription drugs; should I bring them with me?
A: Cadet Candidates should NOT bring large supplies of prescription medications with them. A 3-week supply of any necessary prescription medications is adequate as Air Force medical personnel will review any prescriptions with each Cadet Candidate during in-processing and validate its necessity. Any applicable refills or new prescriptions will come from military medical personnel.

Return to Health Care / Insurance Questions
Q: How do I receive primary and specialty care services while at the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School?
A: Primary care is received by calling the USAFA Cadet Clinic or 10th Medical Group and making an appointment to see your PCM. If you require specialty care services for further diagnosis or treatment, you must first see your PCM who will submit a referral to access services from specialty practitioners and coordinate the referral request through the region-wide Managed Care Support Contractor.

a) Primary Care definition: Basic or general health care traditionally provided by doctors trained in family practice, pediatrics, internal medicine, and occasionally gynecology.
b) Specialty Care definition: Specialized health care provided by physicians whose training focused primarily in a specific field such as neurology, cardiology, rheumatology, dermatology, oncology, orthopedics, ophthalmology, and other specialized fields.

Q: What happens if I am away from the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School and need emergency care?
A: Cadet Candidates outside the local area who require EMERGENCY CARE may go to any emergency room and identify themselves as active duty military members under TRICARE, then contact their PCM as soon as they are physically able to make him/her aware of the emergency care requirement. Cadet Candidates who require URGENT CARE need to call their PCM to obtain authorization prior to seeking medical care from the local urgent care clinic/emergency room. Failure to do so could result in a Point of Service charge where the Cadet Candidate will be responsible for the bill. If this occurs, a claim may submitted through the Cadet Candidate’s parents’ medical insurance if covered as a beneficiary.

a) Emergency Care definition: Acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that a prudent person could reasonably expect the absence of medical attention to result in placing your health in serious jeopardy, serious impairment to bodily functions, or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part. This is often considered loss of life, limb, or eyesight.
b) Urgent Care definition: Medically necessary treatment that is required for illness or injury that would result in further disability or death if not treated immediately. The illness or injury requires professional attention and should be treated within 24 hours to avoid development of a situation in which further complications could result if treatment is not received. The most common form is illness or “the flu”.

Q: What happens if I disenroll (voluntary/involuntary) from the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School and still need medical treatment?
A: If you choose to separate, it is in your best interest to ensure all medical treatment is received prior to separation. Any continued care post-separation will be authorized only on a case-by-case basis and is predominantly coordinated prior to separation. If you separate you must
understand that further medical care is your financial responsibility unless you were previously eligible for VA medical benefits.

Q: Am I allowed to consume marijuana now that it is legal in Colorado?
A: Marijuana is legal in the state of Colorado but it is still prohibited on the federal level, therefore it is prohibited to service members. You are **NOT** allowed to consume marijuana or any other illicit drug (cocaine, ecstasy, spice, bath salts, etc.) as a Cadet Candidate, Cadet, or member of the United States Air Force.

Q: Do I need to turn in my medical records?
A: Medical records criteria will differ depending on your status.
   a) Current Active Duty member (Priors): Hand carry your original medical records to the USAF Academy and turn it in during the medical portion of in-processing.
   b) Current Military Dependent or Civilian (Direct Entry): Medical records must remain at the last base or clinic at which you were treated. You are highly encouraged to obtain a copy of those records to turn in during the medical portion of your in-processing. You are not required to turn your records over to the DoD medical system, however failure to properly report a waiverable or disqualifying condition, diagnosis, or treatment may result in disenrollment and discharge due to fraudulent enlistment.

Q: Does the Preparatory School do random drug testing?
A: Yes. Cadet Candidates will participate in unit-scheduled and random drug testing, as well as Morale/Health/Wellness inspections of their dorm rooms and personally-owned vehicles (if applicable) throughout the year.

Q: If I have a Top Secret Clearance, do I need to renew it while at the Prep School?
A: No. A Top Secret Clearance is not required at the Prep School and will be downgraded to a Secret Clearance.

Q: As a prior enlisted Cadet Candidate, do I need to complete a new SF86?
A: No. All other Cadet Candidates need to complete the SF86. For all questions regarding security readiness, please contact the USAFA Preparatory School Security Manager via email at USAFA.PLSecMgr@usafa.edu or 719-333-3597. DO NOT SEND any Personally Identifiable Information (PII) to this email address.
USAFA PREPARATORY SCHOOL FAQ

Q: What do I do about receiving plane tickets to get to the Preparatory School?
A: Plane tickets are issued by the USAFA Admissions Office (USAFA/RR) shortly before in-processing. For questions/concerns regarding plane tickets and flight information, please contact USAFA Admissions or your Admissions Counselor.

Return to Security Clearance Questions