



2017-2018 Marine Corps JROTC Academic Bowl

Participate in the Academic Bowl and your team may win the opportunity to compete in the Academic Championship (*JLAB) in Washington, DC!

There are many benefits of having your cadets participate in the Academic Bowl:

- Improve SAT/ACT scores
- Increase interest in college admissions
- Demonstrate academic strength of JROTC program
- Boost esprit de corps
- Earn the opportunity to travel to our nation's capital

Dates of Competition

OCT 1-25, 2017	Practice Test for Level I (FREE to all cadets!)
OCT 26 – NOV 20, 2017	Team Registration
NOV 1-20, 2017	Level I
FEB 1-15, 2018	Level II
JUN 22-26, 2018	Level III – The Championship in Washington, DC

NOTES:

- All cadets are encouraged to participate in the Practice Test (free of charge). It's a great way to assess college test readiness.
- There is a one-time fee of \$50 to participate in the online team competition, which covers both Level I and Level II (if your team qualifies to advance to Level II). To register and pay, go to www.cofcontests.com.
- Teams with scores in the top 50% in Level I will advance to Level II (no additional fee required).
- If your school is prone to winter storms and school closings, please do NOT wait until the last day to participate. Deadline extensions will be granted on a limited basis.
- MCJROTC Command will cover the cost of administrative fees, travel, meals, and lodging for the 8 teams attending Level III - The Championship. What a great opportunity to compete at the highest level and visit our nation's capital!

Beginning SY 2018/19 - Cadets who have attended (JLAB) may not compete again. No cadet who has traveled to Washington, DC with a JLAB team will be allowed to compete on an academic team beginning next school year.



Competition Website

COF Contests – To register and participate in the Practice Test, Level I, and Level II, go to www.cofcontests.com.

How to Assemble an Online Academic Team

- Academic Team = 4 primary members and 2 alternates (alternates participate in the online competition only)
- Cadets may be juniors (11th grade), sophomores (10th grade) or freshmen (9th grade)
- NO seniors may participate

Each JROTC unit will be allowed one team consisting of **four cadets** – they may be freshmen, sophomores or juniors. **Seniors may not participate on the team.** Two alternates may be named and may participate in the online testing however alternates are not required. If your unit is eligible to participate in the final competition in Washington, DC, **only four team members may attend JLAB. Alternates will not be allowed to attend; however, we will be streaming many of the main events during JLAB including the MCJROTC Championship and Joint Service Championship.**

Instructors may assess and select potential team members using the following criteria –

- Peer selection boards (e.g. interviews, essays)
- Teacher or school recommendations
- GPA
- Performance on the Practice Test (details below)
- Overall enthusiasm for the competition

PRACTICE TEST (October 1-25)

The Practice Test is taken individually, not as a team. It consists of 25 questions (from a bank of 50 questions so cadets may take the test multiple times) similar to those questions in Levels I and II. There is NO charge and it is open to all cadets and is a great way to evaluate your entire unit's understanding of JROTC curriculum and general subjects. We encourage all cadets in the unit to take the Practice Test at an internet-accessible computer in the classroom or other convenient location. The cadets should logon to www.cofcontests.com, select Marine Corps Academic Bowl, answer the questions and print out their scores to turn in to the instructor. COF does not retain practice test scores. **It is up to each instructor to review the scores and determine members of the team.**



How to Prepare the Team

One of the main goals of the JROTC Academic Bowl is to prepare students for state exit/graduation exams as well as college entrance exams, such as the SAT and ACT. However, many JROTC instructors are understandably interested in measuring how well their cadets are learning the JROTC curriculum. Therefore, we will have a mix of JROTC curriculum as well as English, Math, and Science in each level of the competition. The JROTC curriculum questions will focus primarily on leadership preparation, wellness and fitness, group/team dynamics and communication skills. A few questions about current events are also included – focusing on national and international news, particularly international relations, politics, business, and science. All of the current events questions will be taken from major media available on television, the internet, and in daily newspapers (see suggested resources below).

Level I includes 25% JROTC questions, 65% SAT/ACT-type questions, and 10% current events questions.

Level II includes 15% JROTC questions, 75% SAT/ACT-type questions, and 10% current events questions.

We encourage all cadets, whether they are on the academic team or not, to prepare for the ACT, SAT, and ASVAB tests by reviewing English, Science, and Math coursework. There are several resources available, free-of-charge, to all students.

Websites to review include:

- www.cofcontests.com – online SAT/ACT guides (contest information tab)
- www.number2.com – a free test prep website
- www.march2success.com – a free test prep website
- www.khanacademy.org – a free website with math, history, and science lessons
- www.foxnews.com/index.html - FOX News
- www.cnn.com/cnn10 - CNN Student News
- www.npr.org/ - National Public Radio
- www.reuters.com/ - Reuters
- www.usatoday.com/ - USA Today Newspaper



How to Register the Team

Team registration is open **Thursday, October 26 – Monday, November 20** at www.cofcontests.com. All teams, regardless of previous participation, must register using a new User ID and Password.

- The instructor should click on **MARINE CORPS** and select *For Instructors* and then select *Register Your Team*. It will take approximately 15 minutes to answer a few required questions – each unit may register ONE academic team.
- The team must be registered prior to competing in Level I.
- We suggest that each instructor register his or her team before the team is ready to participate in Level I.
- We strongly encourage all teams to register and participate before the last day of competition.

Each team will be automatically placed into a Division based on demographics including socio-economic and geographic factors.

Please be prepared to answer the following questions when registering:

High School Name, Address, Phone Number

Instructor Name, Email Address, Phone Number (office and cell)

Cadet Names, Grade, Gender, GPA, Email Address

High School Demographics – Number of students, Number in Free Lunch Program, Type of School (suburban, rural, private, public, etc.)

*** Be prepared to create a User ID and Password to use for both Level I and II.**

Payment is also tied to your team's User ID and Password.

Registration Fee: There is a fee of \$50 per team to cover administrative expenses. The fee permits teams to compete in Level I and Level II (if the team qualifies to advance to Level II). To pay with a credit card, go to www.cofcontests.com during registration (OCT 26 – NOV 20).

To pay by check, please send a check or money order (payable to College Options Foundation) to:

College Options Foundation

ATTN: Emily Donahue

115 Lloyd Avenue

Tyrone, GA 30290

*Please be sure to include the instructor's name, school name, city, state, contact phone number, and your User ID and Password (created during Registration) with your check.



How to Participate in Levels I and II (online)

1. The instructor or team captain should logon to www.cofcontests.com
2. Select the **MARINE CORPS**
3. If the team has not registered, click on Team Registration (see instructions above)
4. Select **Level I** (November 1-20)
5. Enter your User ID and Password; your high school name should appear
6. Follow directions on that page and begin the competition
7. Level I consists of approximately 75 questions and takes approximately 1 hour to complete. **Level I is a TEAM event** – all cadets on the team (including alternates) should sit at one computer and answer questions as a team.
8. Once a team has logged in, there is no ability to stop and start over. The competition must be completed in one sitting.

If your team advances to **Level II** (February 1-15), you will follow the same procedure, using the same User ID and Password (no additional fee).

Keep your User ID and Password for this year's use. If you misplace your password, you may go to www.cofcontests.com and select Marine Corps, then select For Instructors, then select Retrieve Your Team User ID and Password.

Level III – The Championship (JLAB)

The top 8 teams (based on Level II scores) will be invited to participate in Level III - The Championship! Four teams with top scores from each division will receive an invitation to Washington, DC. If there is a tie in Level II for one of the two spots (per division), the tie-breaker will be the Level I – Section 2 score (SAT/ACT portion).

MCJROTC HQ will pay for all expenses - travel, meals, and lodging - to attend The Championship.

Official Rules of the Online Competition

1. The designated point of contact should be a JROTC instructor with access to email. Most correspondence with teams is through email; therefore, it is essential that instructors check their email and respond as soon as possible. Foundation staff is also available by phone for questions or concerns. (1-888-576-8287 or edonahue@collegeoptions.net)
2. Each JROTC unit will be allowed ONE academic team consisting of four cadets. The team may include juniors, sophomores, and/or freshmen. Two alternates may be named and may participate in the online portion of the competition but will not be allowed to



- attend The Championship in Washington, DC. No seniors may participate in the Academic Bowl.
3. Level I and Level II are internet-based competitions. The team must have high speed (DSL, cable, etc.) internet access (not a dial-up connection).
 4. Level I and Level II each require approximately one hour to complete. Once a team has logged in, there is no ability to stop and start over. **The competition must be completed in one sitting.**
 5. No one is allowed in the room during the competition except for the 4 members of the team, two alternates, and one instructor who will act as proctor for the test. Instructors may not assist the team with questions during the test.
 6. No outside sources or other electronic devices (cell phone, additional computer, dictionary, thesaurus, text book, newspaper, etc.) are allowed. Calculators, pens/pencils, and scratch paper are permitted. Do not take screenshots of the questions during the test. Screenshots or any other duplication of the questions during the test are NOT allowed.
 7. No communication about the competition with other JROTC teams or schools is allowed. Teams are not permitted to discuss the questions or design of the competition with anyone outside of the team members and instructors.
 8. All scores will be sent to the Foundation's server automatically. If a team believes there has been an error in scoring, the team must contact the Foundation via phone or email within 12 hours of completion of their participation (upon finishing the test). A written explanation of the problem will be required and should be sent via email (edonahue@collegeoptions.net).
 9. If your team qualifies to advance to Level II, and your school is prone to winter storms and school closings, please do NOT wait until the last day to participate. Deadline extensions will be granted on a very limited basis
 10. If there is an electrical outage or other technical difficulty during the competition, the team must contact the Foundation via phone or email within 12 hours of the difficulty. A written explanation of the problem will be required and should be sent via email (edonahue@collegeoptions.net).
 11. The JROTC Academic Bowl relies on the adherence by all teams to the JROTC Code of Honor/Core Values. The Foundation expects that all team members and instructors will abide by all rules.
 12. Finally, we believe the **Number 1 rule in this competition is...Have Fun!** We hope you enjoy this challenge.

* JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl