

How to Get into SAMS if you're a 49

The SAMS selection process is reasonably straightforward, does not disadvantage any particular branch or career field, nor are there any quotas. SAMS selects those officers who can think through a problem, come up with a solution and then communicate that solution both in writing and verbally.

The Process:

1. Fill out the online application.
2. Have the ACE/Rater fill out their online comments about the applicant.
3. Take an operational/tactical test consisting of CGSC course material.
4. Take a reading/writing diagnostic test.
5. Be interviewed by SAMS faculty members.
6. Each applicant's packet, to include written comments from the interview, and his ORB, is forwarded to an O6/Ph.D. level review committee for scoring. Each committee member scores each officer on a score of 1-7. Officers are then placed on an OML based on scores (highest possible is 7x12, or 84).
7. Officers with the best rankings from the review committee have their packets forwarded to PERSCOM for concurrence.
8. After PERSCOM review, final selections for SAMS are made based on PERSCOM concurrence, using the ranking OML determined by the review committee in step 6.

So If You Want SAMS:

1. Officer has to show up at CGSC/ILE with SAMS in mind. He must quickly tell his ACE/rater that he wants SAMS. The Online Application answers have to indicate a highly motivated officer who feels SAMS is essential to his professional development.
2. The ACE/Rater comments must strongly support this officer's attendance.
3. Student must have good CGSC grades, and needs to do well on the diagnostic tests.
4. Advanced degrees and prior publication (articles, books) are pluses. SAMS wants officers who can think and write.
5. The officer must conduct himself well during the interview, and reinforce his desire to attend SAMS, as well as his potential to be a valuable officer in his career field with a SAMS background.