

Frequently asked questions for those seeking a Military Academy nomination. You may also fill out a [Military Academy Nominations Form](#).

What is a nomination?

Members of Congress may nominate applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established by law. A candidate may seek a nomination from the following:

- A member of the U.S. House of Representatives who represents the congressional district in which the candidate resides
- Both U.S. Senators from his or her state
- Apply directly to the Vice-President of the United States

What are the basic eligibility requirements?

Applicants for a nomination to a U.S. Service Academy must meet the following requirements, as established by federal law and academy admissions standards, by July 1 of the year of entry:

- Be at least 17 years old but not have passed their 23rd birthday
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be unmarried, not pregnant, and have no legal obligation to support children or other dependents
- Reside within the congressional district to apply for a nomination through that office
- Meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the respective Service Academy

Who do I contact to request an application?

[Fill out a military academy nomination form](#)

When do I apply for a nomination?

The application nomination period opens in April for our office each year for those candidates who are high school juniors and will be seniors the following school year, or who have already graduated.

What is the deadline for completing a nomination file?

The deadline for submitting a nomination packet to the Office is **Wednesday, October 14, 2026**. Please email TX25.academy@mail.house.gov for more specifics.

What must be included in my nomination file?

A complete nomination file consists of the following items:

- Application
- Professional Resume
- Personal statement/essay stating why you want to attend a service academy (limited to one page, double spaced and size 12 font with standard one-inch margins)
- Current photo
- High school transcript
- American College Testing Program (ACT) results and/or College Board Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) results
- Two letters of recommendation

What happens after I have completed my nomination file?

Applicants who submit a completed nomination file will be scheduled for an interview. The interview will be on Saturday, November 21, 2026 at our Arlington, Texas Congressional office.

What criteria is used in selecting candidates?

Nominations are based on a "whole person" evaluation. Factors such as academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, leadership skills, physical aptitude, character and motivation are taken into consideration and compared with other applicants.

How many academies are there?

There are five service academies.

- [U.S. Military Academy](#) at West Point, New York
- [U.S. Naval Academy](#) at Annapolis, Maryland
- [U.S. Air Force Academy](#) at Colorado Springs
- [U.S. Merchant Marine Academy](#) at Kings Point, New York
- [U.S. Coast Guard Academy](#) at New London, Connecticut

Are the requirements the same for all of the service academies?

No. Although many of the qualifications are similar, each academy operates under its own admissions guidelines. Visit the academy of your choice via the websites noted for each academy's particular admissions qualifications. It is not necessary to seek a nomination to the Coast Guard Academy, as the U.S.C.G.A. accepts candidates based on their own testing criteria.

Who should I ask to write a letter of recommendation on my behalf?

Some of the people applicants typically seek recommendations from include:

- Teachers
- Counselors
- Employers
- Coaches
- Clergy
- Scout Leaders

Will I automatically be selected by the academy after I receive a nomination?

No. You will be placed among a select group of nominees, and the academy of your choice will make the final decision. If selected, you will receive an offer of admission (an appointment) directly from the academy.

What if I choose more than one academy? Will I be limited to a single nomination?

No. You can be nominated to multiple academies depending on how well you have competed among this year's pool of candidates. It is also possible to receive multiple appointments.

When will I know if I have been offered an appointment by an academy?

Academies will begin to notify candidates of their admission status in February 2027. All offers of appointment are generally sent out by May.