Service Academy Nominations - FAQ

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?

Each applicant for a nomination must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1st of the year of admission to an academy:

- Age: Be at least 17 years old, but not have passed the 23rd birthday
- Citizenship: Must be a U.S. citizen
- Marital Status: Must be unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents
- Residence: Must reside within the boundaries of the 3rd Congressional District of Indiana.
- Skill / Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy

Who do I contact to request an application?

Go online to https://banks.house.gov/services/service-academy-nominations and complete the application online or contact RepBanksAcadamies@mail.house.gov

When do I apply for a nomination?

The nomination application period opens May 15th of 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 District Office is October 31, 2017.

What must be included in my nomination file?

A complete nomination file consists of the following items:

- Current photo
- Essay - No longer than one typed, double spaced page, explaining your desire to attend service academy and thereafter, being commissioned as an officer
- Official Academic Transcripts
- American College Testing Program (ACT) results and/or College Board Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) results. The office SAT code is 1082 and the ACT code is 7399
- Minimum of three letters of recommendation
- Resume of extracurricular activities (high school and/or college & any leadership positions held), athletic activities, community activities, employment history and notable accomplishments

What happens after I have completed my nomination file?

Applicants who submit a completed nomination file will be scheduled for an interview in late November or early December.

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

A specific recommendation form is not required. A letter of recommendation is sufficient.

What are the SAT and ACT codes for the service academies and the congressional office?

SAT:
USMA – 2924
USNA – 5809
USAFA – 4830
USMMA – 2923
Congressman Jim Banks – 1082

ACT:
USMA – 2976
USNA – 1742
USAFA – 0530
USMMA – 2974
Congressman Jim Banks – 7399

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 win 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. All offers of appointment are generally sent out by May.

Recent FAQs

Are there summer programs for high school students?

Yes, all the academies have a one week summer program for rising seniors normally held in June. The highly competitive programs give high school students a week to experience life as a cadet/midshipman to inform their college selection decision. They are fast-paced programs of academic classes, military training, physical fitness training, and intramural athletics. Students who attend summer programs are responsible for transportation to and from the academies.

Are there other summer programs for high school students who are not seniors?

Yes, the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) in collaboration with the military services, offers a series of week long, STEM Engineering & Construction Camps designed for High School students who excel in math, science and technology courses and are interested in pursuing engineering, architecture, or related fields in college. Each of our camps has their unique curriculum, with the common thread being: challenging environment, hands-on activities, mentors who are young engineers, long term resources for alumni. In addition to the military services, SAME offers programs in conjunction with the USAFA and USCGA. More information is available at http://www.same.org/STEMCAMPS.

The USNA also offers a Summer STEM Programs for rising 9th graders, 10th graders and Rising 11th graders. Applications for 2017 are currently closed. The application will re-open in January 2018. More information about this program is available at https://www.usna.edu/Admissions/Programs/STEM/index.php.

Are there are any specific courses that I need to take in high school to be considered for the academies?

Academic preparation and performance are very important. The academies do not require a specific number of courses or units of study as a prerequisite for admission. Competitive candidates typically average five college preparatory courses per semester and will complete four years of English, four years of mathematics through pre-calculus or higher, four years of science (to include chemistry with a laboratory), three years of social studies and two years of a foreign language. Many appointees have taken Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual enrollment courses. Overall, a strong college preparatory program taken in high school is highly recommended.

Can I enlist in the military and still apply for a service academy before my contractual obligation is up?

Yes, enlisted members may apply for the academies. The Secretary of the appropriate service may nominate enlisted members of the regular and the reserve components. The member's command would nominate interested individuals and agree to let them leave their units prior to an appointment.

Are there any health conditions that would make me ineligible for the service academy? For example, is asthma a disqualifier?

The academies programs are physically challenging. All candidates are required to undergo a thorough medical examination because academy graduates are commissioned in a wide variety of career fields with strict medical standards. There are many disqualifying medical conditions, including asthma. Medical waivers may be granted in limited circumstances. For more information, students may go to https://www.usna.edu/Admissions/_files/documents/MedicalAppendix1.pdf.

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