

Military Academy Nominations - FAQ

Please review the information below before you begin your application process.

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 4th Congressional District of Virginia.
- Skill / Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy

When do I apply for a nomination?

The nomination application period opens the second Tuesday in May 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 the application?

The deadline for submitting an application is October 18, 2019.

What must be included in my application?

A complete nomination file consists of the following items:

- Current photo
- Official High School transcript
- American College Testing Program (ACT) results and/or College Board Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) results
- Resume of extracurricular activities
- An essay stating why you want to attend a service academy (500 words or less)
- A maximum of three letters of recommendation

How do I submit my application?

The documents must be mailed with a request for signature or hand delivered to any office location, to the attention of the Service Academy Nomination Coordination, prior to the deadline.

Hampton Roads Office: 131 North Saratoga Street, Suite B, Suffolk, Virginia 23434

What happens after I have completed my application?

Applicants who submit a completed an application 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](#) in West Point, New York
- [U.S. Naval Academy](#) in Annapolis, Maryland
- [U.S. Air Force Academy](#) in Colorado Springs, Colorado
- [U.S. Merchant Marine Academy](#) in Kings Point, New York

- [U.S. Coast Guard Academy](#) in 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.

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 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.

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.

Is there a checklist that I can use to help with the application process?

Yes; you can use this [checklist](#) to guide you in the application process.