

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Service Academies.

As your 5th District Representative in the U.S. House of Representatives, each year I have the privilege of nominating a limited number of people to four of the five service academies. The honor of attending a service academy comes with an obligation and commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation.

Best wishes to you as you pursue your goal of attending one of the U.S. Service Academies and serving our country.

[You can download an application by clicking here.](#)

In addition to the application, please provide a personal motivation essay where on a separate page, please answer the following question using 500 words or less:

Explain why you are seeking a military academy nomination and how you will be a benefit to the Armed Forces.

We encourage you to read through the FAQ's below before submitting your application.

Seeking a Nomination: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

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 5th Congressional District of Illinois.
- **Skill / Fitness:** Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy.

Who do I contact to request an application?

Please contact our district office at 773.267.5926 to request a nomination packet or for other assistance. You may also access the application by [clicking here](#).

When do I apply for a nomination?

Our 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?

This year the deadline for submitting a nomination packet to my District Office is December 2nd, 2011.

What must be included in my nomination file?

A complete nomination file consists of the following items:

- Current photo
- 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)
- Minimum of three (3) 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 in early January.

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.

Three reside within the Department of Defense:

- [U.S. Military Academy at West Point](#) at New York
- [U.S. Naval Academy](#) at Annapolis, Maryland
- [U.S. Air Force Academy](#) at Colorado Springs

Two reside within the Department of Transportation:

- [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 web sites 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

I do not require a specific recommendation form. 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 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.