



UNITED STATES CONGRESSWOMAN DEBBIE LESKO
12515 w. Bell Rd. #104
Surprise, AZ 85383
(623) 776-7911
<http://lesko.house.gov>

U.S. SERVICE ACADEMIES NOMINATIONS
GENERAL INFORMATION

Congresswoman Lesko nominates candidates from Arizona's Eighth Congressional District. She uses the *competitive method* of nominating applicants to the U.S. Service Academies. Each Member of Congress may nominate ten candidates each year to each of the following academies: **U.S. Air Force Academy** in Colorado Springs, Colorado, **U.S. Merchant Marine Academy** in Kings Point, New York, **U.S. Military Academy** in West Point, New York, and **U.S. Naval Academy** in Annapolis, Maryland. Note: applicants wishing to attend the **U.S. Coast Guard Academy** do not need a nomination and must apply directly to the academy. You may access the various academies' web pages via Congresswoman Lesko's web page.

Candidates may first apply for a Congressional nomination in their junior year of high school. A candidate must be a U.S. citizen, age 17 to 22 (age 17 to 24 for the Merchant Marine Academy) as of July 1 of the year entering the academy and maintain a permanent Arizona residence. If a student is under 18 years of age, the parents' permanent state of residence must be Arizona. You may also apply after completing high school. College credits are not transferable however, if you receive a nomination and an appointment, you will be tested and placed at an appropriate academic level upon entering the academy.

Strong math and sciences courses in high school help prepare students for the academy curriculum. Consideration is given to academic record, class rank, extra-curricular activities, SAT/ACT test scores and leadership experiences.

Because the standardized SAT/ACT tests are an important indicator of your academic ability, it is recommended you take them *early and as often as possible*. Each of these tests has a slightly different emphasis, so you should take both to reflect your true potential. The academy considers the highest test scores received in each category (Math and Critical Reading/English), regardless of when that score was received. If you wait until your high school senior year to take the tests, you may not have the opportunity to retake them if your scores are not at a competitive level. *At least one set of test results must be received in Congresswoman Lesko's district office by the October deadline of the year prior to entering the academy.* You may provide a photo copy of an official report or have the report sent directly by designating Congresswoman Lesko's CODE: SAT #4772, ACT #7231. *It is the applicant's responsibility to provide the test results.*

Candidates are also required to open a file with the desired academy/academies. Upon opening a file with the academy, candidates who meet the academy's academic standards are scheduled for a Candidate Fitness Assessment and a medical examination by the Department of Defense and Medical Evaluation Review Board (DoDMERB). At the time DoDMERB notifies you of the medical facility contact *you must schedule the exams as soon as possible*. It may take up to thirty days before the results are received and reviewed by DoDMERB and the academy. You must have completed your DoDMERB exams and be medically qualified by DoDMERB and by your desired academy/academies to be considered for a nomination.

A candidate file will be opened in Congresswoman Lesko's district office upon receipt of the completed application form which must include a small photo of the applicant. An official high school transcript, *including cumulative GPA and class rank, will be required*. Three letters of recommendation will be required for your file. They should be written by persons who have known you personally for at least a year and may not be from relatives. Letters should provide information about your character and integrity. References to your academic record are not necessary since that information will be obtained from your school transcript and test scores. *All letters are required to have a hand-written signature*. The application packet will include additional information and a checklist for all required items. The deadline for application and completed file varies each year but is usually early to mid-October and is shown on the instructions.

If the applicant's file with Congresswoman Lesko is complete, he/she has opened a file with the desired academy/academies, and meets the minimum competitive nomination standards, a personal interview will be scheduled. Congresswoman Lesko's Academy Screening Committee *interviews the candidates on one day only*, usually mid-November to early December.

The Academy Screening Committee recommends and submits a slate of ten nominees to each academy. It is each academy's final decision as to who will receive an appointment. It is very important to apply through as many nominating sources as possible. This will increase your opportunity to receive a nomination. *Only one nomination is required in order for an academy to offer you an appointment*.

To request an application packet, contact Congresswoman Lesko's district office at: 12515 W. Bell Rd. #104 Surprise, AZ 85383. Applicants must provide their *full* name (as it appears on their birth certificate), address, telephone number, date of birth, Social Security number, name of high school and year of graduation.

Questions? Please feel free to call Congresswoman Lesko's district office at (623) 776-7911. If requesting an application or more information via the office voice messaging system, please speak clearly and distinctly.



**U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN DEBBIE LESKO
U.S. SERVICE ACADEMIES NOMINATION APPLICATION
INSTRUCTIONS AND CHECKLIST**

Congresswoman Lesko nominates candidates from Arizona's Eighth Congressional District. A candidate must be a United States citizen, age 17-22 (age 17-24 for the Merchant Marine Academy) as of July 1 of the year entering the academy, and be a legal resident of Arizona. Candidates of the proper age may first apply for a Congressional nomination in their junior year of high school.

Congresswoman Lesko's application form is due October 16, 2020 for the class entering the academy July 2021. Note: Deadlines differ with each Congressional office.

1. Open a pre-candidate file with the academy/academies of your choice.
2. Complete and mail the enclosed **original** application form to Congresswoman Lesko's Surprise office.

A file will not be opened for you until the original application form is received.

The following items must be forwarded to Congresswoman Lesko's district office not later than October 16, 2020. Do not send any additional items, certificates, or documents, other than those listed below. Once the required items have been received by Congresswoman Lesko's office, you may update information and test scores.

3. Official high school transcript for Grades 9, 10, 11, or if in college, your final high school transcript.

Cumulative GPA and Class Rank are required.

4. SAT and/or ACT test scores. *Take these exams as early and as often as possible.* One set of test scores must be provided to Congresswoman Lesko's Surprise office *prior to the October 16, 2020 deadline.* *It is the applicant's responsibility to provide a copy of the test scores.* You may provide a photocopy of an official report or have the report sent directly by designating Congresswoman Lesko's CODE: SAT #4772, ACT #7231.

5. Three, *and only three*, letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation may not be provided by relatives of the student. **Letters must bear the hand-written signature of the author.**

6. A resume of all extra-curricular activities. Include sports, student clubs/associations, civic/religious activities, and employment.

7. Personal statement as to why you desire to attend a U.S. service academy.

To be considered for a nomination, items #2 through #7 must be sent to Congresswoman Lesko's Surprise office and *you must have a file open with the academy/academies of your choice.* If you have met the minimum competitive nomination standards (GPAs, test scores, and academies' ratings), you will be scheduled for a personal interview with members of Congresswoman Lesko's Academy Screening Committee on Saturday in early to mid-November. Applicants selected for an interview will receive a letter giving the time and place of the interview and will be required to confirm their attendance.

Congresswoman Lesko uses the *competitive* nomination method. Her Academy Screening Committee interviews and recommends a slate of nominees to each academy. When the slates of nominees have been submitted to the academies, it is the academy's final decision as to who will receive an appointment.

Academy admission inquiries should be directed to Congresswoman Lesko's Surprise office.

