



MILITARY ACADEMY NOMINATIONS – FAQ

Please take the time to read through the frequently asked questions for those seeking a Military Academy nomination.

Q: What is a nomination?

A: 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 the candidate's state
- Vice-President of the United States
- President of the United States (must meet eligibility requirements)

It is recommended to apply through each avenue in which you are eligible to maximize your chances at receiving a nomination and appointment.

Q: What are the basic eligibility requirements?

A: 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 Congressional District in which they are applying
- Skill / Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy

Q: When do I apply for a nomination?

A: The nomination application period opens April 15th of each year for those candidates who are high school juniors and will be seniors the following school year, or for those who have already graduated.

Q: What is the deadline for completing a nomination file?

A: CLOSE OF BUSINESS on OCTOBER 16.

Q: What must be included in my nomination file?

A: A complete nomination file consists of:

- Completed original application form
- Passport size photo
- Official high school transcripts
- Official SAT or ACT scores
- A resume of all extra-curricular activities
- Personal statement as to why you desire to attend a U.S. Service Academy
- Three letters of recommendation only

Q: What happens after I have completed my nomination file?

A: Congresswoman Lesko's Service Academy Nomination Board will review all completed nomination files. Those selected to move forward will receive notification of an interview mid-November. Academy Nomination Interviews will be held the first Saturday in December.

Q: What criteria is used in selecting candidates?

A: Congresswoman Lesko uses a *competitive* nomination method. 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.

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

A: 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 individual 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.

Q: Whom should I ask to write a letter of recommendation on my behalf?

A: Applicants typically seek recommendations from teachers, counselors, employers, coaches, clergy, scout leaders. We do not require a specific recommendation form; a letter is sufficient. Letters must bear the hand-written signature of the author.

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

A: 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'll receive an Appointment (an offer of admission) directly from the academy.

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

A: No. You may be nominated to multiple academies depending on how well you've competed among the pool of candidates. It's also possible to earn multiple appointments.

Q: When will I know if I have been appointed by an academy?

A: Academies will begin to notify candidates of their admission status by the end of January. All offers of appointment are generally sent out by May.