

Military Academy Nominations - FAQ

Frequently asked questions for those seeking a Military Academy Congressional Nomination.

What is a nomination?

Members of Congress may nominate applicants who meet eligibility requirements for admission to a U.S. Service Academy. A nomination is required applicants to be considered for appointment.

A candidate may seek a nomination from the following:

- A member of the U.S. House of Representatives who represents the congressional district of which the applicant resides
- Both U.S. Senators from his or her state
- 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 22nd Congressional District of New York
- **Skill/Fitness:** Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy

Who do I contact to request an application?

Nomination applications are available on Mannion.House.Gov.

When do I apply for a nomination?

The nomination application typically opens in Spring for high school juniors who will be seniors in the fall (and for other eligible applicants applying for the next year's admission cycle).

What is the deadline for completing a nomination file?

The deadline to complete a nomination file is typically in mid-October. Submit all required materials by the stated deadline to ensure your file is considered complete.

What must be included in my nomination file?

A complete nomination file consists of the following items:

- Current photo (2x2)

- Completed and signed nomination application
- High school transcript
- ACT and/or SAT results
- Resume of extracurricular activities
- Essay (500 words) stating why you want to attend
- Minimum of three letters of recommendation (one math/science, a second academic, one professional/extracurricular)

What happens after I have completed my nomination file?

After your nomination file is complete and reviewed, qualified applicants may be contacted to schedule an interview as part of the nomination selection process.

What criteria is used in selecting candidates?

Candidates are evaluated by a committee using a “whole person” approach. Factors may include academic performance, standardized test scores, leadership, extracurricular involvement, athletics/physical fitness, community service, character, and the interview.

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?

The basic eligibility requirements are similar across the service academies, but specific admissions standards and application steps can vary by academy. The U.S. Coast Guard Academy is an exception because it does not require a congressional nomination for admission. Please refer to the admission pages for each individual academy.

Who should I ask to write a letter of recommendation on my behalf?

Choose recommenders who know you well and can speak to your character, leadership, and performance. Appropriate recommenders may include:

- Teachers
 - Specifically Math or Science
- Counselors

- Employers
- Coaches
- Club Administrators
- Scout Leaders

Note: Please submit all letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes.

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

No. A nomination makes you eligible to compete for an appointment, but it does not guarantee selection. After nominations are submitted, candidates are considered among other nominees, and the final appointment decision is made by the academy based on its admissions process and available openings.

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 prior to May 1.

For any further questions you may have, please feel free to contact the Office of Congressman Mannion by calling 315-233-4333 or emailing Meghan.Brogan@mail.house.gov.