

Military Academy Nominations – Frequently Asked Questions

What is a nomination?

Members of Congress may nominate applicants to a Service Academy who meet the eligibility requirements established by law. A candidate may seek a nomination from the following sources:

- A member of the U.S. House of Representatives who represents the congressional district in which they reside.
- Both U.S. Senators from their 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 16th Congressional District of Texas.
- Skill/Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the academy.

Who do I contact to request an application?

Please visit my [Service Academy Nominations](#) website to access the TX-16 Service Academy Nomination Application. If you have difficulties accessing the form, please call my El Paso District Office at 915-541-1400 or email serviceacademy.tx16@mail.house.gov.

When do I apply for a nomination?

The nomination application period opens in May of each year. Please monitor my Service Academy Nominations webpage for updates.

What is the deadline for completing a nomination application?

The deadline for submitting a nomination application to my El Paso District Office is the first Friday of December. The deadline date is posted on my Service Academy Nominations website.



Congresswoman

VERONICA ESCOBAR

Texas' 16th Congressional District

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What must be included in my nomination application?

A complete nomination application consists of the following items:

- TX-16 Service Academy Nomination Application
- Resume outlining your extracurricular activities. See a sample resume [here](#).
- Official High School or College Transcript
- American College Testing Program (ACT) results and/or College Board Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) results. [Establish code numbers with College Board]
- 2 letters of recommendation: from a teacher, principal, or guidance counselor, and/or from an employer, coach, or extracurricular faculty advisor. Must not be from a relative. Homeschooled applicants can get a letter from someone who is related to them and has been able to speak to the candidate's academic and personal accomplishments.
- A 500-word essay
 - Prompt: 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. In a single 500-word essay, please outline why you want to attend a service academy, when you became inspired to attend a service academy, and who inspired you to pursue a path of service through our nation's military.
- 90-second introductory video. Attire is business professional with no distracting background. See a sample introductory video [here](#).
 - What to discuss: State your name, the high school or institution of higher education you attend, and your grade classification. Additionally, outline what makes your application for a nomination competitive and the characteristics that best describe you.

What happens after I have completed my nomination application?

Applicants who submit a completed nomination application will be scheduled for an interview with the Select Committee. Interviews are scheduled after the nomination deadline. My office will communicate with applicants regarding interview scheduling.

Applicants will be made aware of the nomination decision before January 31st.

What criteria are used in selecting candidates?

Nominations are based on a "whole person" evaluation. Factors such as academic achievements, extracurricular activities, leadership skills, physical aptitude, character, and motivation are taken into consideration and compared with other applicants.



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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 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 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.



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

No. You can be nominated for multiple academies depending on how well you have competed among the pool of candidates. It is possible to secure 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 between February and May of each year.

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