

Service Academy Nominations - FAQ

Frequently asked questions for those seeking a Military Academy nomination.

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 2nd 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?

The application form can be found [on this link.](#) Please contact our office at il04.militaryacademy@mail.house.gov, or call our office at (773) 475-0833 office for more specific information.

When do I apply for a nomination?

The nomination application period opens **July 1st** 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?

The deadline for submitting a nomination packet to the District Office is October 30.

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)

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

No. While many of the qualifications are similar, each academy has its own admissions guidelines. Visit the academy of your choice via the links noted on [the main page](#) of this section to learn about particular admissions qualifications.

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

Applicants typically seek recommendations from:

- Teachers
- Counselors
- Employers
- Coaches
- Clergy
- Scout Leaders

A specific recommendation form is not required. A letter of recommendation is sufficient.

What happens after I have completed my nomination file?

Applicants who submit a completed nomination file will be scheduled for an interview in late October or early November.

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.

Who conducts interviews for candidates?

A panel of veterans from the district will conduct interviews, score the materials and interview, and provide a final recommendation for the Congressman to consider.

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 notify candidates of their admission status between March and June of 2026.