

SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a nomination?

Members of Congress may nominate applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established by law. Candidates may seek a nomination from the following:

- A member of the U.S. House of Representatives to represent 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.
- Apply to the Secretary of the Army, Navy or Air Force.

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:

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Be at least 17 years old, but not have passed the 23rd birthday.
- Must reside within the boundaries of the 9th Congressional District of Florida.
- Be unmarried, not pregnant and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents.
- Must meet the medical, physical and academic requirements of the Academy.

How many Academies are there and where are they located?

There are five Service Academies:

- U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York- www.usma.edu
- U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland- www.usna.edu
- U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado- www.usafa.af.mil
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York- www.usmma.edu
- U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut- www.cga.edu *

*Please note the U.S. Coast Guard Academy does not require a congressional nomination

Who do I contact with questions or for an application?

Please contact my office via email at:

- FL09Service.Academy@mail.house.gov

When can I apply for a nomination?

The nomination application period opens March 1, 2019 for candidates who will be seniors the coming school year or who have already graduated.

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What is the deadline for completing a nomination packet?

The deadline for submitting a nomination packet to my office is by Friday, September 27, 2019.

Do I need to apply directly to the Academies as well?

Yes. Each Academy has a specific deadline which must be met if an application is to be successful. Please be sure to visit the Academy's website for specific information regarding deadlines or other application requirements.

- U.S. Military Academy - www.usma.edu
- U.S. Naval Academy - www.usna.edu
- U.S. Air Force Academy - www.usafa.af.mil
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy - www.usmma.edu
- U.S. Coast Guard Academy - www.cga.edu

What must be included in my nomination file?

Please refer to the Required Material Checklist. If you need another list, please contact Congressman Soto's District Office via email:

- FL09Service.Academy@mail.house.gov

What happens after I have completed my nomination file?

Applicants who submit a complete nomination file by Friday, September 27, 2019 will receive an email to schedule an interview with the Service Academy Review Board.

What criteria are used in selecting candidates?

Nominations are based on a "whole person" evaluation. This includes factors such as academic achievements, standardized test scores, extra-curricular activities, leadership skills, character, motivation and physical aptitude are compared with other applicants.

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 above for each Academy's particular admissions qualifications. It is not necessary to seek a nomination through Congressman Soto's office 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?

It is important that the individual writing your letter demonstrates knowledge about you. While it might seem impressive to have a high level professional construct your letter, it is more important the writer clearly knows your desire to attend an Academy. Some of the people applicants typically seek recommendations from include: teachers, counselors, employers, coaches, clergy, scout leaders, volunteer organizations, neighbors, family friends or relatives.

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Will I automatically 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 admissions (an appointment) directly from the Academy.

Can I apply to more than one Academy?

Yes. You are able to and highly encouraged to apply to more than one Academy.

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 the 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 begin to notify candidates of their admission status in February 2020. All offers of appointment are generally sent out by May.

Is there anyone associated with the Academies me or my parents can/should talk to?

Yes. We **strongly recommend** contacting your chosen academy's state admissions representatives. These individuals are a great resource to provide additional information on their application process, deadlines and to assist prospective cadets and families.

- U.S. Military Academy - <http://www.usma.edu/admissions/sitepages/contact.aspx>
- U.S. Naval Academy - <https://www.usna.edu/Admissions/BGO.php>
- U.S. Air Force Academy - <https://www.academyadmissions.com/admissions/outreach-programs/find-your-admissions-liaison-officer/>
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy - <https://www.usmma.edu/admissions/local-admissions-field-reps>

Anything else?

Yes. Some of the service Academies offer summer programs to high school juniors to provide potential candidates an insight into life at their prospective Academy. If you would like to gain more exposure to Academy life, you may consider applying for a summer program. Attending a summer program is not necessary to securing a nomination from Congressman Soto.

- U.S. Military Academy - <http://www.usma.edu/admissions/SitePages/Summer.aspx>
- U.S. Naval Academy - <https://www.usna.edu/Admissions/Programs/NASS.php#fndtn-panel1-Steps-For>
- U.S. Air Force Academy - <https://www.academyadmissions.com/admissions/outreach-programs/summer-seminar/>
- U.S. Coast Guard Academy - <http://uscga.edu/admissions2.aspx?id=88>