



Service Academy Congressional Nomination Frequently Asked Questions

What is a nomination?

- Members of Congress may nominate a limited number of 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.
 - 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 Virginia.
 - Skill / Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy.

When can I apply for a nomination?

- The nomination application period opens May 1st each year for eligible 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?

- For the Class of 2031 (2026 nomination year), all application materials must be received by the district office by October 23rd, 2026, by 5:00pm EST. **No applications received after this date will be considered for a nomination. This includes any nomination packets postmarked prior to this date that are received after October 23rd.** Please contact the Congresswoman's Virginia Beach Office for additional information.



How do I request a nomination?

- To request a nomination, please fill out an initial application on the Congresswoman's website at <https://kiggans.house.gov/service-academy-nominations>. Once your initial request is received, you will receive a formal nomination application packet via email outlining required documents that must be received to complete your application.

Who do I contact with questions about my application?

- Please contact the Virginia Beach District Office with any questions you may have about your application at (757) 364-7650.

What must be included to complete my nomination application?

- Once you complete the online form to request an initial application, you will receive an email detailing required documents to complete your application including:
 - Letters of recommendation (3)
 - High School Transcript(s)
 - College transcripts (if applicable)
 - Standardized Test Results
 - Essay
 - Resume of your accomplishments, employment history, and extracurricular activities
 - List of the service academies you are applying to, as well as the type of nominations you are applying for (Senatorial, Presidential, JROTC, etc.)
 - A recent, professional photograph of yourself (optional)

How do I submit my final nomination file?

- Hard copies of final nominations files should be sent by mail or in person to Congresswoman Kiggans' Virginia Beach office at:
283 Constitution Drive
Suite 900
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

What happens after I have completed my nomination file?

- Applicants who submit a completed nomination file will be scheduled for an in-person interview in November or December.

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.



There are five service academies:

- U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York
Admissions Office
Building 606
West Point, NY 10996
(845) 938-4041
<https://www.westpoint.edu/admissions>
- U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland
Admissions Office
52 King George St.
Annapolis, MD 21402
(410) 293-1858
<https://www.usna.edu/Admissions/>
- U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs
Admissions Office
HQ, USAFA/RR
2304 Cadet Drive Suite 2300
USAF Academy, CO 80840
(800) 443-9266
<https://www.academyadmissions.com/>
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York
Admissions Office
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 11024
(516) 726-5646
<https://www.usmma.edu/admissions>
- U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut
Admissions Office
31 Mohegan Ave.
New London, CT 06320
(800) 883-8724
<https://uscga.edu/admissions/>

Are the requirements the same for all of 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.



Along with seeking a nomination, do I have to apply for the academy?

- Yes, the academy application is separate from the nomination process. Our office only uses the candidate's information to select individuals for nomination. Each candidate is required to apply at their desired academy.

What academy is best for me?

- Each academy is different. Just like colleges and universities, the academies have differing sizes and programs. A candidate should look at class size, location, degree programs, and future intent when deciding on where to apply.

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

- Sources that applicants typically seek recommendations from include:
 - Teachers, Counselors, Employers, Coaches, Clergy members, Scout Leaders
- A specific recommendation form is not required. A letter of recommendation is sufficient.

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 admission (an appointment) directly from the 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. It is also possible to win multiple appointments. However, both of those scenarios are dependent on how competitive the pool of candidates is any given year.

Will my name be released to the media if I receive a nomination from Congresswoman Kiggans?

- Yes. By completing an application, you agree for your name will be included in a press release noting Congresswoman Kiggans' nomination selections.

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, but it may vary from one to another. All offers of appointment are generally sent out by May.