



Office of Congressman Beto O'Rourke
 United States Service Academy Nominations
 Frequently Asked Questions for the Class of 2023

Answers to frequently asked questions for those seeking admission to the United States Service Academies.

What is a nomination?

To be considered for an appointment to a service academy, an applicant must meet the eligibility requirements established by law and be nominated from a Member of the United States Senate or the House of Representatives or the Office of the President or Vice President.

What are the basic eligibility requirements?

Each nomination applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements by July 1st the year he or she is admitted to an academy:

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| Age | For the Military, Naval and Air Force Academy, you must be at least 17 years old, but not yet 23 years old on July 1st. The Merchant Marine Academy has the same minimum age requirement but accepts students who are not yet 25 years on July 1st. |
| Citizenship | Must be a U.S. Citizen |
| Marital Status | Must not be married/pregnant or have any legal obligation to support children or other dependents |
| Residence | Must reside within the 16th Congressional District of Texas to receive a nomination from Congressman Beto O'Rourke |
| Skill/Fitness | Must meet the medical and physical requirements set by the individual service academies, log on to each service academy website for more information on this. |

Who do I contact to request an application?

Mr. Richard Cerros is the U.S. Service Academy Liaison for Congressman O'Rourke. Check our website under the "Academy Nominations" link you can find our application or you can always contact our El Paso District Office via:

Mail:

Office of Congressman Beto O'Rourke (TX-16)
 ATTN: Richard Cerros, U.S. Service Academy Liaison
 Anson Mills Building, 303 North Oregon Street, Suite 210, El Paso, Texas 79901

Email:

ricardo.cerros@mail.house.gov

Phone:

(915) 541-1400

Fax:

(915) 541-1407

Website:

orourke.house.gov

When do I apply for a nomination?

The application period opens every year in late spring, check our official social media outlets and our website for more up-to-date information, including service academy events.

What is the deadline for completing a nomination file?

The deadline for submitting a nomination packet to the El Paso District Office is **Monday, October 22nd 2018 at 5:00 PM.**

What if I miss the deadline?

Our application deadline is set later than the average Congressional Office. Since the nomination process is very competitive, and to be fair to all applicants, if you fail to submit your completed application packet by the deadline, you will not be considered for an academy nomination.

What must be included in my nomination file?

A complete nomination application consists of the following items:

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| Current photo (2" x 3") |
| High school/college transcript, ACT results and/or SAT results (College Code: SAT 6799 / ACT 7697) |
| The completed "U.S. Service Academy Nomination Application" from our office |
| An essay |
| A minimum of three recommendation forms (letters of recommendation attached to the form) |

Office of Congressman Beto O'Rourke Texas's Sixteenth District

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What happens after I have completed my nomination application?

Completed applications that have been submitted to our District Office on time will be reviewed and the candidate will be notified, regardless of the committee's decision, by early November.

What criteria are used in selecting candidates?

Nominations are based on a "whole person" evaluation similar to what the service academies use. Factors such as academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, leadership skills, physical aptitude, character and motivation are taken into consideration and compared with other applicants. To objectively select the most qualified nominees for each vacancy, we have appointed a U.S. Service Academy Nomination Committee.

How many academies are there and how can I contact them?

There are five service academies, four of the five require a nomination, in no particular order:

U.S. Military Academy Admissions Office
606 Thayer Road, West Point, New York 10996
1 (845) 938-4041
usma.edu

U.S. Air Force Academy Admissions Office
2304 Cadet Drive, USAF Academy, Colorado 80840
1 (719) 333-3804
usafa.af.mil

U.S. Coast Guard Academy Admissions Office
31 Mohegan Avenue, New London, Connecticut 06320
1 (800) 883-8724
cga.edu

U.S. Naval Academy Admissions Office
121 Blake Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21402
1 (410) 293-1858
usna.edu

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Admissions Office
300 Steamboat Road, Kings Point, New York 11024
1 (516) 726-5646
usmma.edu

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. Nominations are required for all but the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, to which appointments are made on the basis of an annual nationwide competition.

Who should I ask to complete a recommendation form on my behalf?

Some of the people applicants typically seek recommendations from include teachers, scout leaders, coaches, counselors and employers. If the individual who is filling out a recommendation form on your behalf would also like to write a recommendation letter, that individual can and should submit both statements together.

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

No, a Congressional Nomination is not a guarantee of admission. The final decision to appoint will be made by the U.S. Service Academy itself following the final review of your application, medical and academic qualifications by the respective U.S. Service Academy Admission's Board.

What if I am interested in more than one Service Academy? Will I be limited to a single nomination?

No, you can be nominated to multiple Service Academies depending on how well you rank in this year's pool of candidates. Therefore, it is also possible to be awarded multiple appointments. The application asks you to rank your academies of choice by order of preference.

What does a typical Nominations & Admissions Cycle look like?

| Spring Junior Year | Summer | Fall Senior Year | Spring Senior Year | Summer |
|------------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------|
| Begin taking the SAT/ACT exams | Summer Seminars at the U.S Service Academies | Initial Admissions Selection Board Meetings | All candidates are notified of Nomination Status in January | Induction Day |
| Open a service academy application | Nomination applications open | Nomination Application deadline in December | Admissions Application deadlines, check academy websites | |
| Summer seminar applications open | | U.S. Service Academy Information Night | All candidates are notified of admissions status | |