



Congressman
RUBÉN HINOJOSA
Representing the 15th District of Texas

114th Congress



UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION PACKET 2015-2016



**CLASS OF 2020
APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

Monday, November 16, 2015

Congressman Rubén Hinojosa

RE: Service Academies

2864 W. Trenton Road

Edinburg, Texas 78539

Telephone: (956) 682-5545

Fax: (956) 682-0141

Website: <http://hinojosa.house.gov/>

Email: academy.hinojosa@mail.house.gov



*****Please read the entire packet before completing the application.*****



UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION PACKET CHECKLIST

- 1) _____ **COMPLETED NOMINATION APPLICATION**
- 2) _____ **PERSONAL STATEMENT**
(500 words or fewer essay discussing the reasons why you are interested in attending a U. S. Service Academy)
- 3) _____ **LIST OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**
(Resume format- A summary of your extracurricular activities and length of time involved in each activity, employment experience, honors, awards and other personal achievements Etc..)
- 4) _____ **OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT**
(Inform school to include class rank and GPA on your transcripts and send them to the address below. Transcripts have to be official which usually includes a signature and/or school seal.)
- 5) _____ **SAT AND/OR ACT TEST SCORES**
(Score code for SAT is 6175 and Representative Hinojosa as score recipient. ACT score code is 7696.)
- 6) _____ **3 LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**
(Some of the individuals 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.)
- 7) _____ **CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH (WALLET SIZED) OF YOURSELF WITH YOUR NAME WRITTEN ON THE BACK.**
- 8) _____ **SIGNED PRIVACY ACT LAW FORM** (This gives Congressman Hinojosa Authorization to act on your behalf)

ALL THE ABOVE INFORMATION MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE EDINBURG DISTRICT OFFICE NO LATER THAN MONDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2015 AT 5:00 P.M.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE SERVICE ACADEMIES SHOULD BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

Congressman Rubén Hinojosa
ATTN: Adrian De La Rosa/ U. S. Service Academies
Edinburg District Office
2864 W. Trenton Rd.
Edinburg, Texas 78539
Email Address: academy.hinojosa@mail.house.gov

CONGRESSMAN RUBÉN HINOJOSA
15th Congressional District Offices
2864 W. Trenton • Edinburg, Texas 78539 • (956) 682-5545 / (956) 682-0141 fax

Date: _____

Full Name of Constituent: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone No.: _____ Other No: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security #: _____

Email: _____

☐

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION: _____ Retirement Benefits _____ SSI
Appeal Claim # _____

☐

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION - VA Claim #: _____
Military Branch: _____ Date of Entry: _____
Type of Discharge: _____ Date of Separation: _____

☐

IMMIGRATION

Name of Petitioner: _____

Beneficiary Information:

Name: _____

Other Names Used: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Social Security #: _____

Immigration Alien #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Date of Entry: _____ Port of Entry: _____

SRC #: _____

Immigration Form Filed (*specify where applicable*):

_____ I-129: *petition for a fiancé(e)*

_____ I-130: *petition for alien relatives*

_____ I-140: *petition for foreign workers, i.e., employment-based immigration*

_____ I-751: *petition for removal of conditional residence, e.g., married individuals and children*

_____ N-400: *application for naturalization*

_____ Other BCIS form (*specify where applicable*) _____

Where Filed: _____



OTHER TYPE OF CASE: (specify) _____ Military Academy Nomination

This will authorize Congressman Rubén Hinojosa to act on my behalf in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act.

Constituent (Print Name)

Constituent (Signature)

Privacy Act Law Form



UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS FACT SHEET FOR 2015-2016

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Since the Academies are able to award more appointments than are provided by Congressional vacancies and other categories, no candidate who is highly qualified needs more than one nomination -- whether Principal, Alternate or Competitive -- to obtain an appointment. By the same token, no candidate who fails to meet Academy standards will be benefitted by having multiple nominations. In order that more applicants will have an opportunity to be reviewed by the Academies, please let me know immediately if you are nominated by another authority.

Certain information is required as outlined below in order for you to be considered as an applicant. It is your responsibility to submit this information and to keep it updated. The deadline for receipt of information is **November 16, 2015** because there must be adequate time to assess each candidate's qualifications. Although information received after the deadline is acceptable until the selection of nominees is complete, candidates whose files are incomplete when nominations are made cannot be given consideration.

II. REQUIREMENTS

A. **Residency** - Applicants must be a legal resident of the 15th Congressional District.

B. **Application Form** - The enclosed application must be completed and returned promptly. Formal candidacy is established in my office upon receipt of the application. It is not necessary for you to send all required information at once, and you should not wait to file your application if transcripts or test scores are not immediately available. If your application is not received within a reasonable time after your initial inquiry, it will be presumed that you are no longer interested in pursuing a nomination.

C. **Recommendation Form** - Three letters of Recommendation must be submitted.

D. **Transcript** - An official transcript of

your high school record and class rank must be submitted. This transcript must show your final junior grades and numerical class rank (percentile ranks are not acceptable). If you apply before this information is available, it is your responsibility to request your guidance counselor to send an up-to-date transcript and to keep your records current.

E. **College Boards** - The SAT or ACT are required entrance examinations by the Service Academies for candidates admitted to one of the Service Academies. Applicants are responsible for registration for tests and for requesting scores to be sent to the Academy/Academies and to my office. **Direct SAT scores to my office by indicating 6175 as the code and Representative Hinojosa as score recipient on the CEEB form. To direct ACT scores to my office, use the code 7696.** If you are unable to include my office in your original choices for test reports, send my office a copy of the report you receive in order to save time and the additional report fee. If you submit more than one set of scores, the higher scores will be counted.

F. **Qualifying Medical Examination** - the individual Academies will recommend the scheduling of medical examinations to the Department of Defense Medical Examinations Review Board after receipt of the pre-candidate questionnaire which is used to open a pre-admission file at the academy. There is no cost to the candidate for this examination. Be sure to mail the appropriate yellow, blue or green cards as soon as possible to the appropriate academy/academies.

G. **Leadership** - Leadership potential and physical fitness are judged from the information provided on your Application Form. This information should be kept up to date. Unlike civilian colleges, the Service Academies place strong emphasis on physical training. In addition, the academies like civilian colleges and universities, place a high premium on leadership and extra-curricular activities. Therefore,

consideration must be given to each candidate's proven ability in these areas.

III. TYPE OF NOMINATION -

A Principal Candidate with Numbered Alternates will be selected for nomination to each vacancy, with the exception of the Merchant Marine Academy. At the Merchant Marine Academy, candidates will be selected for nomination to compete for vacancies allocated to the state. Under the Principal with Numbered Alternates method, which I use, the Principal nominee is designated and Alternate Nominees are ranked in order of preference by the Member of Congress. If fully qualified, the Principal nominee receives the appointment to fill the vacancy. NOTE: there are no Congressional nominations to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

IV. BASIS FOR SELECTION

Selections are made competitively on the basis of a composite of academic factors and leadership potential, extra-curricular activities, physical fitness, and recommendations. The following are included:

- ☐ School records, class rank and grade point average.
- ☐ Extra-curricular activities.
- ☐ College Board Scores. Normally, a competitive candidate will have SAT scores above 560 on verbal and math, or ACT scores above 23 on English and 24 on math and will stand in the upper fifth of their class. The higher your scores and class ranking, the greater will be your chances for nomination assuming qualification in the remaining areas of consideration.
- ☐ One of the most important considerations in the selection of nominees is motivation -- the candidate's desire to attend an Academy. It is also the most difficult to measure. To an extent, motivation can be judged by a candidate's diligence in completing his file, which is one reason those with incomplete files are not considered for nomination. In addition, candidates are invited to write an essay on their reasons for wanting to attend an Academy. The essay is optional, but it could be most helpful to your candidacy.

Service Academy Contact Information

U.S. Air Force Academy
Admissions Office
Colorado Springs, CO 80840-5651
(800) 443-9266
www.usafa.edu

U.S. Naval Academy
Admissions Office
USNA Admission Office
117 Decatur Rd.
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018
(800) 822-2769
www.usna.edu

U.S. Military Academy
Admissions Office
606 Thayer Road
West Point, New York 10996-1797
(888) 249-7707
www.usma.edu

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Admissions Office
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699
(866) 546-4788
www.usmma.edu

United States Coast Guard
Admissions Office
New London, CT 06320-4195
(203) 444-8501
www.uscga.edu

*Note: Congressional nominations are no longer required (nor are they submitted) for the United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA).

GOOD LUCK!!!

ALL CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE SERVICE ACADEMIES SHOULD BE SENT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

Congressman Rubén Hinojosa
RE: U. S. Service Academies
2864 W. Trenton Rd.
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Telephone and email inquiries may be directed to: Office of Congressman Rubén Hinojosa
Edinburg District Office
(956) 682-5545
M-F, 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Academy.hinojosa@mail.house.gov



APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO A UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMY

I am requesting nomination to #1 _____ #2 _____

Full Legal Name: _____

Common Name Used: _____

LEGAL ADDRESS

Street or Box Number: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ Day (____) _____ Evening

County: _____ Age: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Any Military Service? _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place: _____

PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIAN

Father's Name: _____ Phone : _____

Occupation: _____

Street or Box Number: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Occupation: _____

Street or Box Number (if not the same as above): _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

If either of your parents are career military officers, please state the branch of service and rank:

High School: _____ Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____ Phone Number: _____

Counselor: _____ Principal: _____

Year of Graduation: _____ GPA: _____

Rank in class _____ of _____ students.

If you have attended college, where? _____ How many hours _____

Please submit your ACT and/or SAT scores.

I have not take the required tests, but plan to on: _____

I am also seeking a nomination through _____

Indicate all extra-curricular activities including community service, volunteer work and hobbies.

Include awards and honors: (use additional sheet of paper).

Indicate all athletic activities including awards and honors: (use additional sheet of paper).

In approximately 500 words or less, please state why you want to attend one of the U.S. Service Academies. (use a separate sheet of paper).

Additional Information

Name of "hometown" newspaper: _____

Do you give your permission to use your name in a press release after receiving a nomination or appointment? Yes _____ No _____

Please read before signing: I have read the information sheet explaining nominating procedure and am familiar with his requirements. I certify that I am a legal resident of the State of Texas and reside in the 15th Congressional District. **If I have not submitted all necessary data by the Monday November 16, 2015 at 5:00 pm deadline, I understand that I will not be given consideration for a nomination.**

Signature _____ Date: _____

MAIL APPLICATION TO:

Congressman Ruben Hinojosa

ATTN: Adrian De La Rosa/Service Academies

Edinburg District Office

2864 W. Trenton Road

Edinburg, Texas 78539

OR EMAIL APPLICATION TO:

Academy.hinojosa@mail.house.gov

****Once nominees are selected, nominations will be submitted to the Service Academies, which will determine which nominees will receive offers of appointment.****



UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 15th Congressional District of Texas.

Who do I contact to request an application?

Contact Adrian De La Rosa in my District Office in Edinburg at (956) 682-5545 or at Academy.hinojosa@mail.house.gov to request a nomination packet.

When do I apply for a nomination?

My nomination application period opens May 15th 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 MY EDINBURG DISTRICT OFFICE IS MONDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2015.

What must be included in my nomination file?

A complete nomination file consists of the following items:

- High school transcript, class rank and GPA
- 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)
- Three letters of recommendation

What happens after I have completed my nomination file?

Your file will be reviewed for completeness. You will be notified between mid-December and mid-January if you have received a nomination.

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.

I use the Competitive Nomination Method which is the method favored by the academies. I submit to an academy an unranked slate of up to ten nominees for each vacancy. The candidates are then ranked in order of merit in accordance with the specific academy's system.

How many academies are there?

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. www.usafa.edu
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York. www.usmma.edu
- U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut. www.uscga.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. 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 USCGA 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

I do not require a specific recommendation form. 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 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 begin to notify candidates of their admission status in February. All offers of appointment are generally sent out by May.

QUESTIONS? Call the Office of Congressman Rubén Hinojosa, Edinburg District Office, at 956-682-5545. Or, email at: Academy.hinojosa@mail.house.gov.