

# Military Academy Nominations FAQ

## What is a service academy?

United States military academies provide undergraduate education and training for commissioned officers in the military. There are five service academies.

- **U.S. Military Academy** at West Point, New York
- **U.S. Naval Academy** at Annapolis, Maryland
- **U.S. Air Force Academy** at Colorado Springs, Colorado
- **U.S. Merchant Marine Academy** at Kings Point, New York
- **U.S. Coast Guard Academy** at New London, Connecticut

## What are the basic eligibility requirements for admission?

Applicants to a service academy in California's 36<sup>th</sup> congressional district must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1st of the year of admission to an academy:

- Be at least 17 years old, but not have passed the 23rd birthday (25 for the Merchant Marine Academy)
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Must be unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents
- Must reside within California's 36th Congressional District
- Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy.

## How do I apply for admission?

To seek admission to a service academy, contact the academy you wish to attend to request a pre-candidate questionnaire and inquire about their admissions process. Specific information on the requirements of each school is listed on their website and you must apply directly to the institution of your choice.

Applicants who seek attendance at a military academy or the Merchant Marine Academy must also be nominated. The U.S. Coast Guard Academy does not require a nomination.

## What is a nomination?

Members of Congress may nominate applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established by law. In addition to applying for a nomination from Congressman Ruiz, you can also apply to the following individuals for a nomination:

- Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer

- President Barack Obama, who nominates children of career military personnel, deceased or disabled veterans, military or civilian personnel in missing status, and Medal of Honor Recipients
- Vice President Joseph Biden, who nominates five individuals from across the United States per year
- The Secretary of each military department, Army, Navy and Air Force, who nominates members of regular military, reserve components, and participants in the ROTC.

### **How do I apply for a nomination from Dr. Ruiz?**

You may apply for a nomination by submitting an application file by October 16, 2015 to my district office at 43875 Washington St, STE F, Palm Desert, CA 92211.

Your application file must include the following:

- An application. Click here to download the required application form.
- A copy of your high school transcript.
- A personal essay of 500 words or less, describing why you want to attend a service academy and the goals you have for your military career.
- ACT and/or SAT test results. (It is recommended that you take both tests and submit your results).
- A resume detailing your high school extra-curricular activities, community service, work experience, and/or internship experiences and awards.
- Two letters of recommendation, preferably from a teacher or advisor that can attest to your educational skills and abilities. It is recommended that you seek a letter of recommendation from persons other than family members.
- A photograph of yourself with your name printed on the back.

Please do not submit this information individually but instead submit a complete application file only to our office.

### **What happens after I have submitted my nomination file?**

Applicants who submit a completed nomination application and the required materials will be scheduled for an interview between mid-November and early December.

### **What criteria is used in selecting candidates?**

Nominations are based on a "whole person" evaluation. Factors such as academic achievements, extracurricular activities, leadership skills, physical aptitude, character and motivation are taken into consideration and compared with other applicants.

### **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 above 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Where do I send my application file for a nomination from Congressman Ruiz?**

You should send your application file by mail to:

Office of Congressman Ruiz  
Attn. Tony Aguilar  
43875 Washington St. Ste. F  
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Please do not submit parts of your application and materials individually. Only complete applications will be considered.