

# Service Academy Nomination Fact Sheet

An appointment to the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, or U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is a significant achievement. Acceptance of an appointment requires at least a nine-year service obligation; four years at a service academy and five years of active duty service.

**Eligibility.** To be eligible for appointment, you must be an American citizen, between the ages of 17 and 22 as of July 1 of the year you would enter an academy. The United States Merchant Marine Academy extends their age eligibility to 25 years old. Further, you must not be married or pregnant, and you must not have any legal obligation to support children or other dependents. To apply for a nomination through one of our offices, you must be a legal resident of Vermont. If you are not certain that your legal domicile is in the state of Vermont, please contact the congressional delegation's Vermont offices before submitting an application.

**Application.** You must apply directly to each service academy that you are interested in attending. Each service academy has its own application requirements and deadlines which must be met if an application is to be successful. Application information can be found on each Academy's website:

United States Naval Academy  
USNA Candidate Guidance Office  
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018  
<http://www.usna.edu/Admissions>

United States Air Force Academy  
Admissions Office  
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5025  
<http://academyadmissions.com>

United States Military Academy  
Admissions Office  
600 Thayer Road  
West Point, NY 10996-9902  
<http://admissions.usma.edu>

United States Merchant Marine Academy  
Office of Admissions  
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699  
<http://www.usmma.edu/admissions/>

United States Coast Guard Academy  
Admissions Office  
New London, CT 06320  
<http://www.uscga.edu/admissions>

Please note that many parts of the application process are time-consuming. This includes the physical aptitude test, the medical fitness exam, and the ACT/SAT. For this reason, the congressional delegation recommends students start the application process in the spring of their junior year.

**Applicant Evaluation by Service Academies.** Each academy uses a questionnaire to make an initial assessment of an applicant's potential for appointment. Soon after the applicant returns the questionnaire, the admissions office will provide the applicant with an evaluation of the applicant's demonstrated ability to meet admissions standards. An applicant who meets the standards is declared a candidate; those who do not initially meet the standards may submit

additional test scores or information to the academy for re-evaluation. The results of this evaluation are provided to Members of Congress to assist in screening the applicants from their district. The applicant must provide the following information when submitting the questionnaire: academic standardized test scores (SAT, ACT), rank in class and grade point average, Social Security number, and participation in high school extracurricular activities. Be sure to complete a pre-candidate questionnaire for each academy you are interested in attending.

**Congressional Nomination.** All service academies, except the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, require a political nomination. The most common type of political nomination is a congressional one. Each Senator or Representative can make a certain number of nominations each year to fill their appointment vacancies at each academy. As the nomination process is very competitive, we encourage students to apply for a nomination from all three congressional offices in Vermont. Use the Vermont Congressional Nomination Checklist as a guide on what materials each office requires to complete an application.

The complete nomination application requirements, as well as the addresses to send materials to, can be found on the website of each congressional office. *Please note that all of your application materials must be received by 5pm on December 1st. If December 1st falls on a weekend, materials are due the preceding Friday.*

U.S. Representative Peter Welch

<https://welch.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations>

U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy

<https://www.leahy.senate.gov/services/academy/>

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders

<http://www.sanders.senate.gov/services/academies/>

**Non-congressional Nomination.** In addition to a congressional nomination, you may also qualify for nomination through other sources, including:

- *President Donald J. Trump:* nominates children of career military personnel, deceased or disabled veterans, military or civilian personnel in missing status, and Medal of Honor recipients;
- *Vice President Michael R. Pence:* nominates five individuals from across the United States per year; and
- *The Secretary of the Army, Navy, or Air Force:* nominates members of regular military, reserve components, and participants in the ROTC.

Further information regarding application procedures for these non-congressional nominations is available through each academy's website. Applying for more than one nomination could increase your chances of securing a nomination. More than one nomination, however, is not required to gain an appointment. Please note that the United States Merchant Marine Academy only accepts congressional nominations.

**Contact** the Vermont delegation offices if you have any questions about the application process.

Senator Patrick Leahy  
(802) 863-2525

Senator Bernard Sanders  
(802) 862-0697

Representative Peter Welch  
(802) 652-2450