

U.S. Service Academy Nomination Packet



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD,
ELEMENTARY, AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

RANKING MEMBER OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NUTRITION AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK, DAIRY,
AND POULTRY

June 15, 2026

Dear Prospective Applicants and Family,

Thank you for your interest in seeking a nomination for an appointment to the service academies, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. These respected institutions build, educate, train, and inspire future leaders of our military to have rewarding careers as commissioned officers and beyond. As an aspiring candidate, I applaud your desire to serve our nation.

The nomination process is fiercely competitive. Each congressional office receives a limited number of nominations, and only those who submit all required materials on time will be considered. Additional eligibility requirements can be found [here](#). Successful applicants have a broad academic background, the ability to pass a physical aptitude test, and strong leadership potential.

It is a privilege to nominate outstanding young adults from the Fifth Congressional District to attend one of the U.S. military academies. The deadline to apply is October 15, 2026. Should you have any questions on the nomination process or about the service academies, please contact my office by phone 860-223-8412 or by email at CT05ServiceAcademy@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Jahana Hayes
Member of
Congress

General Information

Please read the following packet carefully. Should you have any questions, please contact the Office of Congresswoman Jahana Hayes (the office) **by phone at 860-223-8412 or by email at CT05ServiceAcademy@mail.house.gov**. 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 distinct and rare honor. Acceptance of an academy appointment requires at least a nine-year service obligation, including four years at an academy and five years of active-duty service. Note: a nomination is not required for appointment to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Eligibility: To be eligible for appointment, you must be a United States citizen, at least 17 years old and not yet 23 years old on July 1 of the year you enter an academy (25 years old for United States Merchant Marine Academy). 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 my office, you must also be a legal resident of the 5th Congressional District of Connecticut. If you are not certain that your legal domicile is in Connecticut's 5th District, address verification can be requested through the office. All applications must be typed. Handwritten applications will not be accepted.

Nomination: The nomination process is very competitive. In addition to applying with the office, candidates are encouraged to apply for a nomination from the Connecticut Senators who can also nominate qualified applicants to the academies. Applying to more than one congressional office increases the chances of securing a nomination. More than one nomination, however, is neither required nor beneficial in securing an appointment. If a nomination is received from another official, please notify the office immediately.

If interested in attending the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, and U.S. Air Force Academy, candidates may also qualify for nomination through other sources, including:

- the President who nominates children of career military personnel, deceased or disabled veterans, military or civilian personnel in missing status, and Medal of Honor recipients; and
- the Vice President who 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.

In addition to a nomination, candidates must also apply directly to each service academy. Upon contacting this office, candidates should also request admissions information directly from each academy to which they plan to apply, by writing to them at the following addresses:

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/>

Evaluation Criteria: The academies consider evidence of character, scholarship, leadership, physical aptitude, medical fitness, personal goals, and motivation, in performing a “whole person” evaluation of each nominee. My office uses the same criteria to determine nominations.

Character: Critical in the evaluation of a candidate is a positive determination of the candidate’s character. Absence of good moral character is cause for disqualification. Candidates are considered to have good moral character unless evidence exists to suggest otherwise.

Scholarship: Each element of a candidate’s academic record including complete high school or college transcript, class standing, and either the SAT or ACT score is carefully evaluated by our Service Academy Admissions Board.

Leadership: Participation and achievement in organized athletics, student body and class government, clubs and extracurricular activities, scouting, state, local, religious, long-term employment or other community related activities demonstrate evidence of leadership potential.

Physical Aptitude: Fitness tests are designed to determine each candidate’s readiness to undertake the rigorous athletic and physical programs at each of the academies. Each academy also has its own test requirements. Results of the examination are evaluated, assigned a numerical score, and included in the whole-person evaluation by West Point. The Air Force, Naval, and Merchant Marine academies evaluate the results on a pass-or-fail basis.

Medical Fitness: A candidate who meets minimum scholastic standards will be scheduled to take a qualifying medical examination at a military or civilian contract facility near the candidate’s home. Although medical qualification standards vary among the academies, only one exam is required. Different tests may be necessary, however, depending upon the academy. Scheduling and evaluation of the exam are arranged by the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB).

Candidate questions regarding medical exam results should be directed to:
DODMERB 8034 Edgerton Drive Suite 132 USAF Academy, Colorado 80840-2200 (719) 333-3562

Medical scheduling and evaluation may take from six weeks to four months to complete.

Motivation: Motivation is an intangible quality and difficult to evaluate; however, since it is most frequently the factor that determines an appointee’s success or failure at a service academy, every effort is made to gauge a candidate’s motivation. An attempt to measure motivation may be made through observation of the candidate’s interest level in attending an academy and serving as an officer in the armed forces. Motivation may also be measured through an evaluation of correspondence, personal contacts, and care with which application materials are prepared.

Applicant Evaluation by Service Academies: Each academy uses a questionnaire to make an initial assessment of an applicant's potential for appointment. The results of this evaluation are provided by each academy to Members of Congress to assist in the screening process. Upon completion of the questionnaire, the admissions office will provide the applicants with an evaluation of their demonstrated ability to meet admissions standards. An applicant who meets the standards is declared a candidate; those who do not meet the standards may submit additional test scores or information to the academy for re-evaluation.

The applicant must provide the following information: academic standardized test scores (SAT, ACT), rank in class and grade point average, Social Security number, and participation in high school extracurricular activities. A pre-candidate questionnaire must be completed for each academy in which you are interested.

Contact Information: Please address questions and correspondence regarding your application for a nomination to:

The Office of Congresswoman Jahana Hayes
108 Bank Street, 2nd Floor
Waterbury, CT 06702
Phone: 860-223-8412
Email: CT05ServiceAcademy@mail.house.gov

Deadline: 5:00 PM on Thursday, October 15, 2026

Required Documents/Document Checklist

- ✓ Nomination Application (pages 8 – 14 of this packet)
- ✓ Copy of high school transcripts, including GPA
- ✓ Transcripts of any college coursework taken outside of high school
- ✓ Official copy of SAT or ACT scores
 - These scores are often included in the transcript. If not, please submit a copy of the results with the application or arrange for the scores to be sent to the office using the ID numbers: SAT 3466, ACT 7313
- ✓ 3 letters of recommendation
 - One academic reference from a teacher, principal, or guidance counselor
 - One from an employer, coach, or extracurricular activity advisor
 - One from any individual not related to the applicant

FULL APPLICATION IS DUE:

Thursday, October 15, 2026, by 5:00PM

Submit completed application and materials:

<https://hayes.house.gov/military-academy-nominations-form>

Questions or concerns:

860-223-8412

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