

2019 Service Academy Nomination Packet

THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN JAHANA HAYES

Questions?

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April 5, 2019

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the service academies. I ask that you review this packet in its entirety. If you decide to move forward with requesting a nomination for an appointment from my office, you will be part of my very first group of applicants!

Your interest in this process alone illustrates that you are a highly motivated, well-rounded, service oriented young person. Please know, if this journey doesn't end with an acceptance letter from a service academy, there are many other ways to access higher education through military service such as via an ROTC program or the Connecticut National Guard. My staff will be happy to provide you with a comprehensive list of this information if you're interested.

If accepted, you will have a unique opportunity to develop physically, ethically, and intellectually while building a foundation for an exciting, challenging, and rewarding career as a military officer in the service of our nation. Connecticut students are traditionally very successful at the academies, and I'm pleased to do my part to ensure that the communities of the 5th Congressional District continue to provide some of the next generation's outstanding military leaders.

A congressional nomination is required for students wishing to enter the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY; the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD; the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO; and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, NY. Successful applicants will have a broad academic background, the ability to pass a physical aptitude test, and strong leadership potential. An applicant must also be a U.S. citizen, a high school graduate between the ages of 17 and 23, unmarried, have no dependents, and be of high moral character. Acceptance of a service academy appointment requires at least a nine-year service obligation, including four years at an academy and five years of active duty service. If you are interested in being considered for a service academy nomination, you must apply to me at my office by October 21, 2019 to be considered for the class entering the service academies in July, 2020. Please contact my district office at 860-223-8412 with any questions.

As I'm sure you already know, I am given a limited number of nominations each school year. No matter the outcome of this process, I know you will go on to serve our country (both inside and outside of the United States Military) with your unique skills.

Sincerely,

Jahana Hayes
United States Representative

General Information

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.

Eligibility: To be eligible for appointment, you must be an American 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 Connecticut's 5th Congressional District. If you are not certain that your legal domicile is in Connecticut's 5th, call my office and request address verification.

Nomination: The nomination process is very competitive. I urge you to apply for a nomination from me as well as from our Senators who can nominate qualified applicants to the four service academies. Applying for more than one nomination increases your chances of securing a nomination. More than one nomination, however, is neither required nor of assistance in gaining an appointment. **If another authority nominates you, please notify me so that I may allow other candidates the opportunity for nomination.** If you are interested in attending the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, and U.S. Air Force Academy, you may also qualify for nomination through other sources, including-

- President Donald J. Trump, 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 Michael R. Pence, who nominates five individuals from across the United States per year; and
- The Secretary of the Army, Navy, or Air Force, who nominates members of regular military, reserve components, and participants in the ROTC.

A nomination is only one of the requirements for matriculation at one of our nation's service academies. You must also apply directly to each service academy individually. At the same time you contact this office, you should also request admissions information from each academy to which you 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 Military Academy
Admissions Office
600 Thayer Road West Point, NY 10996-9902
<http://admissions.usma.edu>

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

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 each nominee’s “whole-person” evaluation. These are also the criteria I use to determine nominations.

Character: Critical in the course of evaluating 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 is carefully evaluated by a service academy’s admissions board. The elements evaluated include a complete high school record (and college record, when applicable), class standing, and either the SAT or ACT scores. All strengths and weaknesses in a candidate’s academic background are considered.

Leadership: Participation and achievement in organized athletics, student body and class government, clubs and class extracurricular activities, scouting, boys or girls state, and church or other community-related activities demonstrate evidence of leadership potential. **Candidates who have found it necessary to work to provide family support are considered to have demonstrated desirable leadership potential.**

Physical Aptitude: Measuring strength, endurance, agility, and coordination, the academies’ fitness tests are designed to determine each candidate’s readiness to undertake the rigorous athletic and physical education program at one of the academies. Each academy 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 service academy 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). Candidates who have questions about their medical exam results should direct them to:

DODMERB
8034 Edgerton Drive Suite
132 USAF Academy, Colorado 80840-2200
(719) 333-3562

Medical scheduling and evaluation are time-consuming processes, especially if consultation, re-testing, or corrective action is required. The process may take from six weeks to four months.

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, I make every effort 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 them in screening their applicants. 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 meet the standards at that point may later 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. Be sure to complete a pre-candidate questionnaire for each academy in which you are interested.

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

The Office of Congresswoman Jahana Hayes
Attn: Kayla Briere
108 Bank Street, 2nd Floor
Waterbury, CT 06702

Or
Call: 860-223-8412
Email: kayla.briere@mail.house.gov

Deadline: October 21, 2019 is the deadline for applications.

Applying for Admission to the United States Coast Guard Academy: The Coast Guard Academy (USCGA) is the only United States service academy that does not require a nomination for appointment. For information about the USCGA, you may write to:

United States Coast Guard Academy
Admissions Office
New London, CT 06320
<http://admissions.uscga.edu/i2e/admissions>

Required Documents/ Document Checklist

- A Nomination Application (pages 7-10 of this packet)
- A copy of your high school transcripts, including your GPA, the size of your class, and your ranking within that class. If you have taken any college coursework outside of your high school, please include transcripts for those classes as well.
- An official copy of your SAT or ACT scores: *Submit all available scores. These scores are often included on your transcript. If this is not the case, please submit a copy of your results with your application or arrange from them to be sent to our office.*
- 3 letters of recommendation: one from a teacher, principal, or guidance counselor; one from an employer, coach, or extracurricular faculty advisor; and one from any person of your choice who is not related to you.

Once you have checked all 4 of the boxes above, your “full application” will be complete. **Wait until you have everything together and mail one, “full application” to my office by October 21st, 2019 by 11:59PM.** In person submissions will be accepted. My office is open from 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday and closed on some federal holidays*.

Your full application is due:

Monday, October 21st, 2019 at 11:59PM

Your full application should be mailed to my Waterbury office:

The Office of Congresswoman Jahana Hayes

Attn: Kayla Briere

108 Bank Street, 2nd Floor

Waterbury, CT 06702

860-223-8412

Electronic submissions will not be accepted. If your application is postmarked by October 21, 2019 and arrives to my after that time but before the interview process has begun, it **will be accepted. If your application has not been mailed by October 14, 2019, I recommended that you submit a hard copy to my office in-person to avoid any delay.*

Nomination Application

Please complete and return this form. Type or print neatly. Fill out all information completely. If you don't have information for a specific section, include a statement in that section as to why. Leaving a section empty may adversely affect your chances for nomination.

Section 1 – Demographic Information

Full Name (Last, First, Middle):

Legal Guardian's Name and Address:

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth:

School Principal or Academic Dean and Contact Information:

Permanent Mailing Address (Number, Street, City, State, and Zip):

Date of Graduation: _____

Are you a United States citizen? (Please circle)

Yes

No

Phone Number: _____

Temporary Address (If different from above):

Are you a 5th District Resident? (Please circle)

Yes

No

If not, please state connection:

Social Security Number: _____

Names and Addresses of all High Schools and/or Colleges Attended (include month and year of graduation):

Previous School/ University #1: _____

Previous School/ University #2: _____

Previous School/ University #3: _____

Previous School/ University #4: _____

Month and year you are requesting nomination: _____

Which of the academies are you interested in attending? Please number according to your preference. You will be considered only for those academies for which you have indicated an interest, and in the order in which you have ranked them below.

AIR FORCE _____ MERCHANT MARINE _____ NAVAL _____ MILITARY _____

Have you requested that a pre-candidate file be initiated for you at any of the academies? If so, which one(s)?

Section 2 – Academic History

Latest cumulative grade point average: _____ on a scale of _____

Rank in class: _____ in class of _____ (# of students) as of _____ (date)

SAT Scores:

Date(s) Taken _____ Critical Reading _____ Math _____

ACT Scores:

Date(s) Taken _____ English _____ Math _____
Reading _____ Science _____ Composite _____

You do not need to take both tests, but you must provide official copies of either your SAT or ACT scores. If you have already taken either examination, you should contact the College Entrance Examination Board for SAT scores, or ACT for ACT scores, and request that a copy of your scores be sent directly to:

The Office of Congresswoman Jahana Hayes
Attn: Kayla Briere
108 Bank Street, 2nd Floor
Waterbury, CT 06702

If you have not yet taken these examinations, please list The Office of Congresswoman Jahana Hayes as one of the recipients of your scores at that time.

Section 3 – Accomplishments

Please answer all questions completely (use another sheet of paper if necessary)

Awards and Honors (be specific):

School Related Extracurricular Activities (Please indicate years of participation. 1=Ninth Grade, 2=Sophomore, 3=Junior, 4=Senior):

Community Activities (please indicate duration and hours per week):

Work Experience (please indicate duration and hours per week):

Military Experience (e.g. JROTC or Civil Air Patrol):

Section 4 – Personal Statement

In a one-page essay on a separate sheet, describe why you wish to attend a service academy. If you feel that there are special conditions or circumstances that we should take into consideration, please elaborate briefly (e.g. an extremely difficult course load, a traumatic event that affected your performance).