



## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Service Academy Nominations

### 1) What is a nomination?

Title 10 of the U.S. Code establishes two types of nominations: a) congressional and b) military service connected.

A non-military candidate may seek a nomination from the following: a) a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, from the Congressional District where the candidate resides b) both U.S. Senators from his or her state c) in addition, a candidate may apply directly to the Vice President of the United States, who can nominate applicants from any part of the nation. Most often, the Vice President nominates students who are not graduating high school in the USA because their parents work overseas. Students whose parents are service connected may also apply for a Presidential nomination. For a Presidential nomination, apply after July 1<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to admission and before January 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of admission. For Vice Presidential apply by October 31<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to admission.

### 2) What are the basic eligibility requirements?

Each applicant for a nomination must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of admission to an academy:

- You must be at least 17 years old, but not have passed your 23rd birthday.
- You must be a U.S. citizen.
- You must be unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents.
- You must reside within the State of Kentucky.
- You must possess good moral character. It is assumed good moral character exists unless there is evidence to demonstrate otherwise.

### 3) When do I apply for a Congressional or Senate nomination?

You begin the process in the spring of your junior year with each U. S. Service Academy. In the fall of your senior year, submit Congressman Barr's application for nomination on or before (**preferably before**) October 31<sup>st</sup>. See the Congressman's website, [www.barr.house.gov](http://www.barr.house.gov) to locate his application.

### 4) What is the deadline for completing a nomination file?

Congressman Barr's deadline for returning materials is **October 31<sup>st</sup>**. Check with each of your Senator and Congressional offices for their respective deadlines. **The most successful candidates apply to all nominating sources: both Senators and Congressman, and when applicable, to the Vice-President and President.** If a candidate's parent is service connected and applies for a Presidential nomination, it is also highly recommended to apply for the Congressional nominations because the President only awards approximately 100 nominations nation-wide. Candidates may be considered for both, and it is advantageous to seek the

Congressional nomination in addition to the Presidential nomination. Verify deadlines for each application.

**5) What must be included in my nomination file?**

A complete nomination file consists of the following items:

- 1) Application Packet
- 2) 3 Letters of Recommendation
- 3) SAT or ACT scores
- 4) Official High School or College Transcripts and a copy of your Senior Classes
- 5) Photograph of Applicant – in a single person photograph (can be an official school photo or a 4x6 snapshot)
- 6) Personal Essay

**6) What happens after I have completed my nomination application file?**

Applicants who meet the basic eligibility requirements and complete a nomination file by **October 31<sup>st</sup>** will be reviewed by Congressman Barr's Service Academy Nomination Board. It is highly recommended the candidate's application to the Academy Admission Offices also be completed prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>. The Congressman will conduct interviews for qualified candidates.

**7) Why does Congressman Barr use a nominating board?**

This board evaluates applicants and recommends candidates for nomination. This well-qualified, non-partisan board will ensure a fair and impartial process. Most members are academy alumni.

**8) What criteria does the board use 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 and compared with other applicants.

**9) How do I open an admissions file with the academies?**

All applicants must directly contact the academies they are interested in attending to open an admissions file. Please refer to the Service Academy Contact Information listed below for further information.

**10) How many academies are there?**

There are five.

Three reside within the Department of Defense:

- The U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY
- The U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD
- The U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO

One resides within the Department of Transportation:

- The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY

One resides within the Department of Homeland Security

- The U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, CT

**11) Are the requirements the same for all the service academies?**

No. Although many of the qualifications are similar, each academy operates under its own admissions guidelines. Refer to the Service Academy Contact Information for the academy of your choice and contact them directly for an academy catalog. Each academy will outline its specific admissions qualifications. Congressman Barr's nominating board does not represent the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. It is not necessary to seek a nomination to the Coast Guard Academy. U.S.C.G.A. accepts candidates based on their own testing criteria.

**12) Can I have family members submit letters of recommendation?**

No. All recommendations must come from outside your immediate or extended family. Typical recommendations are from:

- Principals & Teachers – Especially teachers of Math and Science
- Counselors                                      Clergy                                      Employer
- Scout Leaders                                      Coaches                                      Others of your choosing

Letters of recommendation must be submitted with the application prior to the deadline.

**13) Do I have to have all the required paperwork collected before submitting it to Congressman Barr?**

Yes, it is preferred to receive a complete candidate packet.

**14) SAT/ACT scores**

Congressman Barr will accept ACT/SAT test scores from an official copy of the candidate's student transcript. You may also have your scores sent directly to the Congressman's office from ACT/SAT. It is highly recommended by each Academy and by our Academy Interview Board to take the ACT/SAT tests "early and often."

**15) When will I receive my nomination?**

Nominations must be delivered to the academies by January 31<sup>st</sup>. You will be notified sometime following the interviews or close to the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, once the nominations are completed.

**16) 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 a letter of appointment directly from the academy.

**17) 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. It is recommended to apply to at least two academies, and it is also recommended to apply to the Merchant Marine and Coast Guard Academies in addition to the Air Force, Naval and Military Academies. **The most successful candidates apply to more than one Academy, thereby giving themselves the most options of earning an appointment to one of the academies.**

**18) When will I know if I have been offered an appointment by an academy?**

Academies will begin to notify candidates of their admissions status in December, January, and February. Offers of appointment are sent out by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Academies will award appointments after the candidate's file is reviewed and the candidate is determined "fully qualified." **Academies review files weekly beginning in September, so it is in the candidate's best interest to have their file at the Admissions Offices completed early. It is also in the candidate's best interest to have "competitive" ACT/SAT scores early.** As these scores weigh heavily in the appointment process, it is recommended to take ACT/SAT tests "early and often."

**Please contact Congressman Barr's office with any additional questions.**

Congressman Andy Barr  
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(859) 219-1366  
Abraham.White@mail.house.gov

**Service Academy Contact Information**

United States Military Academy  
Director of Admissions  
United States Military Academy  
606 Thayer Road  
West Point, NY 10996-9902  
Director of Admissions (845) 938-4041  
Toll Free Number (800) 822-2769  
Website: <http://www.usma.edu>

United States Naval Academy  
Candidate Guidance Office  
United States Naval Academy  
117 Decatur Rd.  
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018  
Candidate Guidance Office (410) 293-4361  
Toll Free Number (800) 638-9156  
Website: <http://www.usna.edu>

United States Air Force Academy  
USAFA/RRS  
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200  
USAF Academy, Colorado 80840-5025  
Toll Free Number (800) 443-9266  
Website: <http://www.usafa.af.mil>

United States Merchant Marine Academy  
Director of Admissions  
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy  
Kings Point, New York 11024-1699  
Toll Free Number (800) 732-6267  
Website: <http://www.usmma.edu>

United States Coast Guard Academy  
Director of Admissions  
15 Mohegan Ave  
New London, CT 06320-4195  
Toll Free Number (800) 883-USCG  
Website: <http://www.cga.edu/>

It is not necessary to seek a nomination to attend the USCG Academy. USCGA accepts candidates based on their own testing criteria.