

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Service Academy Nominations

1) What is a nomination?

- a. Title 10 of the U.S. Code establishes two types of nominations: a) congressional and b) military service connected.
- b. A non-military candidate may seek a nomination from the following:
 - i. a) a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, from the congressional district where the candidate resides
 - ii. 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 1st of the year prior to admission and before January 31st of the year of admission. For Vice Presidential nominations, apply by October 31st of the year prior to admission.

2) What are the basic eligibility requirements?

- a. Each applicant for a nomination must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1st of the year of admission to an academy:
 - i. You must be at least 17 years old, but not have passed your 23rd birthday.
 - ii. You must be a U.S. citizen.
 - iii. You must be unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents.
 - iv. You must reside with the State of Texas for Senate nominations and reside within the 22nd Congressional District for Congressional nominations.
 - v. 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?

- a. You begin the process in the spring of your junior year with each U.S. Service Academy. In April of your Junior year, you can access Congressman Nehls's application for nomination before October 31st. See the Congressman's website, nehls.house.gov to locate his application.

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

- a. Congressman Nehls's deadline for returning materials is October 31st. **The most successful candidates apply to all nominating sources: both Senators and Congressperson, and when applicable, to the Vice President and President.** If a candidate's parent is service connect 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.

5) What must be included in my nomination file?

- a. Application Packet
- b. 2 Letters of Recommendation
- c. SAT or ACT scores
- d. Official High School or College Transcripts
- e. Personal Essay

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

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

7) Why does Congressman Troy E. Nehls use a nominating board?

- a. 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?

- a. Nominations are based on "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.

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

- a. 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 on nehls.house.gov/service-academy-nominations
- b. Candidates are evaluated for admission on the basis of academic performance (high school transcript, along with SAT or ACT scores), demonstrated leadership potential, physical aptitude, and medical qualification. Each U.S. service academy will be able to answer specific questions and schedule individual medical examinations. Due to the rigorous physical program at the academies, all candidates must meet their specific medical and physical requirements. (These examinations are separate from my nomination process and required prior to receiving an appointment to a service academy.
- c. The ultimate selection of appointees rest solely with academy officials and is based on their competitive evaluation of all nominees.

10) Are the requirements the same for all the service academies?

- a. No. Although many of the qualifications are similar, each academy operates under its own admissions guidelines. Refer to the Service Academy Admissions website for the academy of your choice and contact them directly for an academy catalog. Each academy will outline its admission qualifications.

a. 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 earn 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.

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

- a. Academies will begin to notify candidates of their admissions status in December, January, and February. Offers of appointment are sent out no later than May 1st. 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 tests early.** As these scores weigh heavily in the appointment process, it is recommended to take ACT/SAT tests "early and often".