

UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMIES CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATION APPLICATION PACKET



Congressman Kevin McCarthy
22nd Congressional District, California

Attached are:

- U.S. Service Academy Guidelines
- Nomination and Appointment Process Information
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Application for Nomination



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22nd District, California

U.S. SERVICE ACADEMY GUIDELINES

Note: The following information is general in nature. For more specific information you are advised to visit each academy's website as well as the catalogs for each academy.

The U.S. Service Academies are among the most highly respected, quality educational programs in the nation. To be admitted to an academy you must meet stringent academic, physical and medical requirements specified by public law. As a cadet/plebe at the academy you will be provided a fully funded four-year college education. By law, graduates of service academies appointed as commissioned officers in their respective service are required to serve at least five years active duty.

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

Each candidate must:

- ✓ be at least 17 years old, but have not passed their 23rd Birthday (25 years for U.S. Merchant Marine Academy).
- ✓ be a citizen of the United States.
- ✓ be unmarried, not pregnant or have any legal obligation to support children or dependents.
- ✓ be a legal resident of the 22nd Congressional District.

II. ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Members of Congress, as well as the President, Vice President and U.S. Senators, follow the academic requirements set forth by the academies when making a nomination. Certain requirements are specified by current public law. However, the academies look at the "whole person" when considering admission. Character, leadership, physical aptitude, medical fitness, goals and motivation are key components of a favorable evaluation for admission.

The following are recommended areas of preparation and academic requirements:

College Preparatory Studies

Four Years: English, Mathematics (includes: Algebra, Trigonometry, and Geometry)

Three Years: Social Science (includes: History, Economics and Government)

Two Years: Laboratory Science (includes: Biology, Physics and Chemistry)

Two Years: Foreign Language

Class Rank

Nominees must be in the top 40% of their class. However, the most successful candidates are in the top 10-20% of their class.

Standardized Testing

Although the academies do not establish minimums, candidates who score below the following will normally not be competitive:

Military, Naval and Air Force

SAT 560 Verbal, 600 Math

Merchant Marine

SAT 500 Verbal, 550 Math

III. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, LEADERSHIP AND MEDICAL FITNESS

Participation and achievement in organized athletics, student body and class government, clubs and class extra-curricular activities, scouting, ROTC, boys/girls state, church or other community related activities demonstrate evidence of leadership potential. The greater the level of involvement/leadership the more points are awarded in your overall admissions evaluation with the academy.

The service academies consider it more valuable to achieve distinction in a specific activity, rather than participation in a number of activities without any evidence of leadership.

If you have a part-time job that affects your level of involvement in school activities, the academies view your working experience as a demonstration of your leadership potential.

You must also be in good physical and mental health and pass a Department of Defense medical examination and have an adequate performance on the Physical Aptitude Exam (PAE). Only one medical exam is needed to meet the requirements of all service academies. You will be scheduled to take this examination at a military or civilian contract facility near your home. Nominees are strongly encouraged to begin this process early, especially if consultation, retesting or corrective action is required. This process may take from six weeks to four months.

If you are a competitive candidate, you will receive instructions for taking the qualifying medical examination directly from:

The Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB)
8304 Edgerton Drive, Suite 132
U.S.A.F. Academy, CO 80840-2200
(800) 841-2706 (scheduling)
(719) 333-3562 (status)

Website: <https://dodmerb.tricare.osd.mil/>

IV. COMMUNICATION WITH THE ACADEMIES

The academies will start your candidate file when you complete the Pre-Candidate Questionnaire. This can be done by writing the academies at the addresses listed below. The questionnaire can also be completed electronically and can be found at the websites of each academy. This ideally should be done the SPRING of your **junior year** in high school. After you complete the questionnaire, and are considered a competitive candidate, you will receive additional forms to complete from the academy in the mail.

The admissions office of each academy also coordinates a nationwide network of trained Academy Liaison Officers. Once you have made initial contact with the academies, you will be able to receive assistance and guidance throughout your admissions process.

U.S. Naval Academy
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5019
Phone: (410) 293-4392
Website: www.usna.edu

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699
Phone: (516) 733-5391
Website: www.usmma.edu

U.S. Military Academy
299 Stovall Street
Alexandria, VA 22332
Phone: (845) 938-5754
Website: www.usma.edu

U.S. Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, CO 80840-5020
Phone: (719) 333-8850
Website: www.usafa.edu

U.S. Coast Guard Academy
31 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320
Phone: (800) 444-8500
Website: www.cga.edu

NOTE: The U.S. Coast Guard Academy does not require a congressional nomination. Appointments are considered solely on the basis of an annual nationwide competition.



NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Academy Night

In the Fall, Congressman McCarthy hosts An "Academy Night" in Bakersfield for students of the 22nd District who are interested in attending one of the U.S. Service Academies. Students are introduced to the nomination and appointment process, as well as have an opportunity to listen to presentations by Academy Liaison Officers who represent the U.S. Air Force, Merchant Marine, Military and Naval academies. There is also an opportunity to meet one on one with the liaison officers to ask questions and learn more about each academy.

Nomination Procedures

Each applicant must meet the eligibility requirements highlighted in the Academy Requirements section of this packet, as well as complete a nomination file with Congressman McCarthy's office by **November 1st**.

A nomination file consists of the following items:

- ✓ A letter requesting a nomination from Congressman McCarthy
- ✓ A completed Application for Nomination
- ✓ Three to five Letters of Recommendation from non-relatives (See Frequently Asked Questions section included in this packet for suggested individuals to provide letters of recommendation)
- ✓ SAT/ACT scores: Test results for one or both can be sent directly to Congressman McCarthy from the testing service (Use SAT Code 4815 and ACT Code 7260)
- ✓ High school and/or college transcripts
- ✓ A recent wallet-size photo

Selection Process

Applicants who have completed their file with Congressman McCarthy's office by the deadline and have been screened for meeting the minimum academy requirements will have an interview with the Congressman's Academy Selection Board in November. The board, consisting of former/current military, community/business leaders and educators in the 22nd Congressional District, will interview each candidate and make recommendations.

Students will be notified of their nomination status in Mid-December and nominations will be submitted to each academy by December 31st.

Nomination Method

Members of Congress are able to have a maximum of five cadets/plebes at each service academy at one time. Each year, Congressman McCarthy nominates one principal nominee and up to nine unranked competing alternate nominees to each academy.

All information for your file is to be sent to the **Bakersfield office**:

4100 Empire Drive, Suite 150
Bakersfield, California 93309

Questions should be directed to Kati McKeown, Academy Coordinator, who can be reached at (661) 327-3611.

Please notify the Academy Coordinator of all significant developments in your academy admissions process that may affect your potential to be given a nomination from Congressman McCarthy.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who do I ask to write a Letter of Recommendation?

Due to the fact that the academies hold to the "whole" person concept, it is important to ask individuals who have watched you develop in all aspects of your life. Therefore, it would not be to your benefit to submit five letters from teachers and forget to include people whom you may have worked with you in your extracurricular activities.

Some suggestions are:

Teachers	Family Friends
Coaches	School Counselor
Pastor/Priest	School Administrators

The format and content should resemble a standard letter of recommendation.

2. I am taking the SAT/ACT test again after the file deadline? Will I still be able to submit the new scores?

Yes, you are encouraged to take the SAT/ACT test(s) as many times as possible. Students frequently increase their score. The only requirement is that the new scores be available a week before the Academy Selection Board meets in December.

3. Does the information in my file at Congressman McCarthy's office get forwarded to the Service Academy of my choice?

No. The nomination file at Congressman McCarthy's office is only used to make a congressional nomination. Your service academy(s) file is maintained separately, and it is the candidate's responsibility to forward all necessary information and documentation upon request by the admissions office.

4. What is a competing alternate nomination?

When a competing alternate nomination is submitted, the academy decides if that person will be admitted. In addition, in order to insure that the principal vacancy is filled, the alternates will compete for the principal nominee's slot in the event the principal nominee becomes disqualified for admission.

If you have an excellent academic and extracurricular activity record, you have a good chance of gaining admission with a competing alternate nomination. Each year several hundred of the best-qualified competing alternates are offered admission at the academies.

5. Can I apply and receive a nomination to more than one academy?

Yes. It strongly recommended that you apply to more than one academy. It is important to educate yourself on what all the academies have to offer in order to make the best decision for your career goals. It is not uncommon for a student to initially be interested in one academy and end up finding that another would better suit his/her goals.

Congressman McCarthy can nominate a candidate to more than one academy. It is often the case that a candidate is given a principal nomination to one academy and a competing alternate nomination to another.

Application for Congressional Nomination to the U.S. Service Academies

Congressman Kevin McCarthy
22nd District, California



Please fill out the form below. Completed applications must be received in the Bakersfield Office no later than November 1st. Your application is considered complete when the application and the following materials are received by my office:

- 1) A letter requesting a nomination
- 2) Three to five letters of recommendation
- 3) A copy of your SAT and/or ACT scores (SAT 4815/ACT Code 7260)
- 4) High school and/or college transcripts
- 5) A recent wallet-sized photograph

PERSONAL DATA

Last Name

First Name

Middle

Date of Birth

Age

Social Security Number

****Academy Preference**

Home Phone

Rank 1st - 4th

Mother's Name

Father's Name

Naval

Merchant Marine

Mailing Address:

Military

Air Force

Street

City

State

Zip

Permanent Address: (if different from above)

Street

City

State

Zip

Medical / Physical Information:

Height

Weight

Hair Color

Eye Color

Are you color blind? Yes No

If not, what is your visual acuity uncorrected?

Is your eyesight 20/20 uncorrected? Yes No

Left Eye

Right Eye

Do you have any physical defects that might affect your performance at an academy? Yes No

If so, please explain:

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Currently Attending

Name of Current School

Date Graduated or Expected to Graduate

GPA

SAT:

/

ACT:

Verbal

Math

Class rank:

out of

Are you planning on taking the SAT again before November 30th?

Yes

No

Grade Point Averages in Recommended Classes:

Chemistry

Trigonometry

Algebra

Geometry

Physics

English

Expected Career Path:

Current Employment:

Responsibilities:

Summer Employment:

Responsibilities:

I am also seeking a nomination through

I have previously sent an application through (if applicable)

Results

Year

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/ LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

(Please mark each box to indicate involvement)

HIGH SCHOOL

	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Baseball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cheerleading	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross Country	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Football	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soccer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming/Diving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Track/Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Polo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wrestling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Softball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NON-SCHOOL ATHLETICS:

List all activities in the space provided

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES / LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

(Please mark each box to indicate involvement)

- Band/Orchestra
- Boys/Girls State
- Choir
- Class Office Holder
- Church Group/Club
- Drama
- Drill Team
- Editor, Newspaper
- Editor; Yearbook
- Forensics
- Key Club
- National Honors
- Science Club
- ROTC Current Rank
- Scouting Current Rank

Please list all awards in the space provided:

Other:

ESSAY

On a separate page, provide a written or typed essay (250 words or 1-2 pages) answering the following questions:
(The essay must be submitted with this application)

1. Why are you seeking a nomination?
2. Why do you feel you are qualified?
3. Why do you want to be commissioned?

I affirm that the foregoing statements made in this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and I understand that if I have not submitted all necessary data by the November 1st deadline, I may not be considered for a nomination.

Signature

Date