

Congressman John Fleming

United States Service Academies Information Sheet

I. General Information

Each Congressional Office uses a selection process designed to meet its own needs and standards. The different procedures are often confusing to applicants who apply to more than one office. Last minute misunderstandings can be avoided by carefully studying and following the instructions of each office.

Because of the extremely keen competition for nominations, you are urged to apply to every nominating authority which your eligibility allows (i.e. Senatorial, Congressional, Presidential, Vice Presidential, Children of Deceased or Disabled Veterans, etc...). However, should you receive an appointment from another nominating source, please notify this office immediately at (337) 238-0778.

II. Service Academy Qualifying Factors

The following is a list of the **MINIMUM** qualifications necessary for nomination:

- a. At least 17 but not yet 22 years of age
- b. Citizen of the United States
- c. Not married, pregnant, or have legal obligation to a child or children
- d. Meet high leadership, academic, physical, and medical standards
- e. Academic Records:
 - i. Minimum ACT scores of 21/English and 24/Math or Minimum SAT scores of 500/Verbal and 550/Math
 - ii. Rank in the upper 40% of class
 - iii. Outstanding participation and performance in high school extracurricular activities (both athletic and non-athletic)

III. Procedures and Rules for Consideration

- a. **Residency:** In accordance with the service academy regulations, I am only permitted to nominate candidates who are legal residents of the 4th Congressional District of Louisiana. If you are unsure of your residency status, please check with your parish Registrar of Voter's Office.
- b. **Qualifying Medical Examination:** The individual academies will recommend the scheduling of medical examinations to the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board after receipt of the precandidate questionnaire which is used to open a preadmission file at the academy. There is no cost to the candidate for this examination.
- c. **Candidate Files:** You are required to establish candidate files with the academies and with my office. It is your responsibility to submit the following items and information to my office by **Wednesday, October 31, 2012** and keep it updated. Candidates whose files are not complete by October 31, 2012 will NOT be considered for a nomination. Extra or additional candidate information will be accepted until the time nomination selections are made.
 - i. **Application Form:** The enclosed application must be completed and returned to my office promptly. Formal Candidacy is established in my office upon receipt of this form. It is not necessary for you to send all required information at once, and you should not wait to file your application if transcripts or test scores are not immediately available.
 - ii. **Description of Extracurricular Activities:** You are required to list and fully describe your extracurricular activities. This should include both athletic and non-athletic activities.
 - iii. **High School Transcripts:** An official transcript of your high school record and class rank must be submitted. This transcript must show your final junior year grades, as well as your numerical rank in class. Percentile ranks are not acceptable. If you apply before this information is available, it is your responsibility to request your guidance counselor to send an up-to-date transcript and to keep your record current.

- iv. **College Board:** The SAT or ACT are required entrance examinations by the service academies. You are responsible for registering for exams and for furnishing my office with a copy of your test results. If you are taking the SAT or ACT, you may have test results sent directly to my office if you prefer. My SAT code number is 6601. My ACT code number is 7434. The ACT does not publish the individual code numbers for Member of Congress in their registration materials. If you are unable to include my office in your original choices for test reports, send me a copy of the report you receive in order to save time and the additional report fee. If you submit more than one set of scores, the higher score will be counted.
- v. **Letters of Recommendation:** Four letters of recommendation must be written by someone who knows you well (teacher, principal, employer, church leader, etc...). These letters may be sent directly to my office or you may enclose them with your completed application form.
- vi. **Photo:** A current 2 ½" x 3 ½" photo is required.

IV. **Type of Nomination**

There will be one vacancy at each of the academies. For each vacancy I will submit a slate of ten nominees, with the exception of the Merchant Marine Academy. For the Merchant Marine Academy, ten candidates will be selected for nomination to compete for the state quota of ten. Congressional nominations are not required for the United States Coast Guard Academy, however if you wish to apply there I will be happy to consider you for a nomination.

Under the competitive method, which is what I use, the candidates selected for nomination by me will be evaluated by the respective academy admissions office. The academies will make the final decision of the appointment.

V. **Basis of Selection**

Selections are made competitively on the basis of a composite of academic factors (60%) and leadership potential, extracurricular activities, physical fitness and recommendations (40%). The following are included:

- a. School records, class rank, and grade point average
- b. Extracurricular Activities
- c. College Board Scores. Normally a competitive candidate will have SAT scores above 500 on verbal and 550 on math, or ACT scores above 22 on English and 26 on math and will stand in the upper fifth of their class. The higher your scores and class standing, the greater your chances for a nomination, assuming that you are qualified in the remaining areas of consideration.
- d. Motivation: One of the most important considerations in the selection of nominees is motivation, the candidate's desire to attend the academy. It is also the most difficult to measure. To an extent, motivation can be judged by a candidate's diligence in completing his or her file, which is one reason those with incomplete files are not considered for nomination. In addition, candidates are invited to write an essay on their reasons for wanting to attend an academy. While the essay is optional, it could be the factor that is needed to further display motivation.

All correspondence regarding the Service Academies should be directed to:

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