

Military Academy Nominations: FAQ

What is a nomination?

Members of Congress may nominate applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established by law. A candidate may seek a nomination from the following:

- A member of the U.S. House of Representatives who represents the congressional district in which the candidate resides
- Both U.S. Senators from his or her state
- Apply directly to the Vice-President of the United States
- Presidential nominations are also available for children of: career military, POW/MIA service members, disabled service members, and Medal of Honor awardees

Can a candidate apply through more than one source?

It is encouraged that candidates apply through all of the sources that he/she is eligible.

Do I live in the 16th District?

The 16th District covers parts of Portage, Stark, Summit, Cuyahoga, and Medina Counties and all of Wayne County. You can input your address at the following site and it will tell you which congressional district that you reside in, <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members>. The following is a list of cities and townships in the 16th District.

Apple Creek	Congress Lake	Fredericksburg	Lawrence Township	North Canton	Perry Township	Smithville
Baughman Township	Congress Township	Gloria Glens	Marshallville	North Olmsted	Plain Township	Strongsville
Brimfield Township	Copley Township	Granger Township	Medina	North Royalton	Randolph Township	Suffield Township
Burbank	Creston	Green	Medina Township	Norton	Rittman	Sugar Creek Township
Canaan Township	Dalton	Greene Township	Meyers Lake	Olmsted Falls	Rocky River	Wadsworth
Canal Fulton	Doylestown	Guilford Township	Middleburg Heights	Olmsted Township	Rootstown Township	West Salem
Chester Township	East Union Township	Hills and Dales	Milton Township	Orrville City	Salt Creek Township	Westfield Center
Chippewa Township	Edinburg Township	Hinckley Township	Mogadore	Paint Township	Seville	Westfield Township
Clinton	Fairview Park	Jackson Township	Mount Eaton	Parma	Sharon Township	Westlake
Clinton Township	Franklin Township	Lake Township	New Franklin	Parma Heights	Shreve	Wooster

Congressman Jim Renacci (16th-OH)
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What are the basic eligibility requirements?

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

- Age: Be at least 17 years old, but not have passed the 23rd birthday
- Citizenship: Must be a U.S. citizen
- Marital Status: Must be unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents
- Residence: Must reside within the boundaries of the 16th Congressional District of Ohio.
- Skill / Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy.

Who do I contact with questions about my application?

Contact Bryan Bowman, bryan.bowman@mail.house.gov, at my Wadsworth office at (330) 334-0040 with questions regarding the nomination process.

When do I apply for a nomination?

My nomination application period opens April 1st of each year for those candidates who are high school juniors and will be seniors the following school year, or who have already graduated.

What is the deadline for completing a nomination file?

The deadline for submitting a nomination packet to my District Office is normally October 1st. Please contact my Wadsworth office at (330) 334-0040 for more specifics.

What must be included in my nomination file?

A complete nomination file consists of the following items:

- High school transcript
- American College Testing Program (ACT) results and/or College Board Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) results
- Resume
- An essay stating why you want to attend a service academy (500 words or less)
- Minimum of two letters of recommendation

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What happens after I have submitted my nomination file?

Applicants who submit a completed nomination file will be scheduled for an interview in late October or early November.

What criteria are used 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.

How many academies are there?

There are five service academies.

Three reside within the Department of Defense:

- U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York
- U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland
- U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs

One resides within the Department of Transportation:

- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York

One resides with the Department of Homeland Security

- U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut

Are the requirements the same for all of the service academies?

No. Although many of the qualifications are similar, each academy operates under its own admissions guidelines. Visit the academy of your choice, via the websites, for each academy's particular admissions qualifications. It is not necessary to seek a nomination to the Coast Guard Academy, as the U.S.C.G.A. does not require a nomination to be accepted.

Who should I ask to write a letter of recommendation on my behalf?

I do not require a specific individual. A letter of recommendation is sufficient. The person you choose to write the letter should know you and feel that you would be a good fit for the academy of your choosing. It is better to have a letter from someone that can speak specifically about you than a letter for a high ranking individual that may know your family. Some of the people applicants typically seek recommendations from include:

Teachers
Coaches

Counselors
Clergy

Employers
Scout Leaders

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Along with seeking a nomination, do I have to apply for the academy?

Yes, the academy application is separate from the nomination process. Congressman Renacci only nominates the candidate. Each candidate is required to apply at their desired academy.

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 an offer of admission (an appointment) directly from the academy.

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 receive multiple appointments. Please know that the nomination is based on placement for that specific academy cohort. You may not receive a nomination for your first academy choice but you could still receive a nomination for second or third choice based on your placement in that candidate group.

What academy is best for me?

Each academy is different. Just like colleges and universities, the academies vary by size and program. A candidate should look at class size, location, degree programs, and future intent when deciding. Your choice of academy will also decide your initial career path. For example, the Merchant Marine academy has a smaller class size and allows individuals to commission into any branch of service or serve on merchant vessels while in the Naval Reserve. However, Merchant Marine midshipmen do not receive a monthly stipend. Candidates should review the information specific to each academy and the branch of service they wish to commission.

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

Academies will begin to notify candidates of their admission status in February. All offers of appointment are generally sent out by the end of May.

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