



What is an appointment?

An appointment is an offer of admission to a service academy and can only be granted after the applicant has received a nomination.

Does a nomination guarantee an appointment?

No. A nomination is a recommendation from an authorized source that allows you to compete for an appointment. It does not guarantee admission. You must still apply directly to each academy you're interested in, in addition to seeking a nomination.

What is the deadline for submitting my nomination file?

It's strongly recommended that you apply for nominations from all sources for which you're eligible. At a minimum, applicants should submit nomination applications to both U.S. Senators and their U.S. Representative.

Note: Applicants to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy do not have to live within the district if they are Georgia residents.

To identify your Congressional Representative, visit [House.gov](https://www.house.gov). Georgia's U.S. Senators—Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock—represent the entire state. Visit their official websites for details on their respective nomination processes.

Can I apply for a nomination if I am active duty in the armed services or reserves?

Yes. Active-duty service members who meet the basic eligibility requirements may apply for a congressional nomination, as well as a service-connected nomination through their branch of the military. For details on service nominations, contact your commanding officer.

When should I begin the application process?

Most students begin the application process in the spring of their junior year of high school. Starting early gives you enough time to complete both the academy applications and the nomination process before the deadlines in your senior year.

May I be nominated to more than one academy?

Yes. You may be nominated to more than one service academy. On your nomination application, you'll be asked to rank your academy preferences in order of interest.

Do I need a nomination to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy?

No. The U.S. Coast Guard Academy is the only service academy that does not require a congressional nomination. You can apply directly through their website at www.uscga.edu.

Should I apply for an ROTC scholarship?

The service academy process is highly competitive, and not all candidates will receive a nomination or an appointment. If you're interested in earning a military commission, you may want to consider applying for an ROTC scholarship as an alternative path. For more information, visit the respective ROTC programs:

- [Air Force ROTC](#)
- [Army ROTC](#)
- [Navy ROTC](#)

Will I automatically be selected by the academy after I receive a nomination?

No. A nomination allows you to compete for an appointment, but it does not guarantee admission. You'll be placed among a group of nominees, and the academy makes the final decision on appointments.

Note: Even if a candidate meets all qualifications and is deemed admissible, an appointment is not guaranteed, due to the limited number of spots available at each academy.

How will I know if I am nominated? When will I know if I am appointed?

All candidates will be notified by mail regarding their nomination status. The academies begin making appointments early next year, with most offers issued by May 1 each year.

If I do not receive a nomination or an appointment, may I apply again?

Yes. You may reapply if you continue to meet the eligibility requirements. Candidates are eligible to apply until the age of 23.

What criteria are used in selecting candidates?

Nominations are based on a "whole person" evaluation. Reviewers consider factors such as:

- Academic achievement
- Extracurricular involvement
- Leadership ability
- Physical aptitude

- Character
- Motivation

These qualities are compared with those of other applicants to determine who will be most successful at a service academy.

Why should I participate in extracurricular activities?

Extracurricular activities—both athletic and non-athletic—demonstrate your versatility, responsibility, and leadership potential. They also help show your ability to manage time effectively and meet the physical demands of academy life. Maintaining a high level of physical fitness is especially important, as physical training is a core part of daily life at the academies.

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

Letters of recommendation must come from individuals outside your immediate or extended family. Applicants typically request recommendations from:

- Principals or teachers
- School counselors
- Employers
- Coaches
- Religious leaders
- Scout leaders

Choose people who know you well and can speak to your character, leadership, and academic or extracurricular achievements.

Are the requirements the same for all service academies?

No. While the general qualifications are similar, each service academy has its own admissions process and requirements. Be sure to visit the official website of each academy you're applying to for detailed information.

What happens if I don't initially receive an appointment?

Nominees who do not receive an initial appointment may be offered admission to a Service Academy Preparatory Program (Naval, Military Academy, or Air Force). These programs are designed to help students who meet the nomination requirements but need additional academic preparation.

While attending a preparatory program does not guarantee future admission, graduates have a high success rate in receiving an appointment to the academy. Note that students do not apply directly to the preparatory programs.