

Congressman   
**Ralph Abraham**

Service Academy Nomination Process

October 30, 2015

Deadline to submit completed Nomination Application to the Alexandria office

December 2015

Applicants interview with Congressman Abraham's Academy Nomination Review Board

January 2015

Nominations will be announced

Point of Contact:

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## **Frequently Asked Questions about Service Academy Nominations**

### **What is a nomination?**

In order to be considered for an appointment to a Service Academy, an applicant must have a nomination from an authorized nominating source. 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
- The Vice-President of the United States

It is in your best interest to request a nomination through all sources available including: Presidential, Vice Presidential, Senatorial and Congressional. If your father or mother is active duty military, or was killed in action, you may be eligible for a Presidential or Vice Presidential nomination. Please contact the Service Academy for more information. It is strongly recommended each candidate apply to both U.S. Senators and their Congressman.

### **What are the basic eligibility requirements?**

Each applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of admission to an academy:

- Age: Be at least 17 years old, but not older than 23
- Citizenship: Must be a U.S. citizen
- Marital Status: unmarried, not pregnant, no legal obligation to support children
- Residence: Must reside within the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Louisiana
- Skill/Fitness: Must meet medical and physical requirements of the Academy

### **How many academies are there?**

There are five service academies:

- U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY
- U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD
- U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY
- U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, CT

### **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 listed above for each academy's admissions qualifications. It is not necessary to seek a nomination to the Coast Guard Academy, as the U.S.C.G.A. accepts candidates based on their own testing criteria.

### **How do I request a Service Academy nomination application?**

You may request the application through Congressman Abraham's website [www.abraham.house.gov](http://www.abraham.house.gov) or by contacting the Alexandria office (page 1). The deadline for submitting a nomination application package to the Alexandria District Office is **October 30, 2015**. Applications received after the established deadline, will not be considered.

**What must be included in my nomination file?**

A complete nomination file consists of the following items:

- Current photo
- High School transcript
- ACT/SAT results
- Resume of extracurricular activities, educational history, employment history
- An essay question, provided in the application packet
- Minimum of three letters of recommendation, maximum of 5

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

Some of the people applicants typically seek recommendations from include:

- Teachers, Counselors, Employers, Coaches, Clergy, Scout Leaders

**What happens after I have completed my nomination file?**

Applicants who submit a completed nomination application will be scheduled for an interview early in December with Congressman Abraham's Academy Nomination Review Board.

**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, recommendations and motivation are taken into consideration.

**What is Congressman Abraham's method of nomination?**

The preferred method of nomination is the competitive nomination. This process allows Congressman Abraham to nominate up to 10 qualified candidates for each available opening. The academy itself will make the final selection. The competitive method ensures a fair and impartial process.

**When will I be notified if I received a nomination?**

Congressman Abraham must submit his nominations to the academies by January 31. You will be notified some time thereafter.

**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 completed among this year's pool of candidates. It is also possible to win multiple appointments.

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

Academies will notify applicants of their admission status beginning in February. All offers of appointment are generally sent out by May.