



U.S. Service Academy Nominations

SEEKING A NOMINATION FROM U.S. SENATOR BILL CASSIDY

Frequently Asked Questions

When should I apply for the Service Academies?

You should file your application no later than November 1 in the year you apply. If you have started college or are currently serving in the military, you should file your application no later than the fall before the year you wish to attend an Academy.

What Service Academies are there to choose from?

There are five Service Academies.

Three reside within the U.S. Department of Defense:

- U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York (<http://www.usma.edu>)
- U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland (<http://www.usna.edu>)
- U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado (<http://www.usafa.af.mil>)

Two reside within the U.S. Department of Transportation:

- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York (<http://www.usmma.edu>)
- U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut (<http://www.uscga.edu>)

Do I need to receive a Congressional nomination?

Except for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, all Academies require that you obtain a Congressional nomination from your U.S. Representative, one of your U.S. Senators, or

the Vice President. The only exceptions to that rule are if you obtain a service-connected nomination or another nomination directly from an Academy, such as an athletic nomination.

What are the basic eligibility requirements?

Each candidate for a nomination must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1 of the year of admission to an Academy.

- Age: At least 17 by July 1 of their year of admission, but not older than 23
- Citizenship: U.S. citizen, or have obtained citizenship by the time you enter a Service Academy
- Residency: A legal resident of the United States (and of Louisiana to receive one of Senator Cassidy's nominations)
- Marital Status or Dependency: Unmarried, not pregnant and have no legal obligation to support a child or dependent
- Academic: Complete SAT, ACT or Classic Learning Test examinations (Contact individual Service Academies for their specific requirements).
- Health: Must meet the academy's physical and medical requirements
- Character: Of strong moral character

Who do I contact to request access to the application?

You can fill out Senator Cassidy's preliminary application online. For more information, please contact his Service Academy Coordinator Shawn Hanscom at (225) 229-8720.

How do I receive the full application?

You will receive a link to the full application, which is online. You will be required to fill out a questionnaire and then provide a photo of yourself, your high school transcript (along with any college and/or prep school transcripts you may have), your ACT, SAT and/or CLT scores, a typed resume highlighting your extra-curricular activities, an essay of 500 words or less on why you want to attend an Academy, and letters of recommendation. If something must be submitted separately, you must receive permission from the Senator's Service Academy Coordinator.

Does Senator Cassidy's Congressional nomination application serve as my Academy application?

No. You need to contact the Service Academy or Academies you wish to attend and file an admissions application(s) with them first. *You will not be considered for a nomination if you have not filed an admissions application with the appropriate Service Academy.*

Can Senator Cassidy's application be used to apply for nominations from Senator John Kennedy and my U.S. Representative?

No. You need to call their offices to find out what their nomination processes are, and how to apply for their nominations. Senator Cassidy strongly encourages you to contact them and seek their nominations, since the more nominations you have, the more likely it is that you will be admitted to one of the Academies.

When do I apply for a nomination?

If you are a senior or otherwise applying now, you can do so by filling out Senator Cassidy's preliminary and then full online application.

What is the deadline for completing a full nomination application?

The deadline for submitting the full nomination application is **11:59 PM on November 1**. *Your application must be finished by that time.*

What do I need to submit?

- A recent picture of yourself
- Application questionnaire
- High School Transcript (and College and Prep School Transcripts as applicable)
- ACT, SAT and/or CLT results (You must upload copies of your scores as part of your nomination application, with exceptions for test scores that you receive after November 1 but before your nomination interview, so long as you give Senator Cassidy's Service Academy coordinator prior notification. For any ACT, SAT or CLT scores received after November 1, you can email them to his coordinator.)
- A resume explaining your extra-curricular activities (must be typed)
- An essay of less than 500 words on why you want to attend a Service Academy
- Minimum of three letters (maximum of five) of recommendation

Unless otherwise stated, the application and all application materials must be submitted by **11:59 PM on November 1**. Transcripts and letters of recommendation can be emailed to his Service Academy Coordinator if the source providing those materials requires that, but you must obtain approval from the Service Academy Coordinator and they must arrive by November 1.

If parts of my application must be emailed separately, how do I do that?

You can email them to shawn_hanscom@cassidy.senate.gov

What happens after I have completed my full nomination application?

Applicants who submit a completed nomination application will be scheduled for an interview with members of Senator Cassidy's Service Academy Review Board in November or December in Baton Rouge, or via Zoom **if** the candidate currently resides outside Louisiana.

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 self-motivation are taken into consideration and compared with other applicants.

Are the requirements the same for all the Service Academies?

Although many of the admission requirements 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 particular admissions requirements.

Who should I ask to write a letter of recommendation?

You must submit no less than three and no more than five letters of recommendation. One letter must be written by your High School Principal or Guidance Counselor, unless given prior approval by the Senator’s Service Academy Coordinator. The other letters may be written by teachers, coaches, scoutmasters, clergy or community leaders who can accurately comment on your character, abilities and potential for success at a Service Academy and in the military. Recommendations by family members are discouraged, but will be accepted in extraordinary, pre-approved circumstances. All letters should be submitted as part of the full nomination application, or if pre-approved, via email to Senator Cassidy’s Service Academy Coordinator.

Will I automatically be selected by an 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 want to be considered by multiple Academies? Can I seek nominations to multiple Academies?

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 be offered multiple appointments by the Academies.

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 the January of the applicant’s year of admission. All offers of appointments are generally sent out by June.