



Frequently Asked Questions about Service Academy Nominations

How do I get in to an Academy?

- Apply for a nomination from your US Congressman, both US Senators from the state of your legal residence. Review the Academy's Admission site to determine if you qualify for any other means of nomination.
- [A nomination is not a guarantee of admission to an Academy.](#) Slates of nominees are submitted by nominating sources and from those slates the Academies select one qualified nominee for an offer of appointment. They are required, by law, to select one who is qualified, but others on the slate who are qualified will compete on a national level for other openings in the class. To attend an US Service Academy, you must receive an offer of appointment.

Which Academy do I choose?

- Research each Academy and the majors offered and see which fits the path you wish to follow as an officer. Make the choice based on what you want in your future.
- Congressman Poe's nomination selection is based on the applicant's first choice. Nominees are generally only nominated to one Academy and that is the one they indicate on their application as their first choice.

How do I apply for a nomination?

- First, determine which US Representative represents the Congressional District of your legal residence. Go to <http://www.house.gov/> and enter your Zip Code in the "Find Your Representative" area (upper right hand corner). If your Zip Code falls in multiple Congressional Districts, you will be prompted to enter your complete address.
- Go to that Congressman's website and locate the Academy Section. For Congressman Poe, it is under "[How Can I Help You?](#)" Follow the directions carefully on the Application Packet

How do I apply to the Academy?

- Go to the Academy's website under "Admissions", follow their directions. You can open a file in that portal.
- Do everything they tell you to do and be very aware of their deadlines.

You must apply to the Academy so that if you receive a nomination, you have a file already started at the Academy of your choice. It is a parallel process; both must be followed.

What makes a competitive applicant?

- A competitive applicant has high academics, good SAT/ACT scores, leadership experience, and is physically and medically fit. You may take the SAT/ACT multiple times and only the scores

received by the time of your interview will be considered by Congressman Poe's Service Academy Nomination Board.

- Choose the writers of your letters of recommendation wisely. Remember – no letters from immediate family (father, mother, sister, brother, aunt, uncle, grandparents, cousins (including step-relatives) will be considered. They will be removed from your file and not considered as a fulfillment of the requirement. Only submit the required three letters as outlined on the application packet. Additional letters will be removed and they will be removed in the order in which they were received – first three, then all others removed.
- The Academy will require you take a Candidate Fitness Assessment/Test. You must pass this test to be considered for an offer of appointment. Failure to pass and be determined physically fit will disqualify you from consideration. The fitness assessments/tests are on the Academy's websites. You can practice; train with someone, and be prepared when you actually take the test. **Start early!**
- The Academies require a highly comprehensive medical examination. If you are viable candidate, they will tell you where to schedule an appointment. The medical examination is done only at qualified sites the Academies have selected. Certain conditions may disqualify you, but certain ones can be waived. If disqualified, check with the Academy to see if you can apply for a waiver. The Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB) is responsible for determining the medical qualification of Academy applicants. Applicants should visit the DODMERB website directly at <https://dodmerb.tricare.osd.mil/FAQs.aspx> for answers to frequently asked questions and to obtain further information.

How do I find out if I received a nomination/appointment?

- Congressman Poe will notify you of your status about 4-6 weeks after your interview with his Service Academy Nomination Board. His slates are sent to the Academies and offers will come anywhere from January – May.
 - Names on the slates are sent in no particular order. This is considered the *Competitive Nomination Method* and you will be competing with others on the slate.
 - The Academies will review everyone on the slate and generally by May 1, notify nominees of their status.

REMEMBER:

Follow deadlines!

Prepare yourself!

The process is complex but not difficult.

Questions: contact marlene.moulder@mail.house.gov