



CONGRESSMAN

THOMAS GARRETT, JR.

SERVING VIRGINIA'S 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

U. S. Service Academy Nominations

Frequently Asked Questions

Congressman Garrett has the honor to nominate a limited number of outstanding and qualified young people, who reside in Virginia's Fifth District, to four of the five Service Academies. Thank you for your interest in attending a U. S. Service Academy and your willingness to serve our country. Below are some frequently asked questions for those seeking a Service Academy Nomination from Congressman Garrett's office.

What is a Nomination?

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

- Member of the U.S. House of Representatives who represents the congressional district in which the candidate resides
- One or both U.S. Senators from candidate's state
- The Vice-President of the United States

Candidates, who meet certain requirements, may apply for a nomination from the following:

- The President of the United States
- Qualified ROTC/JROTC organizations

What are the basic eligibility requirements?

Each candidate for a nomination must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1st of the year of admission to a Service 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 5th Congressional District of Virginia.
- Skill/Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy



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How many Service Academies are there?

There are five Service Academies.

U. S. Air Force Academy

Office of Admissions
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200
USAF Academy, CO 80840-5025
Phone: (800) 443-9266
www.usnaa.edu

U. S. Merchant Marine Academy

Office of Admissions
300 Steamboat Road, Wiley Hall
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699
Phone: (866) 546-4778
www.usmma.edu

U. S. Naval Academy

Office of Admissions
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, MD 21402
Phone: (888) 249-7707
www.usna.edu

U. S. Military Academy

Office of Admissions
606 Thayer Road
West Point, NY 10996-1797
Phone: (800) 822-ARMY
www.usma.edu

U. S. Coast Guard Academy

Office of Admissions
31 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320
Phone: (860) 444-8500
www.cga.edu

** Congressional Nominations are not required for admission to the U. S. Coast Guard Academy. For admission policies, please contact the Office of Admissions directly. **

How does a candidate apply for a Congressional Nomination from Congressman Garrett?

Please contact Denise Van Valkenburg in Congressman Garrett's Danville District Office at (434) 791-2596 or by email at denise.vanvalkenburg@mail.house.gov to request a Service Academy Nomination Application Packet mailed to you. You may also print the Service Academy Nomination Application Packet by going to <https://tomgarrett.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations>.



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What are Congressman Garrett's deadlines for his application for a Congressional Nomination?

The Congressional Nomination application period for Congressman Garrett's Office opens April 1ST of each year for those candidates, who reside in Virginia's Fifth District and are high school juniors and will be seniors the following school year, or who have already graduated.

The deadline for submitting a Service Academy Nomination Application Packet with Congressman Garrett's Office is October 1st of each year. Postmarks are not acceptable.

What must be included in a Service Academy Nomination Packet?

A Service Academy Nomination Application Packet must include the following items and be submitted to Congressman Garrett's Danville District Office by the deadline of October 1st (postmarks are not acceptable):

- Complete Service Academy Nomination Application
- American College Testing Program (ACT) results and/or College Board Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) results. Congressman Garrett's **SAT Code is 5988 and the ACT Code is 7728.**
- Current photo
- High school transcript and/or college transcript (if applicable)
- Minimum of three (3) letters of recommendation (not from family members)
- One (1) page resume of extracurricular activities and achievements
- An essay stating why you want to attend a service academy (300 words or more)

Additional information about these documents is provided in Congressman Garrett's Service Academy Nomination Application Packet.

Please do not staple your packet.

Please note the candidate is responsible for making sure their application packet has been received by our office and that it is complete.



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Who should write a letter of recommendation on behalf of a candidate?

It is important that a candidate request a letter of recommendation from an individual who can attest to the character and qualifications of the candidate. Congressman Garrett's office does not accept recommendation letters from the candidate's family members. Some of the people candidates typically seek recommendations from are: teachers, counselors, employers, coaches, clergy and scout leaders.

What is this process after the Service Academy Nomination Application Packet is received?

Candidates, who submit a complete Service Academy Nomination Application Packet by the deadline date of October 1st, will be contacted and scheduled for an interview with Congressman Garrett's Fifth District Nomination Board in late October or early November. Candidates will be notified by Congressman Garrett in December if they have received a Congressional Nomination.

What criteria is 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 candidates.

Are the requirements the same for all the Service Academies?

No. Although many of the qualifications are similar, each Academy operates under its own admissions guidelines. Visit the websites for the each of the Academies for its admissions qualifications. It is not necessary to seek a nomination to the U. S. Coast Guard Academy, as it accepts candidates based on their own testing criteria.

Will the candidate automatically be selected by an Academy after a nomination is received?

No. Candidates will be placed among a select group of nominees, and the Academy of choice will make the final decision. If selected, the candidate will receive an offer of admission (an appointment) directly from the Academy. A nomination is only part of the process leading to admission to an Academy. It is the responsibility of the candidate to initiate a pre-candidate file at each Academy to which they are seeking a nomination.



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What if the candidate chooses more than one Academy? Will they be limited to a single nomination?

No. Candidates can be nominated to multiple Academies depending on how well they have competed among the year's pool of candidates. It is also possible to receive multiple appointments to the Academies.

When will a candidate know if they have been offered an appointment by an Academy?

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