



REPRESENTATIVE JAMIE RASKIN

Maryland's 8th Congressional District

MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY INFORMATION

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The following items must be received in Congressman Raskin's office **no later than 5:00 PM on Thursday, October 1, 2020**. Information should be submitted as a complete package. The following materials are required:

- Completed Application.** It is important that the form be filled out neatly and be completed in ink or typed.
- Essay/Personal Statement.** Limit your writing to 500 words.
- Three letters of recommendation.** Letters will be accepted from teachers, coaches, employers, or someone who knows you well. Letters will not be accepted from a family member.
- Official Transcript.** The high school transcript must list your senior year courses. GPA and class rank must also be included. Please also provide a transcript for any college work that you have completed.
- Recent Photo.** Include a color photograph of yourself, 5 x 7 or wallet size.
- Notarized affidavit of residence.**

Mail your completed application packet to:

Congressman Jamie Raskin
51 Monroe Street, Suite 503
Rockville, MD 20850
ATTN: Nominations Coordinator

OR

Email your electronic application packet to:

christa.burton@mail.house.gov

Questions or comments? Please call our nominations coordinator, Christa Burton, at 301-354-1000.

RETURN TO: REPRESENTATIVE JAMIE RASKIN, ATTN: NOMINATIONS COORDINATOR
51 Monroe St., Suite 503, Rockville, MD 20850, PHONE: (301) 354-1000 EMAIL: christa.burton@mail.house.gov



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Please see the information below for general information, requirements, and guidelines regarding the nomination process.

Thank you for your interest in obtaining a nomination to a U.S. Service Academy. The honor of attending a service academy comes with the obligation and commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation.

Members of Congress may nominate candidates for appointment to four of the five U.S. service academies:

U.S. Military Academy (USMA), West Point, NY; the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), Annapolis, MD; the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA), Colorado Springs, CO; and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA), Kings Point, NY. (Note: The fifth service academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (USCGA), New London, CT, does not require a congressional nomination for appointment.)

Congressman Raskin may nominate up to ten individuals for each vacant academy slot allotted to our district. To request a Military Academy Nomination from our office, please submit a complete application packet. Best wishes to you as you pursue your goal of attending one of the U.S. Service Academies and serving our country.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR CLASS OF 2025 APPLICANTS:

Application Deadline and Dates to Remember:	
October 1, 2020, 5:00 PM	Deadline for receipt of completed application, including all ancillary documents, by Rep. Raskin's Rockville office
December 5, 2020	Qualified applicants will meet with Rep. Raskin's Service Academy Advisory Board for a personal interview
January 2021	Nominations will be announced
April/May 2021	Academies notify candidates of admission status
Summer 2021	Classes begin

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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

I. Minimum Nomination Requirements

To apply for a nomination to the **Air Force, Military, Naval, or Merchant Marine Academies**, you must meet all of the following minimum requirements:

- be a U.S. citizen or national;
- be at least 17 years old and not yet 23 years old on July 1 of the year the applicant would enter the academy (25 years old for USMMA)
- be unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents
- demonstrate comprehensive academic preparation
- demonstrate leadership in athletics or other extracurricular activities
- take the SAT or the ACT
- be in good physical and mental health (the academies require a comprehensive medical exam and physical aptitude exam before acceptance)

Note: The U.S. Coast Guard Academy does not require a congressional nomination for appointment.

II. Application Requirements

To be considered for a nomination to a United States Service Academy, the completed application together with ALL supporting materials must be received in Rep. Raskin's District office by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2020**. Because nominations are highly competitive, you are encouraged to apply for nominations with additional offices, including President Trump, Vice President Pence, Senator Cardin, or Senator Van Hollen.

Transcript(s): An official high school transcript must be included with your application materials. **The transcript must list your senior year courses.** Please also provide a transcript for any college work that you have completed.

Letters of Recommendation. Three letters of recommendation are required. Letters of recommendation may come from teachers, guidance counselors, coaches, and/or employers. Letters from family members will not be accepted. No more than three letters will be accepted.

All recommendation letters must be in sealed envelopes and included with your application materials.

Service Academy Review Board Interviews. Each qualified applicant will be interviewed by Rep. Raskin's Service Academy Advisory Board **on Saturday, December 5, 2020**. Qualified applicants who submit a completed application by **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2020** will be notified of their interview appointment date and time.

Your completed application: Please send your completed application to Rep. Raskin's District Office. Use the application checklist to ensure that your application is complete. **An application is considered complete only if it includes ALL of the required items, as specified on the checklist on page #1.**

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SELECTION OF NOMINEES

In addition to seeking a nomination from Rep. Raskin, you must contact the Admissions Office at each academy to open an admissions file. Following consideration of the applicants, Rep. Raskin's Review Board will propose slates of candidates for nominations to each of the service academies. Final decisions on appointments and admission are at the discretion of the service academies.

Because nominations are highly competitive, it is to your advantage to apply to more than one academy. Rep. Raskin urges you to research the opportunities afforded by each of the academies to serve the United States.

**US Air Force Academy
Admissions**
HQ USAFA/RRS
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200
USAF Academy, CO 80840-
9901 (800) 443-9266
www.usafa.af.mil

**US Merchant Marine
Academy Admissions**
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 11024-
1699 (800) 732-6267
www.usmma.edu

**US Military Academy
Admissions**
Building 606
West Point, NY 10996-9902
(845) 938-4041
www.usma.edu

**US Naval Academy
Admissions**
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-
9977 (410) 293-4361
www.usna.edu

Admission to the United States Coast Guard Academy does **not** require a congressional nomination. To obtain an application, please contact:

US Coast Guard Academy Admissions
31 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320-8103
(800) 883-8724
www.cga.edu

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about the nomination process or the required materials, please contact Christa Burton at christa.burton@mail.house.gov or call Rep. Raskin's District Office at (301) 354-1000.

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APPLICATION FOR ACADEMY NOMINATION

Please complete and return this form. Type or print neatly.

Service Academy Preferences

Indicate your preferences with 1, 2, 3, 4 and **ONLY** number the academies to which you are applying. While we try to nominate applicants to first choice academies, you could receive a nomination to any academy you list a preference for here.

_____ Air Force _____ Merchant Marine _____ Naval _____ West Point

Personal Information

Name (Last, First, Middle): _____

Place of Birth: _____ US Citizen? (Y/N) _____

Social Security Number (XXX-XX-XXXX): _____ Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Are you a resident of Maryland/Maryland's 8th Congressional District? _____

Permanent Home Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip + 4: _____

Mailing Address (if different from permanent): _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Gender: _____

Name of Legal Guardian(s): _____

Relation to Legal Guardian(s): _____

Academic Information – High School

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Name of School Counselor: _____

Graduation Month/Year: _____ GPA: _____ Class Rank: _____ Class Size: _____

Academic Information – College (if applicable)

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

Dates of attendance (mm/yr to mm/yr): _____

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Did you apply for a nomination during the previous year? Y/N

Did you receive a nomination from any other source? Y/N If yes, please provide details: _____

Have you requested that a pre-candidate file be initiated for you at any of the academies? If so, which ones?

Have you had any active or reserve military experience? Y/N If yes, please provide details: _____

Other Nominations

Other nominating sources for which you applied/are applying:

_____ Presidential _____ Vice-Presidential _____ Senatorial-Van Hollen _____ Senatorial-Cardin
_____ Other (please list)

Recommendations

Enclosed from:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Academics

What do you consider your strongest academic area and why?

What do you consider your weakest academic area and why?



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List any Advanced Placement Courses taken and AP scores:

List any academic honors or awards you have received.

Are there any additional explanations concerning your transcript you would like the interview panel to know?

Should you be appointed to a service academy, which academic area would you select as a major?

Have you applied to any other colleges or universities? Please list below.



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Athletics

List all school and community athletic activities in which you have participated. Include any personal or team achievements that demonstrate your athletic or leadership potential.

School and Community Activities

Describe fully any extra-curricular activities in which you have participated. Include length of involvement, positions of responsibility or leadership in which you served, and any honors or recognitions you received.

Describe any community activities in which you have participated, including the same information as in the above question.

Describe your other pursuits or hobbies.

Which of your activities do you consider the most rewarding?



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Employment

If you have worked during your high school years, list your salaried jobs as well as any volunteer work you have done. Describe the jobs and the number of hours worked per week.

Describe your summers while you were in high school. If you were employed, describe your employment.

ESSAY

On a separate piece of paper, please respond to the essay prompt below. Limit your response to 500 words.

Prepare an essay outlining your goals in a concise and direct manner as to why you are interested in becoming a military or merchant marine officer. Concentrate your thoughts on your service following your graduation from one of the Service Academies.

I hereby certify that my answers in this application are true and that this application has been fully completed by me without outside influence.

Print Name (Student)

Student's Signature

Date

Print Name (Parent/Guardian)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date



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AFFIDAVIT OF RESIDENCE

This form is to be completed by the parent or legal guardian of the individual seeking a nomination to a United States Service Academy. If the applicant is not a minor, the form may be completed by him/her.

This statement establishes that the applicant and his/her parent or guardian is a resident of the State of Maryland. An individual is a resident of Maryland if the individual is domiciled in Maryland on the last day of the taxable year or the individual maintains a place of abode in Maryland for more than six months of the taxable year and is physically present in the State for more than 183 days during the taxable year.

I, being of lawful age (18) and a resident of, _____ in _____ County, Maryland, do under oath and penalties of perjury, depose and say that:

1a. I am the parent entitled to the custody, or the legal guardian, of _____, a minor, who has applied to Representative Jamie Raskin for consideration as a nominee to a United States Service Academy; the applicant is my son/daughter and/or is my legal ward who lives with me; and our/my domicile is:

1b. I am _____, the applicant who has reached the age of majority, and who has applied to Representative Jamie Raskin for consideration as a nominee to a United States Service Academy; my domicile is:

(Address, including City/Town and State)

2. In evidence thereof, I depose and say that:

I am registered as a voter in _____
(City, County, and State)

or

I file income tax returns and pay state income taxes to the State of _____

or

I have the following document evidencing my legal residence: _____

Signature

Date

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Notary Public

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

WHAT IS A NOMINATION?

Members of Congress may nominate applicants who meet the eligibility requirements and who reside in the congressional district in which the candidate resides. A candidate may also seek a nomination from the following:

- The President, who nominates children of career military personnel, deceased or disabled veterans, military or civilian personnel in missing status, and Medal of Honor recipients;
- The Vice-President, who nominates five individuals from across the country;
- U.S. Senators, who represent the state in which the candidate resides and who nominate candidates to the same academies as House members; and
- The Secretary of the Army, Navy, or Air Force, who nominates members of regular military, reserve components, and participants in the ROTC.

WHAT ARE THE BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?

To qualify for an appointment to any service academy, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- be a U.S. citizen or national;
- be at least 17 years old and not yet 23 years old on July 1 of the year the applicant would enter the academy (25 years old for USMMA)
- be unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents
- demonstrate comprehensive academic preparation
- demonstrate leadership in athletics or other extracurricular activities
- take the SAT or the ACT
- be in good physical and mental health (the academies require a comprehensive medical exam and physical aptitude exam before acceptance)

WHEN DO I APPLY FOR A NOMINATION?

The nomination application period opens June 15 of each year for those candidates who are currently high school juniors and will be seniors the following school year, or who have already graduated. For class of 2025 nominations (entering Academies in July 2021), the application period opens on June 15, 2020.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING A NOMINATION PACKET?

The deadline for submitting a nomination packet to the District Office is **Thursday, October 1, 2020.**

WHAT MUST BE INCLUDED IN MY NOMINATION PACKET?

A complete nomination packet consists of the following items:

- Completed application
- Personal essay/letter stating why you want to attend a service academy (500 words or less)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Resume of extracurricular activities
- Official high school transcript, including senior class schedule, GPA, and class rank
- Affidavit of residence

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WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I HAVE COMPLETED MY NOMINATION FILE?

Applicants who submit a completed nomination file will be contacted to schedule an interview w/ Rep. Raskin's Nominations Service Academy Advisory Board in late October or early November.

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 applicants.

HOW MANY ACADEMIES ARE THERE?

There are five service academies.

- U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York
- U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland
- U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs
- U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York
- U.S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, Connecticut

*Note: Admission to the United States Coast Guard Academy does **not** require a nomination.*

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 noted for each academy's particular admissions qualifications. It is not necessary to seek a nomination to the Coast Guard Academy, which accepts candidates based on their own testing criteria.

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, and clergy.

A specific recommendation form is not required. A letter of recommendation is sufficient.

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 competed 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 candidates of their admission status no later than April. For class of 2025 candidates (entering Academies in July 2021), academies will notify candidates by April 2021.

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