



Congressman H. Morgan Griffith

Ninth Congressional District of Virginia

U.S. Service Academy Nominations

Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your interest in the U.S. Service Academies. As your Ninth District Representative in the U.S. House, each year I have the privilege of nominating a limited number of people to four of the five Service Academies. The honor of attending a Service Academy comes with an obligation and commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation. Best wishes to you as you pursue your goal of attending a U.S. Service Academy and serving our country. By nominating highly qualified and committed candidates to each Academy, I hope to have as many young men and women from the Ninth District as possible admitted to the Academies.

1) How many Academies are there?

There are five service Academies.

U.S. Military Academy

Office of Admissions

606 Thayer Road

West Point, NY 10996-1797

Phone: (800) 822-ARMY

Web: www.usma.edu

U.S. Air Force Academy

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

U.S. Naval Academy

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

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

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

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Admissions Office
(860) 444-8500 **Congressional nominations are not required for admission to the Coast Guard Academy. For more information regarding admission, please contact the Admissions Office.

2) Are the entrance 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 web sites noted to obtain each Academy's particular admissions qualifications. Admission to a Service Academy is a two-tiered process. First, the candidate must apply through the Academy directly and meet the minimum standards for admissions set by the Academy itself. The standards include medical, physical and academic qualifications. The second tier in pursuing admission is the

Congressional Nominations process. An individual must meet the admissions requirements of the Academy as well as receive a Congressional Nomination in order to be offered an appointment to the Academy.

3) What is a Nomination?

Members of Congress may nominate applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established by law. A candidate may seek a nomination from the President of the United States, from the Vice-President of the United States, from a member of the U.S. House of Representatives who represents the congressional district in which the candidate resides, from both U.S. Senators from the candidate's state, or from some ROTC organizations that are qualified.

As a Congressman, I am entitled to fill five vacancies at each Academy. These vacancies are "charged" to Virginia's Ninth District. I may only nominate young men and women to a particular Academy when a vacancy occurs in one of these "charged" slots, either by reason of graduation or withdrawal.

When a vacancy does occur, I may nominate up to ten candidates for admission. One nominee will be offered an appointment to fill the vacancy, and the other nominees, assuming that each meets the Academy's minimum requirements, are placed into a nationwide qualified candidate pool. At that point, it is left to the discretion of the Academy to choose candidates to fill the remaining slots in its incoming class.

4) What is your method of nomination?

I use the Competitive Nomination method, which is the method preferred by the Academies and used by most Members of Congress. This process allows me to nominate up to ten qualified candidates for each available opening. The candidates are then ranked in order of merit in accordance with the specific Academy's system. The most highly qualified is selected for an offer of admission ("an appointment") to fill the vacancy. The Academy itself will make the final selection.

5) Why do you use an Academy Advisory Committee?

The committee evaluates applicants and recommends candidates for nomination. This well-qualified, non-partisan board will ensure a fair and impartial process.

6) What criteria does the committee use 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.

7) What are the basic eligibility requirements for nomination?

- Age: Must 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 any legal obligation to support children or other dependents
- Residence: Must reside within the boundaries of the Ninth Congressional District of Virginia
- Skill/Fitness: Must meet the medical, physical and academic requirements of the individual Academy.

8) What must be included in my nomination file?

- Current Photo
- High School Transcript
- American College Testing Program (ACT) results OR College Board Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) results
- Resume (with extracurricular, athletic, employment, or other notable accomplishments)
- Letters of Recommendation (minimum of three)-sealed and signed across the seal by the author of the letter
- Essay---why you want to attend a Service Academy (500 words or less) *****THIS SHOULD BE THE ESSENCE OF YOUR APPLICATION PACKET, DEMONSTRATING YOUR ABILITY TO WRITE AND EXPLAINING YOUR MOTIVATION TO SERVE IN THE MILITARY*****

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

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

These are some of the people that applicants typically seek recommendations from. I do not require a specific recommendation form. A letter of recommendation is sufficient.

10) How should I submit my ACT/SAT scores?

Test results should be sent directly to my office by the testing service. The Ninth District of Virginia institution code for SAT scores is 5987 and for ACT scores, the code is 7732. If your high school certifies your ACT/SAT scores on your transcript, they will be considered as valid scores.

11) When do I apply for a nomination?

My nomination application period opens on April 1 each year for those candidates who are high school juniors and will be seniors the following school year, or who have already graduated.

12) Who do I contact to request a nomination application packet?

All correspondence and questions related to Academy nominations should be directed to:

Office of Congressman Morgan Griffith
Attn: Michelle Jenkins
323 W. Main St.
Abingdon, Virginia 24210
(276) 525-1405

Email: michelle.jenkins@mail.house.gov

13) What is the deadline for completing a nomination file?

The deadline for submitting a nomination application packet to my Abingdon District Office is October 15. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that their nomination application file with my office is complete. Please contact my office at (276) 525-1405 to verify so that your application is given full consideration.

14) What happens after I have completed my nomination file?

Applicants who submit a completed nomination file will be scheduled to meet with my Academy Advisory Committee. The interviews will be conducted in late October into November. You will be notified after the application deadline of your interview schedule.

15) When will I be notified of the results from the interview with the Academy Advisory Committee?

You will be notified within approximately 3-4 weeks from the date of the interview; normally before the end of December.

16) 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.

17) 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 upon how well you have competed among this year's pool of candidates. It is also possible to win multiple appointments.

18) 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 February. All offers of appointment are generally sent out by May.

IMPORTANT DATES

NOMINATION APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED.....APRIL 1

NOMINATION APPLICATION DEADLINE.....OCTOBER 15TH

ACADEMY ADVISORY COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS.....LATE OCT—NOV.

**CONGRESSMAN GRIFFITH'S NOMINATIONS
ANNOUNCED.....DECEMBER OF SENIOR YEAR**

CHECKLIST

- Application completed and mailed**
- Submitted Official High School Transcripts**
- Provided minimum of Three (3) Reference letters**
- Submitted ACT or SAT scores**
- Submitted Recent Photo**
- Submitted Resume of Activities**
- Submitted Essay**