Congressman John K. Delaney

Service Academy Nomination - General Information

An appointment to one of the United States Service Academies is a distinct and rare honor. Acceptance of an academy appointment involves at least a nine-year service obligation, including four years at an academy and five years of active duty service. In order to process and review your application, we need your complete cooperation. Each Congressional office uses a unique selection process that is designed to meet its particular standards. The information provided below is to help you expedite your application, so please review it carefully.

I. **Nomination:**

a. The competition for nominations in the Sixth Congressional District of Maryland is especially competitive; therefore, you are encouraged to apply for a nomination from every available nominating source.

b. For each vacancy I have at the U.S. Air Force, Naval, Military, and Merchant Marine Academies, I may nominate up to ten candidates to compete for that vacancy. Under the competitive appointment process that I use, the academies will select from my slate of nominees the one candidate they believe to be the most qualified for an appointment. The remaining nominees will then compete for other available appointments in a nationwide pool.

c. Other nomination sources:

   i. President Barack H. Obama nominates children of career military personnel, deceased or disabled veterans, military or civilian personnel in missing status, and Medal of Honor recipients;

   ii. Vice President Joseph R. Biden nominates five individuals from across the United States per year;

   iii. The Secretary of the Army, Navy, or Air Force nominates members of regular military, reserve components, and participants of the ROTC; and

   iv. Senators Barbara Mikulski and Benjamin Cardin of Maryland

d. Since academies may award more appointments than are available through Congressional vacancies, more than one nomination is neither required nor of assistance in achieving an appointment.

e. <u>If someone else nominates you, please notify me immediately so that I may allow other candidates the opportunity for nomination.</u>

II. **Eligibility:**

a. Must be an American citizen.

b. Must be at least 17 years old and not yet 23 years old on July 1 of the year you enter an academy (25 years old for U.S. Merchant Marine Academy).

c. Must not be married, pregnant, and/or have any legal obligation to support children or other dependents.

d. Must be a legal resident of the Sixth Congressional District of Maryland (except the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy).

If you are uncertain if you meet these requirements, please contact our district office for verification.

III. **Academy Evaluation Criteria:** The academies consider evidence of character, scholarship, leadership, physical aptitude, medical fitness, personal goals, and motivation in performing each nominee's "whole-person" evaluation. These are also the criteria I use to determine nominations.

a. **Character:** Absolutely critical in the course of evaluating a candidate. Absence of good moral character is a cause for disqualification. Candidates are considered to have good moral character unless evidence exists to suggest otherwise.
b. **Scholarship:** Each element of a candidate's academic record is carefully evaluated by a service academy's admissions board. The elements evaluated include a complete high school record (and college record, when applicable), class standing, and either the SAT or ACT scores. All strengths and weaknesses in a candidate's academic background are taken into account.
c. **Leadership:** Participation and achievement in organized athletics, student body and class government, clubs and class extracurricular activities, scouting, and church or other community-related activities demonstrate evidence of leadership potential. Candidates who have found it necessary to work to provide family support are considered to have demonstrated desirable leadership potential.
d. **Physical Aptitude:** Measuring strength, endurance, agility, and coordination, the academies' fitness tests are designed to determine each candidate's readiness to undertake the rigorous athletic and physical education program at the academies. Each academy has its own test requirements. Results of the examination are evaluated, assigned a numerical score, and included in the whole-person evaluation by West Point. The Air Force, Naval, and Merchant Marine academies evaluate the results on a pass-or-fail basis.
e. **Medical Fitness:** A candidate who meets minimum scholastic standards will be scheduled to take a service academy qualifying medical examination at a military or civilian contract facility near the candidate's home. Although medical qualification standards vary among the academies, only one exam is required. However, different tests may be necessary depending upon the academy. Scheduling and evaluation of the exam are arranged by the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB). Medical scheduling and evaluation are time consuming processes, especially if consultation, re-testing, or corrective action is required. The process may take from six weeks to four months. Candidates who have questions about their medical exam results should direct them to: DODMERB, 8034 Edgerton Drive, Suite 132, USAF Academy, Colorado 80840-2200; (719) 333-3562.
f. **Motivation:** Motivation is an intangible quality and difficult to evaluate. However, since it is most frequently the factor that determines an appointee's success or failure at a service academy, I make every effort to gauge a candidate's interest level in attending an academy and serving as an officer in the Armed Forces. Motivation may also be measured through an evaluation of correspondence, personal contacts, and care with which application materials are prepared.

IV. **Service Academy Questionnaires:**

a. Each academy uses a questionnaire to make an initial assessment of an applicant's potential for appointment. The results of this evaluation are provided by each academy to Members of Congress to assist them in screening their applicants. If you have not already completed a pre-candidate questionnaire for each academy you are interested in, please visit their respective websites, listed below:
    i. Military Academy: http://www.usma.edu
    ii. Naval Academy: http://www.usna.edu
    iii. Air Force Academy: http://www.usafa.edu
    iv. Merchant Marine Academy: http://www.usmma.edu

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Service Academy Nomination - Application

Nominations are made competitively on the basis of the composite of the candidate's academic record, extracurricular activities, SAT and/or ACT scores, and an interview with the Sixth Congressional District of Maryland's Military Academy Nominations Panel.

I. **Required Components:**

a. A formal, signed letter addressed to the Congressman requesting a nomination to a specific academy.
b. A résumé, including but not limited to: education, extracurricular activities, volunteer work, employment, awards and achievements, and reference contacts.
c. A complete application form (enclosed). Formal candidacy is established upon receipt of the complete application. ***All materials must be submitted as a complete packet.*** SAT and/or ACT scores are the only exception; they may be sent directly from the testing service, but must be received by the week following the interview date.
d. A Guidance Counselor form (enclosed).
e. Three letters of recommendation (forms enclosed). Letters may come from teachers (from different disciplines), counselors, employers, coaches, clergy, or anyone who knows you well (non-familial).
f. An official high school transcript. Transcripts must include your grade point average, class rank (if applicable), and your anticipated coursework for your senior year.
g. Official SAT and/or ACT scores. These scores must be sent directly from the testing agency to my office. Copies of unofficial or official test scores will not be accepted. Applicants are responsible for requesting that the scores be sent. The SAT college code for my office is 0214, and the ACT college code for my office is 7448. ***These tests must be taken no later than the earliest testing dates in October. You will not be eligible for a nomination or an interview if your official SAT and/or ACT results are not received in my office by the week following the interview date.***
h. Three brief essays concerning your application.
i. A recent photograph.
j. An interview with my Military Academy Nominations Panel (usually scheduled in November)

II. **Basis for Nomination:**

a. School records, including GPA and class rank. The average competitive candidate stands in the upper fifth of his or her class.
b. Testing scores from SAT and/or ACT. For the most part, a competitive candidate must have SAT scores above 560 on the verbal test and above 600 on the mathematical test. My office does not require the optional essay portion of the SAT. If your scores do not meet the minimum requirements—especially in the math section—you are strongly encouraged to retake the SAT.
c. Extracurricular activities, including work, athletics, community service, and school clubs and organizations.
d. Motivation is one of the most important considerations, but it is also the most difficult to measure. To an extent, motivation is reflected in the diligence, independence, and interest the candidate shows in completing his or her file. The interview is also designed to assess an applicant's motivation.
e. The three brief essays (300 words or less per essay).

If your file is complete, you will be notified in early November about the scheduled time of your interview before my Military Academy Nominations Panel. **Completed applications must be postmarked or emailed by October 17, 2014; applications received after this date will not be considered for a nomination.**

Please send all correspondence regarding the service academies to one of our district offices or via email:

Office of Congressman John K. Delaney
ATTN: Military Academy Nominations Officer
38 South Potomac Street
Suite 205
Hagerstown, MD 21740
Phone: 301-733-2900

Office of Congressman John K. Delaney
ATTN: Military Academy Nominations Officer
9801 Washingtonian Boulevard
Suite 330
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Phone: 301-926-0300

Email: Delaney.Academy@mail.house.gov

Fax: 301-926-0324

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Service Academy Nomination - Application Checklist

This form is to be completed, signed, and returned with your application packet.

I verify that my application packet for an academy nomination from Congressman John K. Delaney is complete and includes the following information:

_____Formal, signed letter to the Congressman
_____A résumé
_____Application Form, including the three essays
_____Official High School Transcript
_____Guidance Counselor Form
_____Three letters of recommendation:
1st Recommendation completed by:_____
2nd Recommendation completed by: _____
3rd Recommendation completed by: _____
_____Official SAT and/or ACT Scores (Please note that this is the only item that may be submitted separately. However, in the interim, you may include a copy of an official SAT or ACT Report.)
_____Recent photograph of applicant

All of the items that are checked are included in this application packet, which must be postmarked or emailed by October 17, 2014. I understand that the official SAT and/or ACT test scores are the only item that may be submitted separately.

SIGNATURE: _____

APPLICANT'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____

_____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

DATE: _____