

Speaker Mike Johnson

Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District

Service Academy Nomination FAQs

Acceptance at a service academy involves at least a nine-year obligation to the particular service: four years at the academy and a minimum of five years with the service.

What are basic eligibility requirements?

As of July 1st of the year of admission, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Age: at least 17 by July 1st of entering year, but not older than 23
- Citizenship: U.S. citizen or have obtained citizenship by graduation
- Residency: a legal resident of the United States (and of Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District to receive nomination from Speaker Mike Johnson)
- Marital Status or Dependency: unmarried, not pregnant and do not have any legal obligation to support a child or dependent
- Academic: complete SAT I or ACT examinations (contact individual service academies for their specific requirements)
- Health: must pass academy physical requirements and medical examination through DODMERB.
- Character: of strong moral character

Although guidelines are similar, each academy operates under its own admission guidelines. Visit the academy of your choice via the website to note specific requirements. It is not necessary to seek a nomination to the Coast Guard Academy as they accept candidates based on their own testing criteria.

What is the nomination application procedure?

To be considered for a nomination by Speaker Mike Johnson, each applicant must submit an application package by the exact date on the website.

Late applications or materials received separately, such as letters of recommendation, transcripts or other documents, will not be considered *without exception*.

Each package must contain the following:

- **Application form**
- **Resume explaining your extra-curricular activities**
- **Recent picture of yourself**
- **High school and/or college transcript**
- **An essay of less than 500 words on why you want to attend a service academy**

- **SAT/ACT scores:** All testing scores must be received by the beginning of November, as results received later cannot be considered for our purposes. You are encouraged to retake the SAT or ACT exam in order to improve your academic competitiveness. Academies will accept the highest scores in each academic area, regardless of test date. For example, if a math score is higher on one test date, and a verbal score on another, the academies will select the highest scores from the separate tests.
- **Letters of recommendation:** There is a limit of five letters of recommendation, with a minimum of three. One letter must be written by your high school principal or guidance counselor. The other letters may be written by teachers, coaches, scoutmasters, clergy or community leaders who can accurately comment on your character, abilities and potential for success in a service academy environment. Recommendations by family members are discouraged, but will be accepted in certain circumstances. Letters of recommendation do not need to be sealed, but sealing is acceptable if the writer prefers. It is not necessary to send additional certificates, letters, photos, etc., as only the required documents will be used for consideration.
- **Delivery instructions:** Make sure that **all materials** requested are uploaded on the website, mailed the Bossier City office or scanned and emailed by the submission date.

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. Candidates are evaluated and compared with other applicants.

Will I have an in-person interview with a service academy review board?

Once your application file is complete, you will be notified at least one week in advance of your interview appointment which will be scheduled in December of each year. To select the best nominees from Louisiana each year, Speaker Johnson uses a service academy review board to interview young men and women applying to the service academies. This board is comprised of constituents who have graduated from the academies or otherwise are veterans or important community leaders. The board members are volunteers who recommend the top candidates for nomination based on objective and competitive criteria. I rely on this board to screen applicants and to recommend who would best represent Louisiana’s Fourth District at our nation’s prestigious service academies.

Selection Announcement: What is the difference between a nomination and an appointment?

All nominations will be forwarded to the appropriate academy by December 31st. A nomination is then reviewed by the service academy and ranked. The academy will then select those candidates upon which they wish to confer an appointment. Appointment announcements can come as early as January and as late as early June and will be communicated by both the Speaker and the academy.

Who do I contact with questions in Speaker Johnson's office?

Please contact Kathy Babers at 318-780-9926 or by email at Kathy.Babers@mail.house.gov.

Can I apply for a nomination through another office?

It is in your best interest to request a nomination through all sources available to you: presidential, vice presidential, senatorial and your U.S. representative. If your father or mother serves or has served in the military, or was killed in action, you may be eligible for a presidential nomination. Please contact the service academy for more information. However, you may not submit an application to another U.S. representative who is not your congressman. To receive a nomination from your U.S. senator or the vice president, you should contact them at the following:

Senator Bill Cassidy
5555 Hilton Avenue, Suite 100
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
225-929-7711

Senator John Kennedy
101 La Rue France, Suite 503
Lafayette, LA 70508
337-269-5980

Vice President J.D. Vance
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/service-academy-nomination/>