



Application Packet  
Service Academy Nominations  
Class of 2026

Congressman Henry Cuellar  
Attn: Melissa Peña  
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**HENRY CUELLAR, PH.D.**  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Applicant:

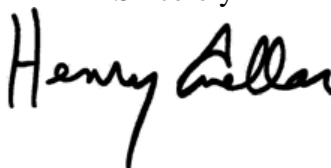
Thank you for contacting my office regarding nominations to our nation's Service Academies. I am honored to be involved in the nomination process and I applaud you for your desire to serve our great nation in the Armed Services. Due to the limited number of candidates I am able to nominate to each Service Academy, I encourage you to contact both Senator John Cornyn's and Senator Ted Cruz's offices to inquire about their nomination process as well.

The Service Academies for which I offer nominations are the United States Air Force Academy, United States Military Academy, United States Merchant Marine Academy, and United States Naval Academy. A nomination to one of the Service Academies is a prestigious honor which requires characteristics of dedication, a desire to serve others, the ability to accept discipline, and a sense of duty and morality.

Appointments to the Service Academies are extremely competitive. Therefore, we highly encourage you to return a completed and competitive package as early as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact my Laredo office and speak with Melissa Peña at (956) 725-0639 or via email at [melissa.pena@mail.house.gov](mailto:melissa.pena@mail.house.gov). I look forward to receiving your application for nomination.

Sincerely



Henry Cuellar, Ph.D  
Member of Congress

## NOMINATION CHECKLIST

All required items must be sent to my Laredo office postmarked by Friday, October 29, 2021. **Incomplete applications will NOT be considered for nomination.** For delivery verification, you may wish to request a return receipt from the Post Office.

**I HAVE INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING (Please check items you have enclosed)**

\_\_\_ **APPLICATION FORM AND RESUME** completed and **signed** by applicant

\_\_\_ **PERSONAL ESSAY** (1 page maximum including why you want to attend the academy)

\_\_\_ **THREE (3) PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION LETTERS** completed by counselors, principals, teachers, religious leaders (i.e. priests, rabbis and ministers), coaches or community leaders. You are required to return a minimum of three (3) personal recommendation letters by the postmark deadline. **NOTE:** recommendation letters are the chief cause of delays in completing an application packet. **Start this process now to ensure that they are postmarked by the deadline.**

\_\_\_ **OFFICIAL COPY OF HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT**, including courses currently in progress, GPA through junior year, and class rank. If you would like to provide your transcript from your senior year, you may send it as an update as long as your application is complete by October 29, 2021.

\_\_\_ **OFFICIAL COPY OF COLLEGE TRANSCRIPT** (if applicable) including courses currently in progress and GPA.

\_\_\_ **COPY OF OFFICIAL SAT/ACT SCORES** if they are not being sent directly from the college boards. **NOTE:** test scores must be postmarked by October 29, 2021. Carefully consider the dates that you are taking tests; if you wait until September, your scores may not arrive on time. Upcoming SAT and ACT national test dates can be found on the following page. My office's score report codes are: **SAT: 4703, ACT: 7709**

\_\_\_ **CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH** (wallet-sized)

\_\_\_ **AWARD, CERTIFICATES, etc.** (optional)

***Check one and complete:***

\_\_\_ I have taken the following tests on the dates indicated: SAT \_\_\_\_\_ ACT \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I have not taken the required tests, but plan to take the SAT/ACT on \_\_\_\_\_

I am also seeking a nomination through:

\_\_\_\_\_

Senator

\_\_\_\_\_

Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_

President

**Deadline for postmarking application items is October 29, 2021**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **SAT and ACT Test Dates**

Standardized test scores are important elements of your application. In order for your application to be considered complete, you must either send an official copy of your scores or have the testing centers send your scores to my office. The codes for my office are: SAT: 4703, ACT: 7709. To meet this deadline, I suggest taking one or both as soon as possible and we highly suggest taking the tests multiple times to improve your scores. The dates can be found on these websites:

<http://sat.collegeboard.com/register/sat-dates>

<http://www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html>

\*Note: All test scores must be postmarked by **October 29, 2021**. However, your test scores can be updated between the time of your application and the time of the Academy Board meeting if you score higher on a later test; this will only be permitted for students who submit their score(s) on or before the official deadline to complete their files.

### **Service Academy Contact Information**

If you have not already done so, you should open a pre-candidate file with the service academies that you desire to attend. And we encourage you to apply to all of the Service Academies that you are interested in. Failure to contact the Service Academies and becoming an official candidate will automatically disqualify you for an official interview with my office. Applying to the Service Academy and applying for a nomination are processes that need to be accomplished at the same time. To obtain catalogs and other specific information on the academies, please contact them directly.

U.S. Air Force Academy  
Admissions Office  
Colorado Springs, CO 80840-5651  
(800) 443-9266  
[www.usafa.edu](http://www.usafa.edu)

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy  
Admissions Office  
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699  
(866) 546-4788  
[www.usmma.edu](http://www.usmma.edu)

U.S. Military Academy  
Admissions Office  
606 Thayer Road  
West Point, New York 10996-1797  
(800) 822-2769  
[www.usma.edu](http://www.usma.edu)

U.S. Naval Academy  
USNA Admission Office  
117 Decatur Rd.  
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018  
(888) 249-7707  
[www.usna.edu](http://www.usna.edu)

\*Note: Congressional nominations are no longer required (nor are they submitted) for the United States Coast Guard Academy (USCGA). If you are interested in attending the USCGA, contact the Academy directly at:

United States Coast Guard  
Admissions Office  
New London, CT 06320-4195  
(203) 444-8501  
[www.uscga.edu](http://www.uscga.edu)

**CONGRESSMAN HENRY CUELLAR**  
**2021-2022 APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO THE UNITED STATES**  
**SERVICE ACADEMIES**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Preferred First Name)

Current Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street / P.O. Box)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

Texas Residence: *(If you listed a Post Office Box or a temporary address above. Service Academies require the listing of your street address in Texas.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street / P.O. Box)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

Home Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Telephone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently or were you formerly enlisted in the United States Military? \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered "Yes" which branch? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you the dependent of an active or retired member of the United States Military? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a U.S. citizen? \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male \_\_\_ Female \_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name of parent(s) or legal guardian(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

High School Attended:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(School Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(School Address) (City) (State) (Zip)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(School Phone Number) (Counselor's Name)

Expected Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

High School GPA: \_\_\_\_

*(Please have your counselor convert this to the 4.0 scale)*

Class Rank: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

SAT: Critical Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Writing \_\_\_\_\_ Composite \_\_\_\_\_

ACT: English \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Science \_\_\_\_\_ Composite \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended an Academy Summer Seminar? \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered "Yes" which Academy Leadership Seminar(s) did you attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently an active participant of any of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ JROTC \_\_\_\_\_ Boy Scouts/Eagle Scout/Gold Award \_\_\_\_\_ Mission Field

\_\_\_\_\_ Civil Air Patrol (CAP) \_\_\_\_\_ National Honor Society \_\_\_\_\_ Academy Preparatory School

Please indicate which academy you would like to attend; if you are interested in more than one academy, please rank them in order of your preference, first to last.

\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Air Force Academy \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Military Academy

\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Merchant Marine Academy \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Naval Academy

\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Coast Guard (A Congressional Nomination is not required for the Coast Guard Academy)

**RESUME:** On a separate page, briefly describe your involvement in the following activities: **interscholastic athletics, school activities, community involvement (volunteer or work experience), other activities you consider important or noteworthy and all awards and honors.** Include information regarding leadership positions and recognitions of achievement, as well as dates of involvement in each activity.

**APPLICATION AGREEMENT:** Please read the following paragraph before signing the application, as your signature indicates your agreement with the following statements. **If you do not include your signature, your application will not be considered for nomination:**

*It is my sincere desire to attend a U.S. Service Academy, and I intend to pursue a vigorous academic course of study if appointed. I understand that attending a service academy also requires a minimum of five years of military service following graduation, and I fully commit to this responsibility. I am a U.S. Citizen, or will be by July 1, 2021. I will be at least 17 years old, but not yet 23 years of age, on July 1, 2021. I am not married. I am not pregnant, nor do I have any legal dependents or obligations. I am a legal resident of the State of Texas.*

*I certify that the information I have provided in this application packet is accurate. Any changes to this information will be reported immediately. Additionally, I understand that I will not be considered for a nomination if the required documents are incomplete or are not postmarked by October 29, 2021.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**Send Completed Application Packet by October 29, 2021 to:**

**U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar  
Attention: Melissa Pena  
602 E. Carlton Rd., Ste. 2  
Laredo, TX 78041**

# **SERVICE ACADEMY FACT SHEET**

The following requirements apply to entrance to all four academies to which Members of Congress make nominations: Air Force, Military Academy (West Point), Navy, and Merchant Marine. The academy process is very competitive; therefore all candidates are urged to apply to every nomination authority they qualify for. The academy generally seeks a well rounded individual who demonstrate leadership and is involved in their school and community.

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:** Applicants must be at least 17 years of age, but not past 23 years of age as of July 1 of the year of admission to an academy; must be a citizen of the United States by birth or naturalization as of July 1 of the year of admission; and must be men and women of good moral character who are trustworthy, emotionally stable, and motivated.

**RESIDENCE:** Candidate and/or his or her parents must provide proof (if requested) of residence in the 28<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas within the two years prior to prospective admission to an academy.

**MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS:** All physical examinations are conducted at designated Department of Defense medical examining centers. Examinations will be conducted only for candidates who have been officially scheduled by the Department of Medical Examination Review Board – a tri-service agency responsible for scheduling and evaluating examinations for all the U.S. Service Academies. Applicants will receive instructions for taking the Medical Examination directly from the Medical Review Board.

**PHYSICAL APTITUDE:** Applicants must demonstrate superior strength, endurance, and agility which will be measured by the Physical Aptitude Examination (PAE). Candidates are advised to prepare for this examination by engaging in vigorous activities such as running, general conditioning exercises, and competitive games. Details on the PAE can be found in the appropriate academy manual, together with the height and weight limitations.

**ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS:** To be considered for a nomination to an Academy, the applicant must take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and/or the American College Testing Program (ACT). It is strongly recommended that the SAT/ACT tests be taken to see which one measures the educational background most favorably. Applicants are advised to check carefully with their guidance counselors. **SAT Code: 4703, ACT Code: 7709**

**APPLICATION:** All applicants are required to submit the following: completed application, transcripts, resume, three letters of recommendation, personal essay, SAT/ACT. Your completed application must be returned no later than **October 29, 2021, to my Laredo District Office.** Applicants must indicate their academy preference on the application form. Applicants will be reviewed for any or all service academies listed on the application form for which openings are available

**INTERVIEW:** Eligible applicants who have also applied directly to the Service Academies will be interviewed in December by the Service Academy Board for the 28<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas.

**Once nominees are selected, nominations will be submitted to the Service Academies, which will determine which nominees will receive offers of appointment.**