



Congressman Henry Cuellar, TX-28

Service Academy Nominations

Each year, Congressman Henry Cuellar has the privilege of nominating young men and women for admission to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at King's Point.

Candidates interested in seeking a nomination from my office to one of these academies must request a copy of my application packet in addition to applying directly to the Academy's Admissions office. I encourage you to contact other nominating sources, such as your U.S. Senators. Be certain to confirm their deadlines and application requirements as procedures may differ between offices.

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy manages its own selection process based on a nationwide merit based competitive process. No congressional nominations are required. All applicants must apply directly to the Coast Guard Academy's Admissions office. For further information, visit their website at <http://www.cga.edu>.

Basic Requirements for Service Academy Eligibility

- Must be at least 17, but not yet 23 years-of-age by July 1st of year of admission to the academy.
- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- Must be unmarried.
- Cannot be pregnant or have legal obligation to support a child or other dependents.
- Must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy.

Nomination Process and Requirements

The selection process consists of several steps, including the completion of my nomination application packet and an interview before my Service Academy Advisory Board. In choosing nominees, I will consider:

- **Academics**
 - Official transcript, grade point average, SAT and ACT scores, class rank, etc.
- **Leadership experience and ability**
 - Applicant must complete a three-page application form, indicating information on extra-curricular activities. Examples include work, church, school government, and youth or civic organizations.
- **Motivation and writing skills**
 - Acceptance to an Academy is a highly desired goal. To gauge each applicant's determination and goals, an essay of 300 words must be submitted on the topic of "Why I want to attend the (name) Academy."
- **A minimum of three letters of recommendation**
 - One of which must be from your high school Guidance Counselor or Principal.
- **Residency**
 - Candidates must be domiciled in Texas' 28th Congressional District.
- **Optional**
 - Candidates are encouraged to attach a list of honors, awards, activities, achievements, resume, photograph, or any other information you feel is pertinent to your application.
- **An interview before my service academy selection board**
 - Potential interviews would take place in December.

Download an Application

Our nomination application period is currently open. The application deadline is Friday, October 31, 2025. The application can be downloaded from my website:

<https://cuellar.house.gov/constituentservices/serviceacademynominations.htm>.

Offers of Appointment

The admissions departments of the academies will make the final decision on which candidates will be admitted. Offers of Appointment are announced on a rolling basis. The Academies will notify most candidates of their final status by April.

If you are not selected, you are welcome to reapply the following year. Many applicants succeed after an additional year of preparation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melissa Peña in Congressman Cuellar's Laredo's office at (956) 725-0639. Good luck!