UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMIES

Congressional Nomination Application Packet



CONGRESSWOMAN
HILLARY SCHOLTEN
★ PROUDLY SERVING WEST MICHIGAN ★

Dear Student,

A great way to serve your country and receive an outstanding education is to attend one of the United States service academies.

Securing an academy nomination, and ultimately an appointment to the academy of your choice, is a highly competitive process.

While the information found in this packet will help you navigate the process, our office is always available to answer any questions you may have along the way.

Please contact Bradley Stek at Representative Scholten's Grand Rapids office by phone at ***616-451-8383*** *or by email at:* ***Bradley.Stek@mail.house.gov****.*



Hillary Scholten
Member of Congress

CONTENTS

Service Academy Candidate Preparations 3
Service Academy Nomination Process 4
Service Academy Nomination Application 5

SERVICE ACADEMY CANDIDATE PREPARATIONS

The U.S. Service Academies are among the most highly respected educational programs in the nation. The honor of attending a service academy comes with the obligation and commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation.

It is important to remember that entrance into an academy involves both a nomination from an authorized nominating source (most often your U.S. Representative, U.S. Senator, or the Vice President) and an offer of appointment from the academy.

Candidates should work with both the nominating source and the academy simultaneously.

Please Note: A congressional nomination does not guarantee appointment to one of the service academies.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

To meet all the eligibility requirements, each applicant:

- Must be at least 17 years of age but not yet 23 years of age as of July 1 of the year you seek admission.
- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- May not be married, pregnant, or have a legal obligation to support a child.
- Must be a resident of the 3rd District of Michigan.

PREPARATION IN SCHOOL

To be a competitive candidate, preparation in high school often includes:

- A curriculum with four years of English, four years of math, four years of science, three years of social science, two years of a foreign language, and a computer class.
- Participation in a team or individual sport.
- Leadership roles in groups, employment, or activities such as student body or class government, organized athletics, scouting, clubs (Boys/Girls), State, church, or other community related activities.
- Excellent standardized test scores, grades, and class rank.

ACADEMY EVALUATION

Academies evaluate using such criteria as: scholarship, academics, medical exam, candidate fitness assessment, leadership, motivation, and character.

These criteria are required to meet the challenges of the academies, and following graduation, of a commissioned officer.

SERVICE ACADEMIES

The five service academies include:

U.S. Military Academy at West Point
Admissions Building 606
West Point, NY 10996-1700
Phone: 845-938-4041
Website: ***www.usma.edu***

U.S. Air Force Academy
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, CO 80840-5020
Phone: 800-443-9266
Website: ***www.usafa.edu***

U.S. Naval Academy
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5019
Phone: 410-293-1858
Website: ***www.usna.edu***

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 11024-1699
Phone: 866-546-4778
Website: ***www.usmma.edu***

U.S. Coast Guard Academy*
31 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320-9807
Phone: 800-883-8724
Website: ***www.cga.edu***

***Note:** The U.S. Coast Guard Academy does not require a congressional nomination. To be considered for an appointment you must contact the academy directly.

SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION PROCESS

TIMELINE

Spring 2026 - Junior Year of High School: Contact Representative Scholten in writing to express your interest in applying for a Service Academy Nomination. Review the application for nomination included in this packet. Prepare your application and other required documents as noted on the Service Academy Nomination Checklist.

August thru October 2026: Completed application packets for nominations are accepted at the Grand Rapids office.

October 30, 2026: Applications are due in the Grand Rapids office (see mailing address below).

November 2026: Applications are reviewed and applicants notified of interview date, time, and location.

December 2026: Interviews are conducted with Representative Scholten's Academy Advisory Board.

January 2026: Notification of nomination status is mailed to candidates. Nominations are submitted to the academies.

January to May 2026: Service academies notify candidate of their appointment status.

July 2026: Candidates who receive and accept appointments report to their academy.

CONGRESSIONAL VACANCIES

Representative Scholten may have a maximum of five charged cadets or midshipmen at each service academy at one time. For each vacancy (a position not currently occupied by a freshman, sophomore, or junior), she can nominate 10 candidates. Your service academy application and other supporting documentation, along with your interview with Representative Scholten's Academy Advisory Board, serve to verify that you are qualified for a nomination.

NOMINATION CHECKLIST

Each applicant must meet the eligibility requirements highlighted in the General Requirements section of this packet and submit a completed nomination packet to Representative Scholten's office by ***October 30, 2026.***

A nomination packet consists of the following items:

- ☐ **Application** - Fill out the included interactive application in its entirety then save and print the application.
- ☐ **Transcript** - Provide a transcript of your high school grades (and any college grades, if applicable) through the most recent grading period.
- ☐ **Test Scores (SAT, ACT, or CLT)** - These can be a part of the official transcript provided by your high school, or the most recent scores available to you.
- ☐ **Letters of Recommendation** - Provide **three** letters of recommendation from members of your community who are in a position to comment on your leadership ability, character, and suitability for an academy nomination and military career. It is suggested that the letters come from a variety of individuals who can give a view of all aspects of your life.
- ☐ **Photograph** - PInclude a clear and recent photo of yourself.

If you have questions, please contact: Bradley Stek by email at ***Bradley.Stek@mail.house.gov*** or by phone at **616-451-8383**.

Disclaimer Addition

Documentation should be easy to read, well-organized, and print-ready.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

By Mail or In-Person:
U.S. Representative Hillary Scholten
ATTN: Bradley Stek
110 Michigan Street NW, Suite 460
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

By Email:
Send to ***Bradley.Stek@mail.house.gov.***
Include the application form, transcript, test scores, letters of recommendation, and photograph.

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Grand Rapids Office
II0 Michigan Street NW, Suite 460
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: 616-451-8383

SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION APPLICATION

Please complete the application digitally. The form is in PDF fillable format and can be completed digitally.

I. PERSONAL

Full Name: _____

Place of Birth: _____ Date of Birth: _____

United States Citizen: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Father's Name: _____

Military Service: ☐ Yes ☐ No Branch and length of service: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Military Service: ☐ Yes ☐ No Branch and length of service: _____

II. EDUCATION

High School: _____

Date of Graduation: _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average: _____ Class Size: _____ Class Rank: _____

ACT Score: English: _____ Math: _____ Composite: _____

SAT Score: English: _____ Math: _____ Total: _____

CLT Score: Verbal: _____ Grammar: _____ Reasoning: _____

III. SERVICE ACADEMY PREFERENCES

Please list your academy preferences in order. If you have only one choice and do not wish to be considered by any other academy, type "**ONLY**" after your choice.

Ist: _____ 3rd: _____

2nd: _____ 4th: _____

If you have applied to your other nominating sources, please list them below (e.g. U.S. Senators):

_____

IV. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Please list any memberships, volunteer/service, offices held, honors received, and any special activities:

Please list all athletic involvement, related honors, and leadership positions:

Please list any employment experience, part-time or full-time *(employer names, job descriptions, and length of employment)*:

V. ESSAY

I. Please state the reasons why you would like to serve in the United States military.

2. Why are you a good candidate for nomination to a United States service academy?

3. What are your future plans if you do not receive an appointment to a United States service academy?

4. Please write a brief statement regarding something of great importance to you.

Questions? Please email **Bradley.Stek@mail.house.gov** or call **616-451-8383**.

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Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: 616-451-8383

SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION APPLICATION

Application Agreement

Please read the following paragraph before signing the application, as your signature indicates your agreement with the following statements:

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. I confirm that I have met all the basic eligibility requirements for the U.S. service academy(s) to which I have applied.

I certify that the information I have provided in this application packet is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Any changes or corrections to this information will be reported as soon as possible to Representative Hillary Scholten's Office. Additionally, I understand that I will not be considered for a nomination if the required application packet documents are incomplete or are not postmarked by October 30, 2026.

I understand that the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools or software is strictly prohibited in completing any part of this application, including essays, and that all work submitted must be my own original work.

By signing this form, I certify that Representative Hillary Scholten's office may use my name in press and official promotional materials related to U.S. Service Academy nominations.

Signature:_____ Date:_____