



CONGRESSMAN JARED POLIS

SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF COLORADO

2011 United States Service Academy Nominations Information & Instructions for Potential Applicants

Congressional Nominations

Members of Congress are authorized by law to nominate candidates for appointment to four U.S. Service Academies:

- The United States Air Force Academy
- The United States Military Academy
- The United States Naval Academy
- The United States Merchant Marine Academy

The 5th U.S. Service Academy, the United States Coast Guard Academy, does not require a Congressional nomination for appointment. However, upon completion of the application and interview process, a recommendation letter can be requested. These institutions prepare college-age Americans to be officers of the United States uniformed services. Upon graduation, U.S. Service Academy graduates are commissioned as officers in the active or reserve components of the U.S. Military, Merchant Marine, or Coast Guard for a minimum of five years.

Service Academy Requirements

As established by Federal law, applicants must meet the following requirements on July 1st of the year of admission to an academy:

1. Age	Be at least 17 years old, but not have passed their 23 rd birthday.
2. Citizenship	Be a United States citizen.
3. Marital Status	Be unmarried, not pregnant, and have no legal obligation to support children or other dependents.
4. Scholastic	Have graduated from high school. Contact our office for home school requirements. Typically applicants have SAT scores ranging from 550-650 verbal and 550-700 math or ACT scores ranging from 26-30 verbal and 27-31 math. Also, applicants are typically in the top 10% of their class, but all applicants in the upper 40% are considered.
5. Domicile	Reside in the Second Congressional District of Colorado to receive a nomination from Congressman Jared Polis.
6. Physical	Review requirements for the U.S. Service Academy of your choice. Please note appointment offers may be conditional based on your medical exam

Test Score Guidelines

The following scores represent the minimum requirements for the standardized testing portion of your application to the Air Force, Merchant Marine, Naval Academy, and Military Academy (West Point). The following scores were established by the academies themselves, and confirm with the academy directly for the year you are applying.

Air Force	<u>SAT</u>	<u>ACT</u>	Merchant Marine	<u>SAT</u>	<u>ACT</u>
Verbal	590	26	Verbal	500	24
Math	620	27	Math	520	25
Reading		28	Combined	1020	
Sciences		27			
Naval Academy	<u>SAT</u>	<u>ACT</u>	West Point	<u>SAT</u>	<u>ACT</u>
Verbal	600	26	Verbal	600	26
Math	600	30	Math	600	26
			Science		26
			Reading		26

Dates & Deadlines

- October 7, 2011 Candidate applications are due to the Thornton office (see address information below).
- Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12 & 19, 2011 Candidate interviews. *Note: dates are tentative and based on the number of applicants. Final interview dates will be announced after Oct. 7th, when all candidate applications are due.*
- January 14, 2012 Candidate selections announced.

Application Submission

By **Friday, October 7, 2011** applications must be received at Congressman Polis's Thornton office:

U.S. Representative Jared Polis
 Gina Salazar, Deputy District Director
 1200 East 78th Avenue, Suite #105 Thornton, CO 80229
 Phone: 303.287.4159
 Fax: 303.287.4385
 Gina.Salazar@mail.house.gov
 www.polis.house.gov

Completed applications can be submitted in one package in the following ways:

- Send to gina.salazar@mail.house.gov (preferred method).
- Fax to (303) 287-4385, Attention: Gina Salazar. Note: Photo will need to be sent by mail or electronically.
- Send by mail to the Thornton office (see address above).
- Deliver by hand to the Thornton office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Please indicate if parts of your application (test scores, transcript, etc.) will be arriving separately. **Incomplete applications or applications received after October 7, 2011, will not be considered**

Application Instructions

In order to be considered for a nomination, the following items must be submitted. Most of the forms included in the application are provided in editable format. Please type directly in the form using Adobe® Reader at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

Part 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic application: personal information, Certification of Accuracy and Understanding form, and optional demographic questionnaire. • Personal letter, explaining to Congressman Polis your reasons for seeking a nomination to a U.S. Service Academy. Include why you have chosen this career path and how you can contribute as a cadet or midshipman. • Two (2) essays: Limit your responses to each question below to no more than two pages and double-spaced. Although the content of your essays is most important, you will also be evaluated based on essential writing skills. If you are submitting your application electronically, you may submit your essays as a separate attachment. Essay Questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Of the many attributes needed for succeeding at a Service Academy please describe one that is one of your strengths and another that is a weakness using specific examples and how you will utilize these attributes while at the Academy.</i> 2. <i>What does the Honor Code really mean to you, and what personal challenges do you foresee about integrating the Honor Code in your behavior and actions at the Service Academy and beyond?</i>
Part 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill out interactive PDF form, “U.S. Service Academy 2011 Candidate Summary Sheet” • Photograph: Attached to the U.S. Service Academy Candidate Summary Sheet. If not, send as a PNG or JPEG image; or mail. Please consider the professional nature of this application when selecting a photograph. • (Optional) Attach a resume to provide additional not listed on Candidate Summary Sheet.
Part 3	<p>Complete and send the reference form with your three (3) references.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For your recommendations, give a Nomination Reference Form that has the mailing address for Congressman Polis’ Thornton office to each of your references. • <i>One (1) of these recommendations must be completed by a teacher, principal or counselor.</i> Recommendations should be completed by someone who knows you well (coach, mentor, etc.), but <i>not</i> by a family member.
Part 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official copy of your high school transcript: The transcript may be included with your application if it is a certified original. Otherwise ask your school to send it directly to Congressman Polis’ Thornton office. If you are currently a college student planning to transfer to a U.S. Service Academy, please send your most recent college transcript in addition to your high school transcript. • <i>Providing an altered or false transcript will result in your application being dismissed without further consideration.</i>
Part 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official ACT and/or SAT scores: If your official ACT and/or SAT scores are included on your official transcript, you do not need to send it separately. Otherwise, these scores need to be sent directly to the Thornton office by the due date. • <i>Providing an altered or false report of test scores will result in your application being dismissed without further consideration.</i>
Part 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate Interviews: Each qualified candidate will have the opportunity to participate in an interview with the selection panel (telephonic and/or in-person). Shortly after the application submittal deadline, you will be contacted via email by the Congressman’s office with more information with regards to your application’s status and the interview schedule. • The candidate is responsible to follow up with the Congressman’s office prior to the interview dates if they have not received status. <i>Candidates not providing complete application by the due date will be disqualified from the interview process.</i>