



U.S. Senator Thom Tillis
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Guidelines for United States Service Academy Nominations

What materials are needed for an academy nomination from Senator Tillis?

You are responsible for ensuring that your packet is completed and submitted online at <http://www.tillis.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/academy-nominations>. **ALL of the following materials must be submitted ONLINE by 11:59 pm on October 31, 2019. Incomplete packets will not be processed and applicants will be disqualified.**

- Online application and each required document:
 - An essay that summarizes your reasons for wanting to attend a Service Academy.
 - Your high school transcript and SAT/ACT scores.
 - Three (3) letters of recommendation from non-relatives, at least one of which must be from a teacher or school official.
 - A recent photograph.
 - Updated resume
 - Completed questionnaire application

YOU MUST ALSO APPLY directly to the Admissions Department of the Service Academy(s) that you are interested in attending.

What are the minimum qualifications for a nomination?

Each candidate must:

- Be at least 17 years of age, but not yet 22 by July 1st of the year he or she is admitted to the Academy. For the Merchant Marine Academy, the upper age limit is 25.
- Be a citizen of the United States at the time he or she enters the Academy.
- Be unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation for the support of a dependent.
- Meet the minimum requirements of the Academy to which he or she is applying. Candidates who do not meet the school's minimum requirements will not receive an interview for that Academy.

A competitive applicant typically has the following qualifications:

- Minimum SAT scores of 500 verbal and 550 Math.
- A grade point average of 3.7 on a 4.0 scale.
- Ranking in the upper 20% of his or her class.

- Notable participation and performance in extracurricular activities.
- Excellent health and physical abilities.

Since physical requirements vary among the Academies, it is recommended that you contact the Academy(s) of your choice directly if you have questions about your possible ineligibility. Do not avoid applying if your information regarding potential physical ineligibility comes from someone other than an Academy recruiting official. Some physical shortcomings may be waived by the Academy.

How critical are my SAT/ACT scores?

Aside from your grades, your performance on the SAT and ACT are crucial to an Academy's selection decision. Information regarding the testing dates may be obtained through your high school counselors. **You must schedule your testing early enough so that your scores are received by the October 31 deadline as THEY ARE A REQUIREMENT for consideration. If your scores are not received in time, your packet will not be processed.**

Also keep in mind that the Air Force Academy, the Military Academy and the Naval Academy will consider your highest verbal and math scores if you retake the test, but the Merchant Marine Academy will average your scores.

Applicants are responsible for registering for the tests and requesting that the scores be sent to the Academy(s) of your choice and to each of the sources from which you will be requesting a nomination.

What other factors are considered?

An important factor in the selection on nominees is motivation. Your prompt and appropriate response to the information requested will be taken into consideration when our selections are made.

Other factors include: athletic and non-athletic extracurricular activities; employment; military history; leadership ability; involvement in church or community activities; and letters of recommendations. While these factors by themselves do not carry enough weight to qualify you for an appointment from the Academy, they make a difference in distinguishing your application from the rest.

How are the nominees actually chosen?

All **qualified and competitive** applicants who completed their files by the October 31 deadline will be scheduled for an interview with Senator Tillis' Academy Selection Committee. All interviews will be conducted on a Saturday in November. You will be notified of your interview date and time soon after your packet is received and reviewed by our office. The Selection Committee consists of distinguished North Carolinians that have military backgrounds. The nominations will be based on the objective evaluations of these committee members.

When will I know if I've been nominated or appointed?

The nomination decision will be mailed through our office by mid-December 2019.
The Academy(s) will notify you of their appointment decision between January and June 2020.

Who is the contact in Senator Tillis' office?

If you have any questions concerning the application process, please call **(704) 509-9087** or email **academynominations@tillis.senate.gov**.

Please send any printed materials to the Raleigh office. Mailing items to any other office will delay your application process.