



Service Academy Nomination Process

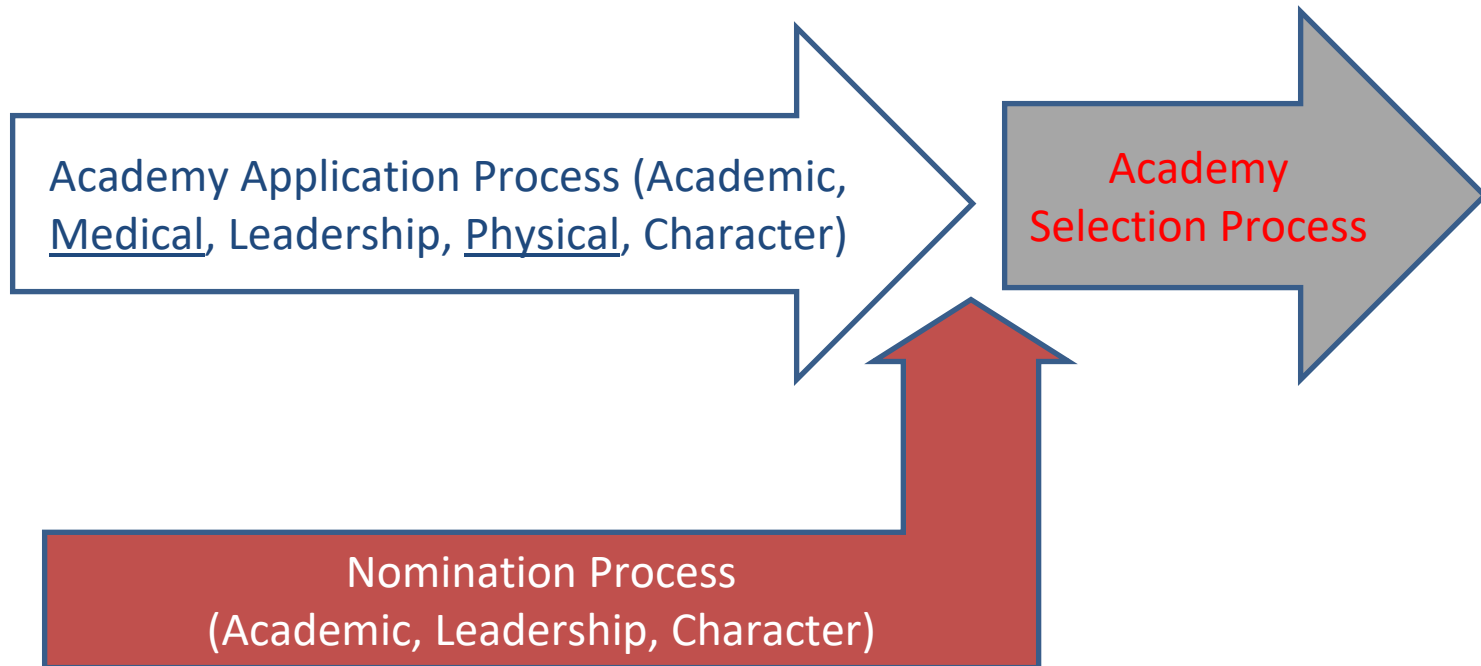
(and other helpful hints)

U.S. Senator Deb Fischer

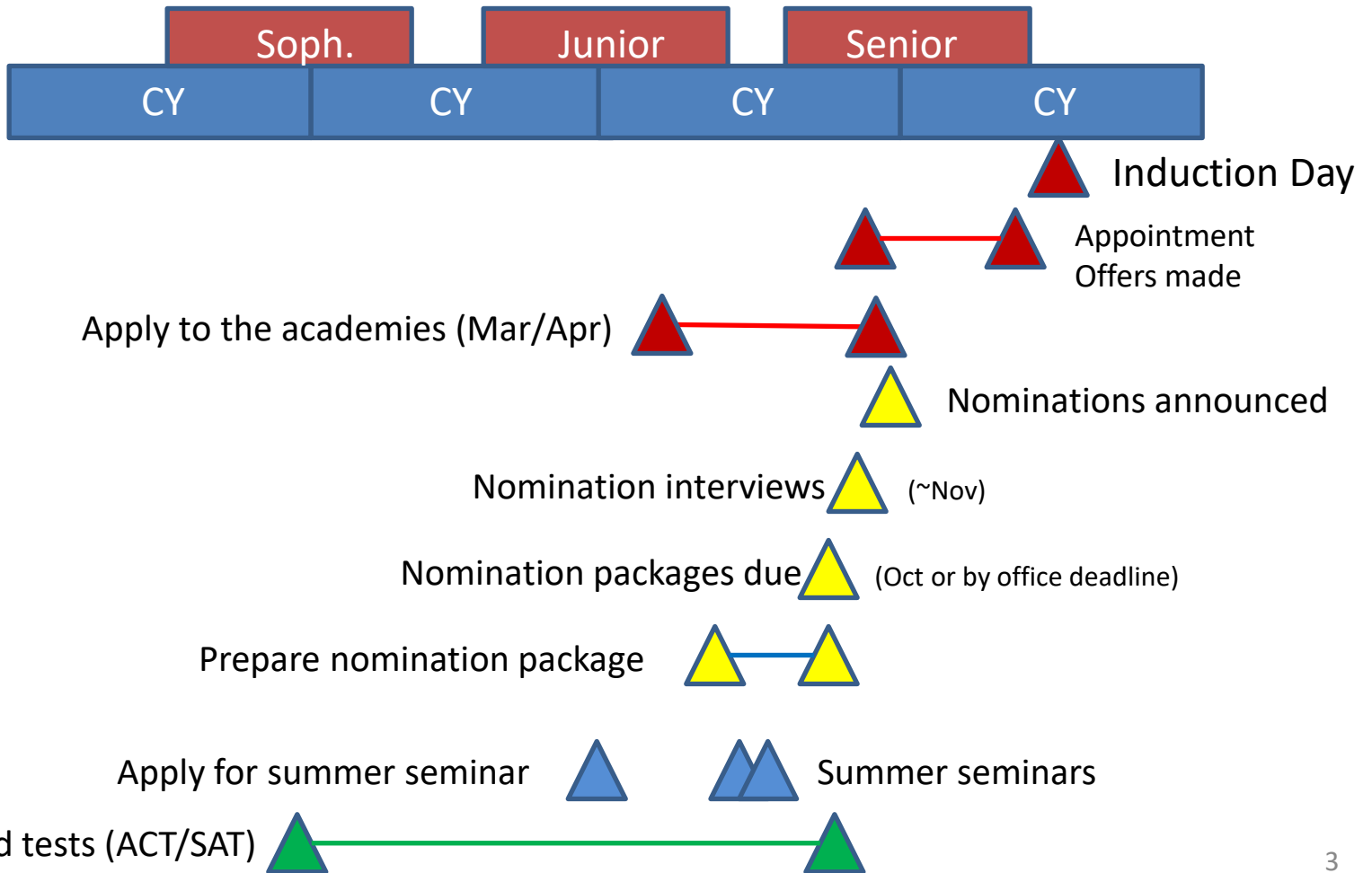
15 Mar 24



Candidate Evaluation Criteria



All service academies emphasis:
STEM-heavy academics





Non-Congressional Nominations

- **Presidential**
 - 100 children of career military personnel (minimum 8 years of service)
 - Unlimited for children of Medal of Honor recipients
- **Vice Presidential (USAFA, USMA, USNA only)**
 - Five cadets/midshipmen maximum appointed or at each academy
- **Service Secretary**
 - 85 enlisted members from each regular and reserve components
 - 20 honor graduates from ROTC
- **Service Academy Superintendent**
 - 50 at large
 - 65 children of deceased, 100% disabled, missing/captured veterans



Congressional Nominations

- Each Senator / Representative
 - Five charges (cadets/midshipmen) from the state / district
- Types
 - Competitive: Up to 10 applicants nominated for each vacancy
 - Names are not rank ordered
 - Primary/alternate: One primary candidate and nine alternates
 - Academy must accept primary if fully qualified
- *Nominees must have applied to the academies to be considered*
- Nomination packages DO NOT go to the academies
- Academy Admissions teams review and assess all nominees without consideration of nomination evaluations and scores
- Intercollegiate Athletes (recruited) also require a nomination



Nomination Steps

- Apply online
 - <https://www.fischer.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/academy-nominations>
 - **Complete** the application package
 - **Submission deadlines may be different for each congressional office**
 - Apply to the academies by nomination submission
- Prepare for nomination interview
 - Email sent after application window closes to schedule interview (interview in Oct or Nov)



Nomination Package

- Applicant Information Sheet
- Photo
- Resume
- Essay
- ACT and/or SAT Scores
- High School transcript with class ranking
- Letters of reference (3)

Hint: create a single pdf file for submission



Nomination Package Tips

- **Applicant Information Sheet**
 - Handwritten or typed (be neat)
 - Academy preferences section
- **Photo (shoulders and head shot preferred)**
 - This is your very first visual impression
 - Neat look (shirt and tie or nice top, hair)
- **Resume (where most spelling and typing errors are found)**
 - Organize sections chronologically or by major topics (extracurricular activities, sports, etc)
 - Fancy pages do not score points; keep it simple
 - Two page maximum (one page is better)



Nomination Package Tips II

- Essay
 - Use consistent, easy to follow format
 - Logical, lucid, creative
- ACT/SAT Scores
 - **ACT/SAT Scores are accepted up to the time of the interviews**
- High School transcript with class ranking
- Letters of reference (3)
 - Use people who know you well and can speak to character
 - Elected officials and celebrities only work if they know you personally
 - Variety
 - School counselors, friends with military experience, bosses, coaches, religious leaders
 - References should discuss character, integrity, reliability and explain their association with you



Interview Tips

- **DRESS FOR THE OCCASION (but look natural)**
 - **Men**
 - Properly fitted coat and tied tie, shined shoes, hair neat and combed, socks that match, clean shaven
 - **Women**
 - Modest business-type clothing
- Practice, practice, practice
 - Practice with teachers and friends, have mock interview sessions
 - Work to keep answers brief but informational
- What points do you want to make about yourself?



Final Tips

- **Seek nominations from all potential sources (minimum 3)**
 - **U.S. Senators Fischer and Ricketts, Congressman (District specific)**
 - **Presidential, vice-presidential, etc.**
- **Rank your academy preferences (don't lock in on one)**
- **Apply early to the academies**
 - **Complete medical and physical testing**
 - **Potential for early selection (Letter of Assurance)**
- **Have a back up plan**
 - **Re-apply next year, ROTC, National Guard, enlist, etc.**



Nebraska Congressional Delegation

- Sen Fischer: fischer.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/academy-nominations
 - Kevin Huebert: 402-391-3411
- Sen Ricketts: <https://www.ricketts.senate.gov/services/service-academy-nominations>
 - Andrew Cookston: 402-476-1400
- Rep Flood (District 1): flood.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations
 - Kim Kwapnioski: 202-834-2780
- Rep Bacon (District 2): bacon.house.gov/services/academy-nominations.htm
 - Chris Garabrandt: 402-938-0300
- Rep Smith (District 3): adriansmith.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations
 - Michael Bogner: 308-384-3900



Alternatives

- **Prep Schools**
 - **Automatically considered by academies**
- **Foundation Scholarship programs**
 - **Georgia Military College, Marion Military Institute, New Mexico Military Institute, Northwestern Preparatory School, Randolph-Macon Academy**
- **Apply again after starting college**
- **Enlist and seek a nomination**



General Advice for High School

- **The key to candidacy at the Academy is simple:**
 - **Achieve good grades in challenging college prep courses**
 - **Hone your competitive spirit by participating in athletics**
 - **Practice your leadership skills in clubs and serving your community**
- **Consider the Naval Academy Summer STEM camp. You may apply for STEM as a rising 9th, 10th, or 11th grader**



Summer STEM

- **Attend during summer of rising Freshman thru Junior year**
- **Apply January of 8th grade – 10th grade**
- **Camps are 1 week long in June**
- **Tuition and travel costs applicable**



High School Academics

- **Mathematics:** four years of mathematics courses, including a strong foundation in geometry, algebra, and trigonometry. Courses in pre-calculus and calculus are also very valuable and are highly encouraged
- **Science:** one year each of chemistry and physics, with lab if possible
- **English:** four years of coursework with special attention to the study and practice of effective writing. Surveys of English and American literature are especially helpful
- **To enhance your competitiveness, the following courses are also recommended:**
 - **Foreign language:** at least two years
 - **History:** one year of U.S. history; full year of European or world history
 - **Introductory computer and typing courses**
- **Recommend Honors, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate courses**



10th Grade

- Continue focusing on your academics, extracurricular activities, leadership roles and take the PSAT
- Apply for Summer STEM
- Consider taking the ACT/SAT



11th Grade

- **Starting in December of your junior year (if not sooner): Take the ACT and SAT exams early and often. If you do not score well on one, take the other. Super scoring is used* Results are accepted as late as February of your application year**
- **December-April: Complete Summer Seminar/Summer Leadership Experience applications (Air Force, Army, Navy)**
- **April: Complete academy preliminary application**
- **Spring: Begin contacting the offices of your Representative and both US Senators to request a nomination package**
- **June (junior year) to January (senior year): Complete online applications, medical exam and candidate fitness assessment**



Summer Seminar (USAFA & USNA) Summer Leadership Experience (USMA) Academy Introduction Mission (USCGA)

- Attend during summer (June) between Junior and Senior year
- Get the academy experience
- Apply mid-term of Junior year (Dec – Apr)
 - Check each academy admissions website
- Tuition and travel costs applicable



12th Grade

- If you have already entered 12th grade, please complete a preliminary application as soon as possible. Be sure to manage your applications carefully, paying special attention to deadlines and package requirements
- Complete the nomination process, application process, medical exams, and candidate fitness assessment
- Prepare yourself physically for your first summer (basic training)



2020-21 ACT/SAT Score Ranges

	USAFA	USMA	USNA
ACT			
English	29-34	28-33	26-32
Math	29-34	28-33	26-32
Science	29-34	28-33	26-32
Reading	29-34	28-33	26-32
SAT			
Verbal	590-730	600-700	600-700
Math	618-760	600-740	600-720



Resources

- **Academy Admissions Websites**
- **Academy Liaison Officers / Blue & Gold Officers**
- **High School Counselors**
- **Congressional delegation offices**



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