



# Service Academy Nomination Process

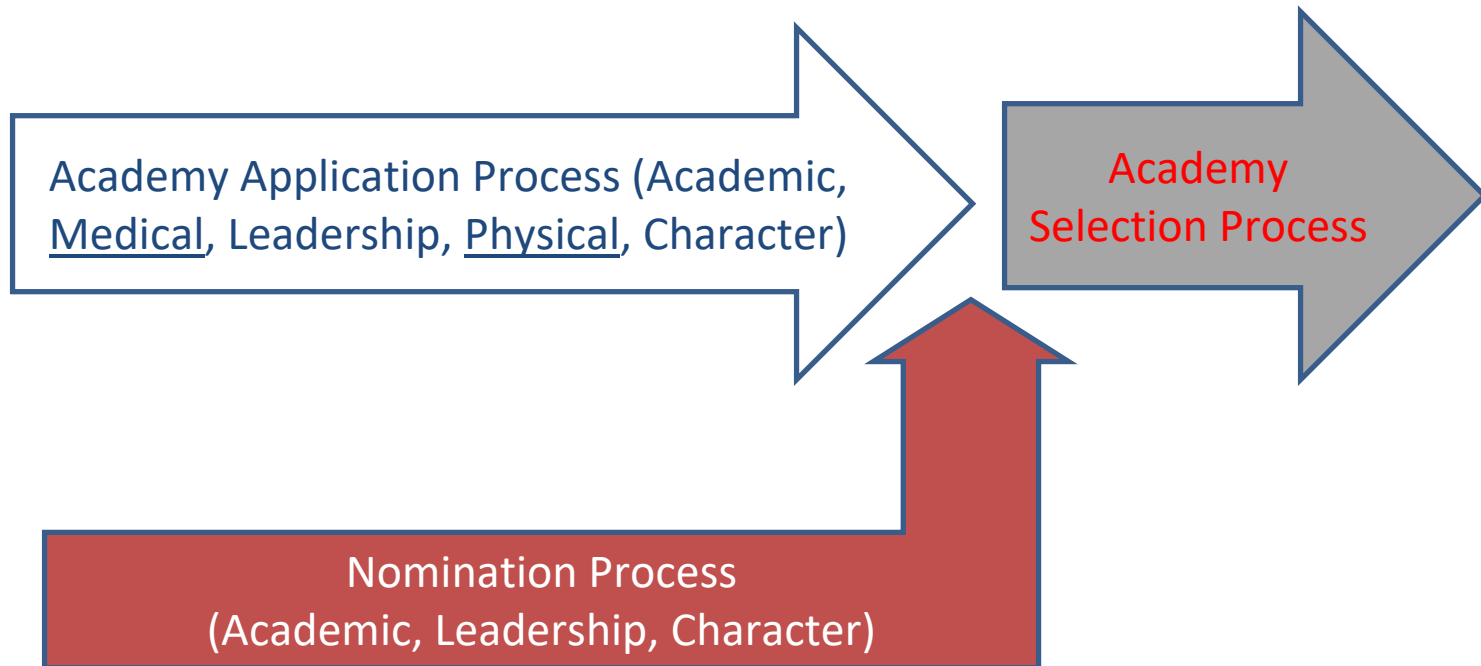
(and other helpful hints)

**U.S. Senator Deb Fischer**

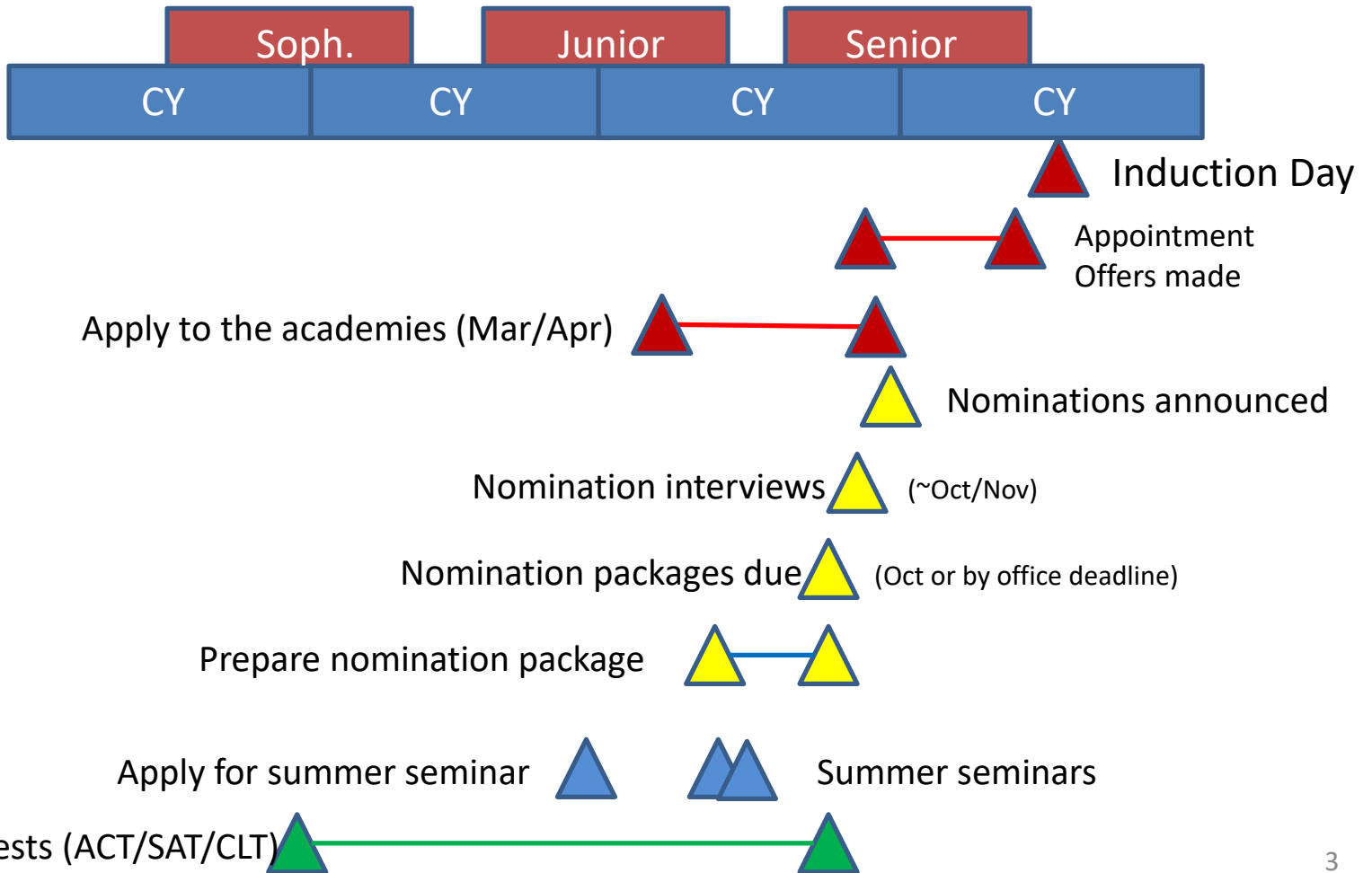
20 Apr 26



# 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 15 applicants nominated for each vacancy
    - Names are not rank ordered
  - Primary/alternate: One primary candidate and fourteen 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 are different for each congressional office**
  - Apply to the academies by nomination deadline
- 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, SAT and/or CLT Scores
- High School transcript with class ranking
- Letters of reference (3)



---

# Nomination Package Tips

- **Applicant Information Sheet**
  - Online through U.S. Senate Office Application Manager
  - 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/CLT Scores
  - 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](https://www.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](https://www.flood.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations)
  - Kim Kwapnioski: 202-834-2780
- Rep Bacon (District 2): [bacon.house.gov/services/academy-nominations.htm](https://www.bacon.house.gov/services/academy-nominations.htm)
  - Chris Garabrandt: 402-938-0300
- Rep Smith (District 3): [adriansmith.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations](https://www.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 8<sup>th</sup> grade – 10<sup>th</sup> 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**



---

## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

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



---

# 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

- **Starting in December of your junior year (if not sooner): Take the ACT, SAT, and CLT exams early and often. If you do not score well on one, take the other. Super scoring is used\* Results are accepted (by the academies) as late as February of your application year**
- **December-April: Complete Summer Seminar/Summer Leadership Experience applications (Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast Guard)**
- **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 – Mar)
  - Check each academy admissions website
- Tuition and travel costs applicable



---

# 12<sup>th</sup> 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)



# 2024-25 ACT/SAT Score Ranges

	USAFA	USMA	USNA
<b>ACT</b>			
Composite	26-33	27-33	27-32
English	28-35	28-35	27-34
Math	28-33	27-32	27-32
Science	28-34	27-33	27-31
Reading	30-35	27-33	28-33
<b>SAT</b>			
Verbal	650-730	570-680	630-760
Math	660-750	590-700	620-760



---

# Resources

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



# Service Academy Nomination Process

(and other helpful hints)

**U.S. Senator Deb Fischer**

20 Apr 26