



GUSBILIRAKIS
Representing the 12th District Florida

INFORMATION SHEET

The following information is compiled to give you a basic understanding of the requirements which must be met by applicants for appointment to the United States Military, Naval, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and Air Force Academies.

Let me advise you from the start, the competition will be very keen as you will be competing with many young men and women who have expressed an interest in receiving an appointment to one of the academies. If you are appointed, you will find yourself involved in a most challenging situation, one which will require intense study and sincere dedication in your pursuit of a service career. In addition to the following requirements, each academy requires that specific conditions, which are listed in their catalogues, also be met. Failure to do so will eliminate the applicant from competition.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **Applicant must be a United States citizen.**
2. **Applicant must be a permanent resident of the Twelfth Congressional District.** One of the requirements of the academies in making nominations is that the applicant be a legal resident of the district represented by the Congressman making the nomination. When I make my nominations, I sign a statement saying that the young man or woman being nominated is a bona fide resident of my congressional district. If your permanent address is within the Twelfth Congressional District, but for some reason, such as school or military service, you have a temporary address, please be sure BOTH ADDRESSES are properly listed on the Application Form. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP ME ADVISED OF ANY CHANGE IN YOUR ADDRESS.
3. **Applicant must be at least 17 years of age** and must not have reached his or her 23rd birthday by July 1 of the year he or she is seeking admission to an academy.
4. **Applicant must be of good moral character.** I require each applicant to submit to me three (3) letters of recommendation. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT MORE THAN THREE LETTERS as they will not be entered into your file. DO NOT SUBMIT PETITIONS. Absolutely critical in the course of evaluating a candidate is a positive determination of the candidate's character. Absence of good moral character is cause for disqualification. Candidates are considered to have good moral character unless evidence exists to suggest otherwise.

5. **Applicant must be unmarried**, never have been married and shall not marry (if he/she enters an academy) prior to graduation; not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents.
6. **Applicant must be a graduate of a secondary school** or one who will graduate prior to July 1st of the year he/she is seeking admission to an academy. You should have at least 15 credits including Algebra I & II, Plane Geometry I, English I, II, III, and IV, and American History I. Most of the academies require higher math and/or science classes. Make sure you check directly with the academies so you can take the proper classes before you graduate high school. However, any deficiency will not prevent anyone from being nominated, but he/she will have to be able to pass the regular Academy Entrance Examination before being given an appointment.
7. **Applicant must include his or her SAT/ACT scores with his/her application submission.** Each element of a candidate's academic record is carefully evaluated. These elements include the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and/or the American College Testing (ACT) test scores. There are many prep courses for high school students scheduled to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test. These math and verbal review classes have proven very helpful in preparing students for this vital test. Please provide my office with a printout of your scores. You must submit your scores via the testing institutions (SAT or ACT), please use the following code numbers when submitting your request: SAT - 5681 and ACT – 7332 (always verify the code with the institutions as they may change from year to year). Utilizing these codes ensures that your scores are sent directly to my office. I also strongly encourage you to submit a copy of your SAT and/or ACT scores from the testing website or your portal with your complete application packet.
8. **Applicant must pass Skill/Fitness test and preliminary physical examination.** The applicant must meet the medical, physical, and academic requirements of the Academy. Since I do not authorize this exam, any problems with the designated date, time, and place of the exam must be settled between you and the respective Service Academy.
9. **Each applicant must plan to make the military a career.** The application includes a CERTIFICATE OF INTENT. Each applicant must sign stating that he/she has every intention of, if selected for admission, completing the education and making a career of the military.
10. **Each applicant must be interviewed by my Academy Selection Committee.** Once I have received your completed Application, signed copy of the Certificate of Intent, your SAT/ACT scores, copy of your high school transcript, three letters of recommendation, and you meet the minimum academic requirements, I will arrange for you to be interviewed by my Academy Selection Committee. In order to be eligible for consideration for nomination, you must appear for this interview which is conducted in the fall (typically October or November).

NOMINATIONS

I make my nominations to the various academies following your interview with my selection committee. Based on the rankings provided to me by my selection committee, I nominate the top ten (10) or fifteen (15) candidates for each vacancy at each academy, and the academies themselves then make the final selection. The academies vary as to how many nominations I can submit.

OTHER WAYS TO RECEIVE AN APPOINTMENT

1. Senators

Even though you can apply through only one Congressman (the one representing your district), I would encourage you to also apply through both of your Senators.

2. Qualified Alternates

There is often the possibility of an applicant becoming a QUALIFIED ALTERNATE. Once the opening which I hold at the Academy is filled, all of the remaining nominees who pass the Academy Entrance Examination are in competition with each other from the entire United States for the various openings the academy may have available. Many young men and women become Qualified Alternates and are placed on the waiting list; however, if their standing is not high enough among the other alternates, they will not be eligible for an appointment. Also, the President and Vice-President have openings to fill at the Academies. Further details are in the academy catalogues.

Please notify me if your father or mother is an academy graduate, a Medal of Honor recipient or was killed in action while in military service.

SERVICE ACADEMY WEBSITES (go to admissions link)

Department of Defense

Military Academy <http://www.usma.edu>

Naval Academy <http://www.usna.edu>

Air Force Academy <http://www.usafa.edu>

Department of Transportation

Merchant Marine Academy <http://www.usmma.edu>

Department of Homeland Security

Coast Guard Academy <http://www.uscga.edu>

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

United States Representatives and Senators do not have nominating privileges to the Coast Guard Academy. Appointments to this Academy are made solely through the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Washington, DC.

APPLY DIRECTLY TO ACADEMY

You must apply directly to the Academy. The academy application is separate from the nomination process. Our office only uses the candidate's information to select individuals for nomination. Each candidate is required to apply at his/her desired academy. You are strongly encouraged to apply to more than one academy.

IMPORTANT DATES

First Friday in October	Application Deadline with all Supporting Documents
November	Interview Notifications (Nov 1 through interview date)
November 14	Interview Day (please seek excused day from school)

Interview Location:

Rasmussen University
16418 FL-54
Odessa, FL 33556
(SW corner of Suncoast Parkway/Veterans Expressway)

Applications must be uploaded to BOX portal system (instructions and account set up to be emailed to students (email/call to make arrangements if you do not have access to computer):

Office of Congressman Gus M. Bilirakis
8731 Citizens Drive, Suite 135
New Port Richey, FL 34654

➤ Karen L Mayer | karen.mayer@mail.house.gov | 727.232.2921

I am pleased to learn of your interest in the academies and wish you the best of luck in the competition awaiting you. If you have any questions, please call my office (727) 232-2921.