



**U.S. Congressman
Tony Gonzales**

Serving the 23rd District of Texas

**Service Academy Nomination
Application Packet**



U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales
23rd Congressional District of Texas

Thank you for your interest in receiving a congressional nomination to a United States Service Academy. One of the highest privileges and responsibilities I have, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, is the opportunity to nominate outstanding young people from the 23rd Congressional District to be considered for appointment to our nation's service academies. The academies provide a first-rate college education to young men and women leading to their commissioning as officers in the U.S. Armed Forces.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent you in the U.S. House of Representatives and am pleased to have you as a candidate for nomination from the 23rd Congressional District. If you have any questions, please email: TX23ServiceAcademy@mail.house.gov or call my San Antonio District Office at: (210) 806-9920

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Gonzales".

Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress

Congressional Nomination Process

Admission to a U.S. service academy is a two-tiered process. **First**, the candidate must **apply for admission** and meet the high entry standards set by the individual academy. These standards include, among others, medical, physical and scholastic qualifications. The **second tier** is to **obtain a nomination from an official source**. An individual must meet the admission requirements of the academy, as well as, receive a nomination in order to be considered for appointment to the academies.

To be considered for an appointment to a U.S. service academy, an applicant must **have a nomination from an authorized nomination source**. There are two nomination categories. The first, usually referred to as "congressional nominations" include nominations from the applicant's U.S. Senators (Senator John Cornyn: www.cornyn.senate.gov), (Senator Ted Cruz: www.cruz.senate.gov), and from the applicant's U.S. Representative (U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales: <https://gonzales.house.gov>). Applicants to a Senator's office must be residents of the State of Texas; applicants to House offices must be residents of that congressional district. Note: **Each member of Congress is permitted to nominate up to 10 individuals from his or her district/state for each academy.**

Also, included in this nomination category is the Vice President of the United States (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/service-academy-nominations>). Vice President submission deadline is January 31st. Note: The Vice President may NOT nominate to Coast Guard or Merchant Marine Academies.

The second nomination category is referred to as "service-connected" or "military-affiliated" nominations. Children of career and/or retired military personnel may also seek a nomination through the Office of the President of the United States (see academy websites for more details).

As the nomination process is highly competitive, it is strongly recommended that interested students pursue nominations from all the nominating sources available to them and apply for admission to all academies in which they have a sincere interest.

Congressman Gonzales' nomination functions as a recommendation to the academies, and it is his responsibility to nominate highly qualified and committed candidates to each academy. Assisting him in the nominations process is his Service Academy Board. The Board will meet in November to perform an objective, merit-based review of the applicants' files and conduct personal interviews. Congressman Gonzales' office will notify qualified applicants of their interview status in late October/early November. Congressman Gonzales' nominees will be presented to the academies in January for appointment consideration. **A congressional nomination does not guarantee acceptance to the academies. Ultimate selection of appointees rests solely with academy officials and is based on their competitive evaluation of all nominees.**

Timetable for the Nomination Application Process

Application Process Opens

Students, who reside in the 23rd Congressional District of Texas and meet the eligibility criteria, may request a Congressional Nomination to a Service Academy. You may request Congressman Gonzales' nomination packet at any time up to the submission deadline. However, the earlier you begin the process of applying and gathering the required documents, the better.

October 30, 2024: Nomination Application Deadline

ALL nomination packets and required documents MUST be postmarked by **11: 59 PM on October 30th, 2024. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Send completed nomination packets to:

Congressman Tony Gonzales
Attn: Service Academy Coordinator
4372 N. Loop W, Suite 205
San Antonio, TX 78249

Applicants are responsible for making sure their files are complete. If you do not submit the required documentation by the above deadline, your application will not be considered. You will be notified by Congressman Gonzales' office when your file is complete. Note: Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Congressman Gonzales' San Antonio office to set-up an appointment with staff to review your completed application packet ahead of the deadline so that any problems may be addressed early.

TBD November 2024: Interviews with Academy Board

Congressman Gonzales' Service Academy Board will meet in November to perform an objective, merit-based review of qualified applicants' files and to conduct personal interviews. Notification of interview appointment date, time and place will be made to qualified applicants.

January 2025: Announcement of Nominees

All candidates will be notified as to their nomination status and nominations submitted to the Service Academies.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet the following requirements as of July 1 of the year of admission to the Academy:

Age: The student must be between 17 and 22 years of age. (USMMA: 25 years of age)

Citizenship: Applicant must be a United States Citizen by November 1 of the application year.

Marital Status: Must be unmarried, not pregnant and have no legal obligation to support children or other dependents.

Domicile: Candidate must reside in the 23rd Congressional District of Texas

Selection Criteria

Nominations from U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales are based on an evaluation process that examines all aspects of an applicant's qualifications. Applicants are considered for nomination based upon four criteria:

Scholarship: Evaluation of academic records will include the applicant's grade point average, SAT/ACT scores, student's willingness to embrace academic challenges, and, if applicable, any college records.

Leadership: Consideration will be made based on the student's leadership experience and potential command ability. The consideration of this qualification will be based upon the applicant's record of extracurricular activities. Quality of involvement is stressed over the number of activities.

Character/Motivation: Consideration of the motivation and desire of applicants to attend a service academy is based upon the essay submitted by the applicant, their recommendations and evaluation forms, and their interview before the Academy Board.

Competitiveness: The final consideration of an applicant for a nomination is comparative in nature, appraising each applicant's attributes against all others who are applying.

Note: With respect to the congressional nomination category, each Representative and each Senator is allowed to have at each academy five persons at any one time charged to his or her quota. There are three methods of congressional nomination; Congressman Gonzales utilizes the "competitive method".

Using this method, the Member of Congress (MOC) submits an unranked slate of nominees for each vacancy at each academy. For each open vacancy, usually one per year at each academy, up to ten nominations may be made. The competitive method provides that the nominees on each slate compete among themselves for appointment consideration by the admissions authorities at that academy. Each academy reviews the submitted slate for that specific academy and selects the most qualified nominee(s) for appointment.

Appointment offers rest solely with each academy. As a courtesy to the Member of Congress (MOC) who submitted the nomination, each academy will notify the MOC of an appointment offer that will be extended to one of their nominees. The MOC then has the opportunity to notify their constituent of the appointment offer.

An appointment to the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, or U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is a distinct and rare honor. Acceptance of an academy appointment requires at least a nine-year service obligation, including four years at an academy and five years of active duty service.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Attn: *Service Academy Coordinator*
Office of U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales
4372 N. Loop 1604 W, Suite 205
San Antonio, TX 78249
Phone: (210) 806-9920

Email: TX23ServiceAcademy@mail.house.gov

Admission to a U.S. Service Academy

In addition to seeking and obtaining a nomination from an official source, it is also necessary for the applicant to directly contact the Academy(s) of their choice to initiate a pre-candidate file. Candidates are evaluated for admission on the basis of outstanding academic performance (high school record and SAT or ACT scores), demonstrated leadership potential, physical aptitude, and medical qualification.

Each service academy will be able to answer specific questions and schedule individual medical examinations. Note: Such examinations are separate from the nomination process and are required prior to receiving an appointment to a service academy. Due to the rigorous physical programs at the academies, candidates must meet the medical and physical requirements specified by each academy to which they seek admittance.

Remember that the congressional nomination process and the academy application process are different and separate. To apply for admission to an academy and obtain more information:

U.S. Military Academy (Army)

USMA Admissions
606 Thayer Road
West Point, New York 10996-1797
Phone: 800/822-2769
www.usma.edu

U.S. Naval Academy

USNA Admissions Office
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, Maryland 21402-5018
Phone: 800/822-2769
www.usna.edu

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

USCGA Admissions Office
New London, CT 06320-4195
Phone: 203/444-8501
www.uscga.edu

Note: For admission to the USCGA, congressional nominations are no longer required or submitted. You may apply to them directly.

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

USMMA Admissions
Kings Point, New York 11024-1699
Phone: 800/732-6267
www.usmma.edu

U.S. Air Force Academy

USAF A Admissions Office
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80840-5651
Phone: 800/443-9266
www.usafa.edu



U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales

Academy Nominations Checklist



Packet Submission: Use this checklist as a coversheet when you submit your application packet.

Submit your completed application as a total packet, including all items in a single packet postmarked or delivered to the San Antonio District Office by **October 30th, 2024.**

ALL items must be received by the deadline for an application to be considered. Mail or deliver to:

U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales
Attn: Service Academy Coordinator
4372 N Loop 1604 W., Suite 205, San Antonio, TX 78249

Application completed and signed by applicant and parent(s)/guardian(s). Application must be completed by the applicant **ONLY** and **must be typed**. (Request a fill-in PDF version from Congressman Gonzales' San Antonio office.) If additional space is needed to complete an application section, add additional paper. Requested information MUST BE included on the application; a resume IS NOT a substitute.

(NOTE: If applicant presently resides outside of the Congressional District of Texas, you must submit at least two items of documentary evidence of your 23rd District residency. Parent(s) must hold a current driver's license and/or voter registration listing an address in the 23rd District. If parents are divorced, legal domicile is determined by the parent who has legal custody.)

Current COLOR photograph (No larger than 4"x5") with your name printed on the back. Staple photo to the upper right-hand corner of the first page of the application. NO "selfies" allowed.

Complete attached cover letter with all requested information. You may provide your own cover letter with a different layout as long as it includes the requested information.

A typed (double-spaced in 12-point Arial or Times New Roman font), well-written 500-word essay regarding: What does leadership mean to you? Describe a time that you demonstrated your own leadership.

Personal Evaluation Forms & Letters of Recommendation (3)

A completed *Personal Evaluation Form* MUST accompany each Letter of Recommendation. Do not send more than the required three. Recommendations should be from individuals unrelated to you, who know you personally, who can assess your intellect, character, motivation and suitability for military service. One must be from a teacher, coach, principal or guidance counselor. The other two references are at the applicant's discretion. However, if applicant is attending a prep school or on active military duty, one of these letters must be from a Commanding Officer. No handwritten letters will be accepted.

Those individuals providing a Letter of Recommendation and completing a *Personal Evaluation Form* should place them together into an envelope, seal and write their signature across the envelope flap. Request them to return the sealed envelope to you for inclusion in your application packet. (NOTE: References can be one of the chief causes of delays in completing an application packet. Build in ample time for your recommenders to complete and return the documents to you in a timely manner.)

Official, sealed copy of your **high school transcript** that includes your calculated GPA, numerical rank (position in class), and class size after completion of your junior year. For graduates, must show graduation date. (NOTE: If your school does not rank students, you must

have the counselor or principal note this on your transcript.) **Your school may mail the transcript directly to Congressman Gonzales' San Antonio office.**

Official, sealed copy of your **college transcript** (if applicable) including courses currently in progress and GPA.

At least one official **SAT or ACT** score record; must be postmarked to Congressman Gonzales' San Antonio office by **October 30, 2024**. Include at least one of the following:

- Direct report(s) from the testing agency, OR
- Score listing(s) on your official transcript, OR
- Print-outs from the official SAT and/or ACT websites included with your completed application packet

Congressman Gonzales' score report codes are: SAT: 5452, ACT: 7704.

Carefully consider the dates that you are taking these tests; if you wait until September to take a test for the first time, your scores may not arrive by the October 30, 2024 submission deadline. Tests taken in September may not be considered unless they are an additional and updated score report. We will accept updated test results past the October 30, 2024 deadline, provided that you have previously submitted test scores by the deadline. (NOTE: Applicant must have a minimum 1050 SAT score or its corresponding equivalent on the ACT for application to be considered for review by Congressman Gonzales' Academy Board.)

Candidate file must be opened by October 1, 2024 at each of one the Service Academies you list as a preference.

U.S. Naval Academy

USNA Admissions
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, Maryland 21402-5018
800-822-2769
www.usna.edu

U.S. Military Academy (Army)

USMA Admissions Office
606 Thayer Road
West Point, New York 10996-1797
845-938-5726
www.usma.edu

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

USMMA Admissions Office
Kings Point, New York 11024-1699
800-732-6267
www.usmma.edu

U.S. Air Force Academy

USafa Admissions Office
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80840-5651
800-443-9266
www.usafa.edu

Insert
Photo
Here

NAME
HERE

CONTACT

PHONE:
555-555-5555

WEBSITE:
List website here if applicable.

EMAIL:
someone@example.com

[Full Name]
[High School/ College]
[GPA]

SAT/ACT SCORES:

- List scores here.

Service Academy preference:

1. Preference 1.
2. Preference 2.
3. Preference 3.
4. Preference 4.

Service Academy applications already submitted:
(Please check all that apply.)

- U.S. Military Academy
- U.S. Naval Academy
- U.S. Merchant Marines Academy
- U.S. Air Force Academy

U.S. Congressman Tony Gonzales

23rd Congressional District, Texas

APPLICATION FOR U. S. SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION

(To be completed by the applicant ONLY. Please PRINT; do not handwrite.)

NAME (Last, First, Middle) Preferred Name SSN

PERMANENT 23rd DISTRICT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Street, City, Zip) COUNTY

MAILING ADDRESS (Street, City, State, Zip) (if different from above)

E-MAIL ADDRESS HOME PHONE # CELL PHONE #

BIRTHDATE PLACE OF BIRTH (City, State/Country)

AGE SEX (M/F) **Are you a U.S. Citizen (Yes / No)?** _____
Are you a legal resident of the 23rd District (Yes/No)? _____

FATHER'S or GUARDIAN'S NAME TELEPHONE # (Day/Evening)

ADDRESS (Street, City, Zip) E-MAIL ADDRESS

MOTHER'S OR GUARDIAN'S NAME TELEPHONE # (Day/Evening)

ADDRESS (Street, City, Zip) (if different from father's) E-MAIL ADDRESS

Education

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DATE

ADDRESS (Street, City, Zip) TELEPHONE #

COUNSELOR E-MAIL ADDRESS TELEPHONE #

High School GPA: _____ (Please have your counselor convert this to the 4.0 scale).

Class Rank: _____ of _____ (Top _____ %)

Have you taken or are currently enrolled in (check all that apply): Honors Classes _____
AP Classes _____ IB Program _____ Dual Credit Classes _____

Please indicate your academic status as of September 30, 2024:

- 1) High school senior _____ 2) Attending an Academy prep school _____
- 3) College (any classification) attending on a civil prep scholarship _____
- 4) College (any classification) _____ 5) Other _____

If you are a high school graduate, where are you currently attending:

COLLEGE/INSTITUTION

ADDRESS (Street, City, Zip)

TELEPHONE

Official College Transcript must be included with completed application.

COLLEGE HOURS COMPLETED: _____

COLLEGE GPA: _____

Member of the armed forces (ROTC, Natl. Guard, Reserves, Active Duty)? Yes/No _____

Assignment

Location

Commanding Officer

Academy Preference(s)

(If you do not plan on pursuing nominations to more than one academy, do not select a 2nd, 3rd or 4th choice.)

Rank your 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th preference(s), if applicable.

Military (Army) _____ Navy _____ Air Force _____ Merchant Marine _____

You must open a pre-candidate file at any academy you are interested in.

To which academy(s) have you applied and when?

You are highly encouraged to apply to other available nominating sources.

Check all other sources to which you are applying:

Senator Cornyn _____ Senator Cruz _____ Vice President _____ President* _____

(*A Presidential Nomination only applies to applicants who have a parent currently on active military duty or a parent retired from active duty.)

Have you ever been arrested, charged or indicted in conjunction with a misdemeanor or felony?

Yes / No _____

If yes, provide details.

College Entrance Examinations: Indicate score(s) and date(s) taken.

SAT	_____	_____	_____
	Reading & Writing/Math	Composite	Date Taken
SAT	_____	_____	_____
	Reading & Writing/Math	Composite	Date Taken
ACT	_____	_____	_____
	English/Math/Reading/Science/Writing	Composite	Date Taken
ACT	_____	_____	_____
	English/Math/Reading/Science/Writing	Composite	Date Taken

I. Extracurricular Activities (School Affiliated/Non-Sport):

(List Organization/Activity, Positions Held, Hours Per Week & Total Time Spent, Awards/Recognition.)

Freshman: _____

Sophomore: _____

Junior: _____

Senior: _____

II. Athletic Activities (Sports: School or Club/Marching Band):

(List all sports you have participated in as an individual or part of a team &/or list participation in marching band.

Include Sport/Activity, School/Club, Position/Specialty Instrument, Hours Per Week & Total Time Spent, Awards/Recognition/Letter.)

Freshman: _____

Sophomore: _____

Junior: _____

Senior: _____

III. Extracurricular Activities (Non-School Affiliated)

(List Organization/Activity, Positions Held, Hours Per Week & Total Time Spent, Awards/Recognition. Include civic, church, hobbies and special interest groups.)

Freshman: _____

Sophomore: _____

Junior: _____

Senior: _____

Employment History:

(Please list any part or full-time jobs you have held since you have been in high school. Note: List dates worked for each employer.)

Employer	Position	Hours per Week	Dates Worked (To-From)
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Address: _____

Employer	Position	Hours per Week	Dates Worked (To-From)
----------	----------	----------------	------------------------

Address: _____

Employer	Position	Hours per Week	Dates Worked (To-From)
----------	----------	----------------	------------------------

Address: _____

IV. Awards/Honors/Scholarships

(List 5 that most exemplify your commitment to excellence.)

<u>Name of Award</u>	<u>Year Received</u>	<u>Presenting Organization</u>	<u>Award Criteria</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____

References

A completed *Personal Evaluation Form* MUST accompany each Letter of Recommendation. Do not send more than the required three. One must be from a high school teacher, coach, principal or guidance counselor. The other two character references are at the applicant's discretion.

Those individuals completing a *Personal Evaluation Form* and providing a Letter of Recommendation should place them together into an envelope, seal and write their signature across the envelope flap. *Request them to return the sealed envelope to you for inclusion in your application packet.*

REFERENCE 1: _____

REFERENCE 2: _____

REFERENCE 3: _____

Acknowledgements (Please read carefully before signing.)

- The information above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. It is my sincere desire to attend a U.S. Service Academy, and I fully intend to accept an appointment, if offered. I am a U.S. citizen, or will be by July 1, 2024. I am or will be at least 17, but not yet 23 years of age (USMMA: 25 years of age), on July 1, 2024. I am unmarried, not pregnant and have no child support obligation. I am a legal resident of the 23rd Congressional District of Texas.
- I request that Congressman Gonzales consider my application for a congressional nomination to the U.S. Service Academy, or Academies, I have indicated. I request Congressman Gonzales to monitor my progress in seeking an appointment to an Academy, and hereby consent for the Academy to divulge information from my records for this purpose.
- Provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 are waived to the extent of sharing this information with the Service Academies and their representatives as well as members of Congressman Gonzales' Service Academy Advisory Board.
- I understand that my application file must be completed by the September 30, 2023 deadline. If I have not completed and postmarked or delivered to your San Antonio office ALL the required information and documentation by that date, I understand that my application will not be given ANY consideration.
- In the event that I do receive a nomination, I authorize Congressman Gonzales' office to release this information to the news outlets and the public.
- In the event that I do receive an appointment and I accept said offer of appointment, I authorize Congressman Gonzales' office to release this information to the news media and the public.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Note: Print out this page in order to actually sign and date this application.)

TONY GONZALES
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN
 REPRESENTING TEXAS' 23rd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

U.S. SERVICE ACADEMY
PERSONAL EVALUATION FORM

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____
First Middle Last

How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity? _____

The person named above is applying for a nomination to a U.S. Service Academy. The service academies provide a first-rate college education to exemplary young men and women leading to their commissioning as officers in the U.S. Armed Forces upon graduation. By law, all admissions materials must be shown to the student upon request.

Please evaluate the applicant by putting an "X" on the line that best describes the student's performance in that area as compared to all other college bound students you have observed (i.e., "In this category, does this applicant rank in the top 1%, top 5%, top 10%, top 25%, or top 50% of all college bound applicants I have observed?")

	BOTTOM	50%	25%	10%	5%	1%	TOP
1. Ability to work under pressure	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Respect for authority	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Maturity	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Ability to work with others	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Ability to lead others	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Integrity	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Perseverance	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Competitiveness	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. Ability to adapt to new situations	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
10. Ability to finish tasks unsupervised	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
11. Ability to take instructions	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

General: Note any circumstances or conditions that might enhance or impair this applicant's performance at an academy. (Use another piece of paper, if necessary; include applicant's name, your signature & date signed.)

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION/ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ DAY PHONE: _____

- *This completed Personal Evaluation Form **MUST** accompany your Letter of Recommendation.*
- *Please place both into an envelope, seal and write your signature across the flap.*
- *Return the sealed envelope to the applicant for inclusion in his/her application packet.*