



U.S. Service Academy Nominations Frequently Asked Questions

From what offices may I request a nomination? You can request a nomination from Senator John Fetterman, Senator Dave McCormick, and your Member of the House of Representatives. You may also request a nomination from the Vice President of the United States.

What do I need to do prior to applying for a nomination from Senator Fetterman? You should first create an application file with the Academy or Academies of your choice. Remember that an appointment requires BOTH acceptance to the Academy and a nomination. You may be completing several admission and nomination applications simultaneously. Be aware of all application deadlines as they may vary.

When should I begin the nomination process with Senator Fetterman's office? Students who will be high school seniors during the 2026/2027 academic year may use this application. If you have already graduated from high school, you may apply or reapply provided that your 23rd birthday does not occur prior to July 1, 2027. Please begin the application process early to allow yourself time to submit the required material. Be sure to follow application instructions carefully, and note that your essay MUST respond to the prompt.

What is the deadline for applying to Senator Fetterman's office? Application materials must be completed and submitted by 5:00pm (ET) on September 18, 2026. You will not be considered for a nomination if your application is late or incomplete.

What happens after I have completed my nomination application with Senator Fetterman's office? If you have submitted a complete application by the deadline, you will be contacted in October with the date and time of your interview. We conduct interviews in Philadelphia (October 24), Pittsburgh (October 31), and Harrisburg (November 7), and do our best to schedule you at the location closest to your home.

May I request a virtual interview? We do have a limited number of virtual interview slots, but these are typically reserved for students attending an Academy prep school or college out of state, enlisted soldiers, or students who are residing outside of Pennsylvania due to a parent's military orders. If you discover after your interview is scheduled that you have an extenuating circumstance (most often this applies to athletes who qualify for post-season games or meets of which they were unaware while completing the application), please e-mail us at academies@fetterman.senate.gov as soon as possible.

What should I expect at the interview? Your interview will last for 15 minutes. You will be interviewed by two panelists. A member of our staff will escort you to and from the interview room and will be in the room during your interview. Our panelists volunteer their time, so please be sure to notify us if your plans have changed and you won't be attending. If you have updated test scores, please bring a copy to your interview.

Where should my parent or other driver wait while I am in the interview? Your parent may come into the building with you. Each location will have separate waiting areas for students and parents.

What if I am a recruited athlete? There have been occasions when recruited athletes received misleading information and ended up without a nomination. You should still pursue a nomination from all available sources, as would any other applicant. Academies have a limited number of Presidential nominations they can award, but you should not rely on that as your only possible source for a nomination. We want to see as many Pennsylvania students as possible get this opportunity, so don't limit yourself.

When will I find out if I received a nomination from Senator Fetterman? Our goal is to notify everyone, one way or the other, by mid-January 2027.

How do I address concerns with the physical examination process? Questions about this process should be directed to the Department of Defense's Medical Examination Review Board (DoDMERB) via email at usaf.usafa.dodmerb.mbx.helpdesk@mail.mil.

Does a Congressional nomination guarantee me an appointment to a Service Academy? A Congressional nomination does not guarantee an appointment to an Academy as it is only one requirement of the appointment process. Each Academy makes its own determinations on appointments.

How many candidates does Senator Fetterman nominate? Senator Fetterman nominates 10-15 students to each Academy (based on instructions from the Academy). Each Academy determines how many nominees they appoint.

If I am not nominated by Senator Fetterman, may I reapply next year? If you are not nominated or appointed, you may reapply each year until you reach the upper age limit for admission (may not have turned 23 prior to July 1 of the year you enter an Academy). If you choose to reapply, you will need to complete a new application. Two of your previous letters of recommendation, and SAT and/or ACT scores can be reused. You will need to provide a new essay; updated transcripts, one new letter of recommendation, and an updated photograph of yourself.