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## **Academy Nomination Guidelines**

**U.S. Senator Joni Ernst**

Only send **COMPLETED** applications to my office.

Complete the application form, and other items noted on the enclosed checklist. Please sign the media release at the bottom of my application. If selected, your name will appear on one of my press releases. If you decide that you do not want your name included, please leave the signature line blank.

Be sure your ACT or SAT scores are sent to me to be included in your file.

**ACT - use code 7130**                      **SAT – use code 6287**

\*This can be sent in with your packet, or directly from the testing source.

Give the Evaluation Form to your guidance counselor or principal to be completed, sealed and included in your packet (Note: this person should not be included as one of your recommendation sources).

Ask **THREE** people to write letters of recommendation to me on your behalf. Please include at least one teacher. Letters should be sealed and signed. These need to be included in your nomination packet.

Please complete a typed, 1-2 page, single-spaced essay. I am interested in learning your motivation as to why you are seeking an academy nomination from my office.

In addition to the essay, please include a 30-60 second video explaining why you would like to attend a service academy. Please email your video and recent photo to [Clarke Scanlon@ernst.senate.gov](mailto:Clarke_Scanlon@ernst.senate.gov). This may be shot with a camera, mobile device, etc. You will not be judged on the production quality of the video, rather the content and creativity. This video should reflect your personality and demonstrate why you would be the best candidate for a service academy. **No jump drives or compact disc will be accepted.**

Directly contact the academy or academies you are interested in attending. Open your file online by visiting the respective academies website and creating a profile. **I can only nominate students who have also applied to the academy directly.** I am unable to nominate students to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Please contact the Coast Guard directly.

Compile ALL required materials, and mail or deliver to my Des Moines office only. Submissions submitted via email or fax will not be accepted. I will acknowledge your file when it is complete. If you do not hear from me when you believe your file should be complete, please call my Des Moines office at: 515-284-4574. I will not consider any file unless it is completed and received in-hand by the deadline. Postmarked materials received after the deadline will not be considered.

**\*The deadline for completing your file is October 23, 2026. ALL information must be in-hand.** I plan to make the nominations no later than December 31, 2026. Please mail applications to the following address:

U.S. Senator Joni Ernst  
Attn: Academy Coordinator  
733 Federal Building  
210 Walnut Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Any questions regarding applications or the nomination process, should be directed to:  
[Academy@ernst.senate.gov](mailto:Academy@ernst.senate.gov) or by phone: 515-284-4574.

**EARLY APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED**

**CHECKLIST**

(Note -- this form lists all the items which you need to complete your file.)

Deadline for Submission: **October 23, 2026**

**ITEM:**

**ENCLOSED**

1. Application Form
2. SAT or ACT Score
3. Extracurricular Activities
4. High School Evaluation Form
5. Transcript of Grades
6. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation
7. Essay
8. Video Entry (emailed)
9. Recent Photograph (emailed)

All items should be mailed to:

U.S. Senator Joni Ernst

Attn: Academy Coordinator

733 Federal Building

210 Walnut Street

Des Moines, IA 50309

Phone: (515) 284-4574

**DO NOT SEND THESE ITEMS TO THE WASHINGTON OFFICE.**

Please PRINT clearly

## ***HIGH SCHOOL EVALUATION FORM***

This form must be completed by either your **high school principal** or the **high school guidance counselor** for the candidate seeking a nomination to one of the United States Service Academies.

Principal      Guidance Counselor      Name:

Name of Applicant:

First

Middle

Last

Home Address:

Name/Address of School:

Phone #:

Applicant's Year in School:

Numerical Junior Class Rank:

GPA:

SAT Score:    Verbal

Math

ACT Score:    Composite

English

Math

Leadership Characteristics:

Ability to Work Under Pressure:

Ability to Get Along With Others:

General Comments:

Date:

Signature:

Please return this form and a transcript showing final junior grades to the applicant.

**DEADLINE: October 23, 2026**

Please PRINT clearly

**APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION TO  
AIR FORCE, NAVAL, MILITARY, OR MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMIES**

Name:

First

Middle

Last

Permanent Address:

Number and Street

City/Town

County State and Zip Code

Phone Number

Email address:

Name, Address and Phone Number of Parents or Guardian:

Mother:

Father:

Guardian (if applicable)

High School Name:

School Phone #:

Principal/Counselor Name:

Graduation Date:

Are you a legal resident of Iowa?

How many years?

To Which Academy Are You Seeking Admission? (list in order of preference, ONLY those you wish to attend)

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

To which other Members of Congress, Senator or Vice President of the United States have you applied?

Are you willing to make a career of the service?

Are you a citizen of the United States?

List your hobbies:

Date:

Signature:

**DEADLINE: October 23, 2026**

Please PRINT clearly

## Extra-Curricular Activities

Please list any school clubs or groups (i.e. Student Council, Key Club, Chorus, Band) that you are a member of and any positions you have held from 9th through 12th grade. (Copy this sheet for additional space as needed)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

Are you employed out of school?

If you are employed outside of school, please explain what you do and the number of hours you work during the school year and/or the summer. If you own your own business, please explain what prompted you to become an entrepreneur.

Please list non-school related activities and groups (i.e...Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys' State, Girls' State) that you are involved in and any positions you have held from 9th through 12th grade. (Copy this sheet for additional space as needed)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

Please PRINT clearly

# **Athletic Participation**

## **List 1st Sport:**

Grades played:

Position played and any awards received:

Were you a Captain in this sport? If so, for what years?

## **List 2nd Sport:**

Grades played:

Position played and any awards received:

Were you a Captain in this sport? If so, for what years?

## **List 3rd Sport:**

Grades played:

Position played and any awards received:

Were you a Captain in this sport? If so, for what years?

## **List 4th Sport:**

Grades played:

Position played and any awards received:

Were you a Captain in this sport? If so, for what years?

**Please PRINT clearly**

Additional Notes/Comments:

## **Affirmation**

Please print your name:

I affirm that all of the information in my application is accurate. I also affirm that I am a United States citizen (or will be prior to entering the service academy); a resident of Iowa; unmarried without dependents and not pregnant; have good moral character; and will be at least 17 years old and will not have passed my 23rd birthday on July 1, 2027 (25th for the Merchant Marine Academy).

Applicant's Signature:

Date:

## **Authorization for Release of Information**

I release this information to the office of Senator Ernst for use in the Service Academy nomination process. If I am selected for a nomination, I authorize Senator Ernst to release my name as a nominee in press releases and other public documents.

Signature (student):

Date:

Signature (parent/guardian):

Date:

**DEADLINE: October 23, 2026**  
**Please PRINT clearly**