

**Application for Consideration as a Nominee to  
the United States Military, Naval, Air Force, or  
Merchant Marine Academy**



**Office of U.S. Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski  
13th Congressional District of Illinois**

1. This general information application, including the personal questionnaire.
2. SAT or ACT scores. Please update as appropriate. They should either come from your official transcript or an official copy (hard or electronic) that includes your full name. **DO NOT SEND FROM THE TESTING SITE**
3. Transcript that includes both your GPA and class rank. If your school does not compute class rank, please have your guidance counselor note this on your transcript and include your ranked decile.
4. 750-1000-word essay. This essay should be single-spaced and typed using 12-point font. *The prompt is: Service academies develop leaders of character committed to serving our nation. Reflecting on your life so far, describe a time when you demonstrated leadership.*

*resilience, and a commitment to serving others. How did this experience shape your values, and how will those values guide you as a future officer in the U.S. Armed Forces?*

5. Three (3) letters of recommendation. The letters may be included in your packet to our office or the recommender may scan directly to our nominations inbox ([budzinski.nominations@mail.house.gov](mailto:budzinski.nominations@mail.house.gov))

**PLEASE SCAN OR MAIL ALL FILES TO:**

[budzinski.nominations@mail.house.gov](mailto:budzinski.nominations@mail.house.gov) or our Collinsville office (409 Belt Line Rd. Suite 110, Collinsville, IL 62234)

If emailing, please make sure that the subject line of the scan is listed as: "Last name, First name, Congressional District, What is included in the scan."

For example: "Doe, Jane, IL-13, SAT and Essay" or "Doe, Jane, IL-13, Entire File"

**All files (with all attachments) must be received by 11:59 PM on November 1st, 2025.**

# IL-13 Application for Consideration as a Nominee to the United States Military, Naval, Air Force, or Merchant Marine Academy

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(last) (middle) (first)

## Athletic Activities – school/travel/community groups:

For grade, please circle the appropriate year[s]. If you plan to participate in an activity your senior year, but have not started that activity (winter/spring sport), please circle year 12, and place a P next to the year.

Sport	JV/V	Captain	Awards/Honors	Grade
_____ / _____ / _____ / _____ /				9 10 11 12
_____ / _____ / _____ / _____ /				9 10 11 12
_____ / _____ / _____ / _____ /				9 10 11 12
_____ / _____ / _____ / _____ /				9 10 11 12

## Extracurricular Activities:

Please check all that apply and circle the number(s) that correspond to the year(s) of the activity(ies). You may expand on a separate page especially if your activity(ies) is/are not listed here. If you plan to participate in an activity your senior year but have not started that activity (winter/spring), please circle year 12 and place a P next to the year.

Activity	Position Held	Grade	Awards/Honors
__ Student Council/Government	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ National Honor Society	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Yearbook/Newspaper	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Speech/Debate	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Mock Trial	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Mock UN	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Activism Club	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ DARE/SADD	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ JROTC	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Tutor/Mentor	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Tech Crew	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Quiz Bowl	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Language Club	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Science Club	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Art Club	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Environment Club	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Boys/Girls State	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Scouting/Eagle/Gold Scout	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Theater/Musical	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Marching Band	_____	9 10 11 12	_____
__ Band (Concert)	_____	9 10 11 12	_____

Award	Grade
	9 10 11 12
	9 10 11 12
	9 10 11 12

## Employment History

Have you held a job(s) during the school year/in the summer? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Please describe your job(s) and dates of employment. Remember, if you are being paid, it is a job.

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**Candidate Fitness Assessment** (to be completed following the instructions listed on academy websites): THIS SHOULD BE YOUR OFFICIAL CFA FOR THE ACADEMY—NOT A PRACTICE TEST.

**Push-ups:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mile Run:** \_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_ seconds

**Shuttle Run:** \_\_\_\_\_ seconds

**Basketball Throw:** \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

**Pull-ups:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sit Ups:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Criminal Information

	Yes	No
I've been convicted of a felony/misdemeanor.		
I have been the target of a criminal investigation.		
I have been investigated by children/youth services for allegations of abuse.		
I have been charged with a crime.		

## General Information

**Are you applying to other nominating sources?** You are allowed to, and in fact are encouraged to, apply for at least four nominations. (your own Member, your two Senators, and the Vice President). Please check all that apply:

\_\_ Sen. Duckworth

\_\_ Sen. Durbin

\_\_ Vice President J.D. Vance

\_\_ Service Related

**Are you applying for an ROTC scholarship?** Again, you are encouraged to do so as it shows commitment to becoming an officer.

\_\_ Yes \_\_ No If yes, which schools? \_\_\_\_\_

**Academy Application Timeline** -- For your TOP choice, please note the date you sent each (or completed interview) to that Academy

NOTE: May be worded slightly differently by each academy. Also, be prepared to state when you did complete task(s) at your interview if NOT completed by November 1, 2025.

**SAT/ACT Scores** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Activities/Personal Data Record** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Candidate Statement/Essay** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Transcript** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Interview with FF/BGO/Liaison Officer \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CFA Scores \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Letters of Recommendation/School Officer Evaluation - list date FINAL one was sent \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Medical Information:** Have you taken/been scheduled to take your Academy medical exam (scheduled by DoDMERB)? Yes\_\_ No\_\_ If YES, when? \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

As part of your application for admission to an Academy, you will be required to take a medical exam through DoDMERB (the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board). The following are common conditions that may cause an Academy to require you to obtain a waiver for admission.

**NOTE: Receiving a medically disqualified notice from DoDMERB is NOT the end of the process. Many times, academies do grant waivers so be sure to work through the process completely. Timely submission of all documentation to DoDMERB/Academy(ies) is key to a positive outcome.**

- Wearing corrective eye wear, especially if not correctable to 20/20.
- Laser surgery of any type.
- Diagnosis of color blindness.
- Diagnosis of asthma, hay fever, or allergies, especially after the age of 12.
- Diagnosis of ADD/ADHD/Learning disabilities, especially if you have used medication since the end of your sophomore year.
- Surgery or broken bones in the last ten years.
- Tattoos: especially if visible in any uniform and/or they can be deemed offensive.
- Diagnosis of concussion(s), especially multiple ones.
- Diagnosis of eczema.

**Personal Questionnaire:** On a separate piece of paper, write no more than one paragraph on EACH of the following four questions:

- In what ways have you prepared yourself for study at a service academy?
- When did you decide you wanted to attend an academy and how was your interest generated?
- Why do you want to attend a service academy rather than a traditional civilian university?
- USAFA and USMA each have an honor code and USNA and USMMA each have an honor concept. Explain how you intend to uphold honor at an academy and why it is important not only while at an academy but throughout your military career.

**Once you have completely filled out this file, please sign and date below.**

*When you sign and date below you are attesting that the above information is correct, your own work, and that you are fully aware of and intend to meet to the best of your abilities the service commitment required of an academy graduate.*

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_