

Michael CLOUD

UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN

TEXAS *27th District*

2026 Service Academy Nomination Application

Applications must be received by November 6, 2026.

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Message from Congressman Michael Cloud

"I sincerely want to thank you for your interest in attending a United States Service Academy. As your elected representative, it is both an honor and a privilege to participate in the selection process for our military and country's next generation of leaders. If you are eligible and would like to be considered for a nomination, please complete and return this application to my office by the deadline. Best wishes to you as you embark on this process, and I look forward to serving you throughout."

God bless,



Michael Cloud
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Office Locations and Contact Information

Corpus Christi 555 N. Carancahua St.
Tower II, Suite 980
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
Phone: (361) 884-2222

Victoria 120 S. Main, Suite 310
Victoria, TX 77901
Phone: (361) 894-6446

Washington, DC 171 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-7742

Website <https://cloud.house.gov/>

Nomination Sources

Due to the competitive nature of receiving a nomination to a service academy, you are encouraged to apply to every nominating authority available to you. Not every applicant will receive a nomination, nor will every nominee be offered an appointment by the academy.

In addition to Congressman Cloud, pursue:

- **Senator Cornyn** ○ <https://www.cornyn.senate.gov/service-academies/>
- **Senator Cruz** ○ <https://www.cruz.senate.gov/services/student-resources/academy-nominations>
- **Vice President JD Vance** ○ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/service-academy-nominations/>
- **President Donald Trump** ○ Children of career military personnel may be eligible for Presidential nominations.

For a complete list of nomination sources to include Service-connected nominations, please review <https://www.westpoint.edu/admissions/prospective-cadets/nomination-information>.

Each nominating source uses their own selection process and timelines for academy nominations. Ensure you carefully read and follow the instructions of each office to which you apply for a nomination. Be sure to contact each respective office if you have any questions.

Active Duty Servicemembers

If you are currently enlisted on Active Duty, in the Reserves, or National Guard, there may be additional programs available to you to receive a nomination and appointment to one of the service academies. Many times, your unit commanders are the point of contact for this nomination. We encourage you to inform your chain of command and apply for both a unit commander nomination as well as a nomination from Rep. Cloud.

- **AirForceAcademy** ○ <https://www.academyadmissions.com/prepare/enlisted/> □
- **Military Academy**
- <https://www.westpoint.edu/admissions/prospective-cadets/current-soldiers> □
- **Merchant Marine Academy:** <https://www.usmma.edu/admissions/prior-service>
- **Naval Academy:** <https://www.usna.edu/Admissions/Apply/Active-Duty-Service-Applicants.php>

Congressman Cloud's Selection Process & Timeline

Applicants who apply to Congressman Cloud for a nomination will be considered based on merit, through an open and impartial process. There are two steps in this process. The first step consists of your full and complete application with all required materials. This allows for an evaluation based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community service, and leadership potential. Applicants will then be selected to advance to the interview. The second step consists of a formal interview before the Congressman's Nominations Committee. The interview will allow the committee to capture everything that an application cannot, including your character, conduct, and

motivation. Furthermore, the interview allows you the opportunity to highlight or explain anything that might set you apart from other applicants.

Not every applicant will receive a nomination, nor will every nominee be offered an appointment by the academy. The admissions office for each academy will make all final determinations as to whom is offered an appointment. Please make sure that you have fully completed the academy's admissions requirements as well.

2026 Nomination Timeline for Congressman Cloud

June 1, 2026	Application period opens
November 6, 2026	Deadline to submit completed nomination application.
November	Rep. Cloud's Nominations Committee conducts selected applicant interviews. Interviews will be conducted on a Saturday.
December-January	Nomination selections are made and applicants are notified by letter of their nomination status.
January 31, 2027	Deadline for Congressional offices to submit nominations to Academies

Note: Congressman Cloud's Academy Nominations Coordinator will confirm all dates with applicants and inform them of any changes.

Helpful Tips:

- ☐ Begin both the admissions and nominations process early!
- ☐ Be in charge of your future!
 - The Office of Congressman Michael Cloud will only work directly with the Applicant throughout this process. The Applicant is expected to be the one who oversees the process, ensuring that they meet all requirements and deadlines. All other individuals will be asked to have the Applicant contact the office directly.
- ☐ Receiving an appointment to an academy requires you to work with both Congressman Cloud's office and the academy admissions office.
- ☐ Throughout the process, you are expected to act professionally and respond to any requests promptly and completely.
- ☐ Apply to every nominating authority available to you.
- ☐ Do not limit yourself to only one academy. There is a set number of nominations that can be given for each academy. Congressman Cloud will do his best to give qualified students a nomination to their first choice. However, if this is not possible, an attempt will be made to give a nomination to their second choice.
- ☐ Applicants should also apply to other colleges and/ or universities while working to secure a nomination and appointment to an academy. Not every applicant will receive a nomination, nor will every nominee be offered an appointment by the academy.
- ☐ Explore other options to earn a commission and become a military officer.
 - **Air Force ROTC** - <https://www.afrotc.com/>
 - **Army ROTC** - <https://www.goarmy.com/rotc.html>
 - **Navy ROTC** - <https://www.netc.navy.mil/nstc/nrotc/>
 - **Coast Guard CSPI** - <https://www.gocoastguard.com/active-duty-careers/officerhttps://www.gocoastguard.com/active-duty-careers/officer-opportunities/programs/college-student-pre-commissioning-initiative>

U.S. Service Academies Information

Air Force Academy

Admissions Office
2304 Cadet Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80840
(800) 443-9266

<https://www.academyadmissions.com/>

U.S. Naval Academy

Admissions Office
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, MD 21402
(888) 249-7707

<https://www.usna.edu/Admissions/>

U.S. Military Academy Admissions Office

606 Thayer Road
West Point, NY 10996
(800) 822-2769

<https://www.westpoint.edu/admissions>

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

Admissions Office
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, NY 11024
(516) 726-5800

<https://www.usmma.edu/admissions>

Note: Upon graduation from the Merchant Marine Academy, one can commission as an officer on active duty in an armed force of the United States or in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). More information at

<https://www.usmma.edu/admissions/service>
<https://www.usmma.edu/admissions/service-obligation>

Congressional nominations are not required for the United States Coast Guard Academy. If you are interested in attending, please contact the academy directly at:

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Admissions Office
31 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320
(800) 883-8724

<https://www.uscga.edu/admissions/>

Other Commissioning Sources

In addition to the U.S. Service Academies, you can achieve your goal of commissioning as an officer in one of the branches of the military through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). Be sure to pursue a ROTC scholarship as you apply to the Service Academies.

Air Force ROTC

Offered at more than 1,100 colleges and universities across the country, Air Force ROTC develops the leaders of tomorrow by preparing students to become officers in the U.S. Air Force or Space Force while earning a college degree. In AFROTC, you'll not only build lifelong friendships, but you may also have the opportunity to pay for school through our scholarship programs. Most

importantly, unlike many other college students, you'll have a rewarding career waiting for you after graduation. *More information at:* <https://www.afrotc.com/>

Army ROTC

Army ROTC pays for your tuition while you go to college and train to become an Army Officer. Offered at more than 1,000 colleges and universities, you can get the college experience along with a guaranteed career after graduation as a highly respected second lieutenant in the Army, Army Reserve, or Army National Guard. *More information at:*

<https://www.goarmy.com/careers><https://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/find-your-path/army-officers/rotc/scholarships.html>and <https://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/find-your-path/army-officers/rotc/scholarships.html>

Navy ROTC

The purpose of the Navy ROTC Program is to educate, and train qualified young men and women for service as commissioned officers in the Navy's unrestricted line, the Navy Nurse Corps and the Marine Corps. As the largest single source of Navy and Marine Corps officers, the Navy ROTC Scholarship Program plays an important role in preparing mature young men and women for leadership and management positions in an increasingly technical Navy and Marine Corps. Selected applicants for the Navy ROTC Scholarship Program are awarded scholarships through a highly competitive national selection process, and receive full tuition, books stipend, educational fees and other financial benefits OR Room and Board at many of the country's leading colleges and universities. *More information at:* <https://www.netc.navy.mil/NSTC/NROTC/>

Coast Guard College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI)

CSPI is a scholarship program for motivated college juniors and seniors who demonstrate academic and leadership excellence and a desire to serve in the Coast Guard. *More information at:* <https://www.gocoastguard.com/get-started/officer-applications/college-student-pre-commissioning-initiative-cspi-scholarship>

Other Paths to Merchant Marine Service

Attend and graduate from one of the six state maritime academies or the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA). This is the traditional path to become a licensed United States Merchant Marine Officer. Any one of these USMM-approved U.S.-based institutions will provide you with the following set of credentials: an accredited Bachelor's degree, a Transportation Worker Identification Card (TWIC), and a position in the United States Merchant Marine as a licensed Merchant Marine Officer (holds a United States Coast Guard license). *More information at:*

<https://www.maritime.dot.gov/education/maritime-academies/maritime-academies>

2026 Nomination Application

1. **Eligibility.** Applicants who wish to apply for a nomination must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Be at least 17 years old but have not passed your 23rd birthday (25 years old for USMMA) by July 1 of the year of admission to the academy.
 - b. Be a United States citizen.
 - c. Be a Legal Resident of the 27th Congressional District of Texas.

Applicants who are dependents of a military parent should apply to the representative in the district where the applicant is domiciled.
 - d. Each Academy has its own eligibility requirements. Ensure you meet their requirements as well.

2. **Application Deadline: Friday, November 6, 2026**

Applications must be received or postmarked by this date. No exceptions. All applications must be complete with all required items. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

3. **Submitting Your Application.**

Completed applications can be dropped off or mailed. If submitted to the Corpus Christi office, they will then be sent to the Victoria office. Send complete applications with all required materials by the deadline to:

Congressman Michael Cloud
Attn: Academy Nominations Coordinator:
Mary Romano
120 S. Main St.
Suite 310
Victoria, TX 77901

4. **Instructions**
 - a. All efforts should be made to submit applications, with all required documents, at the same time.
 - b. For all documents being submitted, do your best to ensure they are one-sided. This is not applicable to some items such as your official transcripts.
 - c. Do not write on the back of any pages. Do not staple any items.
 - d. Answer all questions as completely as possible in the space provided. Ensure all answers provided are legible.
 - e. Do not leave any section blank. If a question does not apply to you, write N/A or is not applicable.
5. **Initiate Academy Admissions Process.**

Applicants must have applied for admission to one or more of the service academies by the nomination application deadline. Interviews will not be conducted without having applied to an academy.

2026 Nomination Application

Full Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last) (Preferred Name, If Different)

Texas Residence Address - Permanent 27th District of Texas Address (Street, City, State, Zip)

Mailing Address – If Different from Above (Street/P.O. Box, City, State, Zip)

Home Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

E-mail: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Are you a U.S. Citizen? _____ **Gender:** _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Information

Name: _____ **Relation:** _____

Name: _____ **Relation:** _____

Parent or Guardian Contact (not required if older than 18 at time of applying):

(Phone Number)

(E-mail)

Academy Preferences. Please rank in order of preference: 1, 2, 3, 4. If you are not applying to an academy, leave it blank. *Note: You must open an admissions file at any academy you are requesting to receive a nomination. Do not rank an academy here if you have not applied to that academy.*

_____ Air Force Academy

_____ Naval Academy

_____ Merchant Marine Academy

_____ Military Academy

I am also seeking a nomination from:

_____ Senator John Cornyn _____ Senator Ted Cruz
_____ Vice President JD Vance _____ President Donald Trump

Have you ever been charged with a crime? _____ If yes, please provide the date of the incident, the location, the crime, and the outcome?

What is your current academic status?

_____ High School Senior _____ Military (Active Duty, Reserves, National Guard)
_____ Academy Prep. School _____ College _____ Other: _____

Current School Attending _____ *Date of Graduation* _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip) _____ *Telephone Number* _____

School Counselor Name _____ *E-mail* _____ *Telephone Number* _____

High School GPA: _____ *(Must be converted to a 4.0 scale)* **Class Rank & Class Size:** _____

College/University: Credits/Hours Attempted: _____ Credits/Hours Earned: _____ GPA: _____

Standardized Test Information: SAT or ACT? _____ Highest Combined Score: _____

To save you money, an official score report is not required. You can download and submit your online score report accessed from your portal page. To send an official SAT or ACT Score Report to my office, Test Scores Codes are: SAT: 6595; ACT: 7708

Supplemental Requirements

1. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation:

Letters must be from a person who has been your supervisor, instructor, employer, coach, or a similar role. Letters written by family members will not be accepted. Have all three individuals provide these recommendations and letters to you in a sealed envelope, with their signature across the seal. If they prefer, they may also mail or email the letters directly to the Academy Nominations Coordinator.

Ask your references to write about how they came to know you and in what capacity. They should also speak to your unique qualities, any merits they find most noteworthy in the applicant such as leadership, character, perseverance, community service, etc., and why they think you should receive a nomination to a service academy. There is no word count or length limit to your letters of recommendation.

Please provide the information for those you have requested a letter of recommendation from:

1. _____
Name *E-mail* *Telephone Number*
2. _____
Name *E-mail* *Telephone Number*
3. _____
Name *E-mail* *Telephone Number*

2. Typed Resume:

Please provide a typed resume where you may include, but are not limited to, your involvement in athletic organizations, community service, academic and student organizations, work experience, awards, honors, scholarships, and any other extracurricular activities or notable involvement in organizations or personal endeavors. Only include activities beginning your freshman year of high school. Ensure your name and contact information are included. The resume can be two pages in length.

3. Personal Statements:

Please provide a typed response to each of the following questions, ensuring that the combined response length is no more than four pages, one sided. Please include your name at the top of each page.

- *Why do you want to attend one of the U.S. Service Academies?*
- *How do you see yourself pursuing your military service after you complete the academy?*
- *Describe what serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America means to you?*
- *What life experiences have prepared you for the rigors and demands of life at an academy?*

4. Wallet Size Photo:

Please provide a wallet-sized photograph. Be sure to include your name and hometown on the back of the photo for identification should it become separated from your packet during processing.

- 5. Official Copy of High School Transcript:** Ensure transcript includes courses currently in progress, grades through the end of your junior year, current GPA, and class rank. Should your school not rank students, you must have a counselor or principal denote this on your transcript. This too must be sealed in an envelope.

- 6. Official Copy of College/University Transcript (*if applicable*):** Ensure transcript includes courses in progress, and current GPA.

Applicant Agreement

Please read the following entirely and carefully before initiating and signing. Your signature indicates your agreement with the following:

- I certify that I am a resident of the 27th Congressional District of Texas; _____ (initial)*
- The information in my application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge; _____ (initial)*
 - I meet the eligibility requirements set forth by each U.S. Service Academy for which I am applying; _____ (initial)*
 - I understand that upon graduating from a U. S. Service Academy, I am obligated to serve a minimum of five years of military service; _____ (initial)*
 - I have an open admissions file with the Academy to which I am seeking a nomination for; _____ (initial)*
 - I understand that I will not be considered for a nomination if the required application packet and documents are incomplete, or not submitted or postmarked by the deadline; _____ (initial)*
 - I understand that it is the sole responsibility of the applicant to fulfill the application requirements; _____ (initial)*
 - If I do receive a nomination/appointment, **I DO** or **I DO NOT** authorize Congressman Cloud's Office to release this information, including my photograph, to the news media and the public; _____ (initial)*
 - I understand that all information in my nomination application file with the office of Congressman Cloud including, but not limited to, recommendation letters, evaluation forms and notes are privileged and not accessible to the applicant; _____ (initial)*
 - Provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974 are waived to the extent of sharing this information with the United States Service Academies and their representatives as well as members of Congressman Cloud's Service Academy Nominations Committee. I request that Congressman Cloud and his office monitor my progress in seeking an appointment to a U.S. Service Academy (U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy), and I hereby consent for the Office of Congressman Michael Cloud to make inquiries to any Academy to which I am applying concerning my nomination and potential appointment. Furthermore, I give consent to the Academy to divulge information from my admissions application for this purpose. _____ (initial)*

Applicant Name (Please Print): _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian Name (Please Print): _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Nomination Application Checklist

*This checklist outlines the documents that are to be submitted with your application. All required items must be received or postmarked by the established deadline on **Friday, November 6, 2026**, unless arrangements have been made ahead of time with the Academy Nominations Coordinator. Incomplete applications will not be considered for a nomination.*

- Congressman Cloud's Nomination Application**
Ensure it is either typed or written legibly.
- High School Official Transcript**
- College/University Official Transcript (if applicable)**
- Three (3) Letters of Recommendation**
- SAT and /or ACT Score Report**
- Personal Statements**
- Resume**
- Wallet-Sized Photo**
- Initiate an admissions file with the U.S. Service Academy**

You can reach Congressman Cloud's Academy Nominations Coordinator at (361)894-6446 or by email at Mary.Hilton@mail.house.gov

