U. S. Senator Bill Nelson

Academy Opportunities

U. S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY
Colorado Springs, Colorado

U. S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY
New London, Connecticut

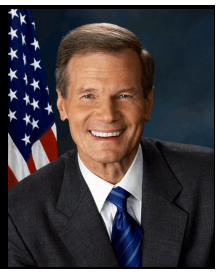
U. S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY
Kings Point, Long Island, New York

U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY
West Point, New York

U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY
Annapolis, Maryland

The postmark deadline for submitting an application is September 20, 2011
The Class of 2016 will begin July 2012

U. S. Senator
Bill Nelson



Those individuals wishing to apply for nomination to one of the service academies must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State of Florida, and must never have been married. The U.S. Military Academy, Naval Academy, and Air Force Academy require that applicants must not have reached their 23rd birthday by July 1st of the year of admission. Candidates applying to the Merchant Marine Academy must be at least 17 and have not passed their 25th birthday on July 1st of the year of admission.

Due to the large number of applicants, you may interview for **only** one academy. Therefore, careful consideration should be given to your choice of an academy. Academy designation may be changed any time prior to September 20, 2011.

Each senator may have five Midshipmen or Cadets at each academy at any one time. For the 2012 admission year, Senator Nelson will be able to nominate 10 individuals for one vacancy per service academy. All applicants should be advised that acceptance of any appointment commits them to at least a five year active duty obligation to the military upon graduation.

The deadline for submission of information to the senator's office is September 20, 2011. Submissions postmarked after this date **will not** be accepted. Those individuals meeting eligibility requirements will be notified of the date, time, and place to report for a personal interview by the regional board (Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tallahassee, Tampa). Approximately nine board members are selected by Senator Nelson for each of the four regions. Members consist of business and community leaders, service academy graduates, active and retired military personnel and academia.

The review board will conduct a personal interview with each applicant who meets all requirements. Selections are made competitively on the basis of academic performances, leadership potential, personal statement, extra curricular activities, personal interviews and letters of recommendation. Ten nominees for each vacancy will be recommended to Senator Nelson by the state board. Senator Nelson will review and submit these recommendations to each service academy. Ten alternates for each vacancy also will be recommended to the senator. Alternates are not submitted unless requested by the academy. The final ranking and subsequent appointments will be at the discretion of the academies.

Officials at the academies advise individuals desiring nominations to request an application from the academy at the same time they seek nomination through Senator Nelson. **Contact with the admissions office of the academy of your preference is imperative.** Once contact is established, the academy will create a file for the candidate and transmit general information on the academy along with detailed admission requirements, including a Prospective Candidate Questionnaire.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW

All applicants meeting eligibility requirements and residing in Florida will be interviewed on **October 20, 2011** in either Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tallahassee or Tampa. This **compulsory** interview will be in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Academy Selection Board. Interviews will be conducted in person and prospective applicants should plan accordingly. **The personal interview is a mandatory element of the application process.** Special arrangements can be made with dependents of active-duty military personnel and students who reside outside Florida. **Note: Interviews are held for one day only (October 20, 2011). Please keep the interview date open on your calendar. There are no make-up or alternate dates.**

SAT / ACT SCORES

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Testing Assessment Test (ACT) are the most important academic requirements of the academies. As a general rule, no combined score below 1570 will be considered competitive. Senator Nelson's SAT code is **0220** and ACT code is **7118**. **If they are not noted on your official academic transcript, SAT and ACT scores must be forwarded directly from the testing center to Senator Nelson's office located at 225 East Robinson Street, Suite 410, Orlando FL 32801.** Should you receive an invitation for an interview, please bring any updated test scores with you. **NOTE**: **Minimum SAT and ACT scores must be met by the postmarked deadline of September 20, 2011 to be eligible for an interview with Senator Nelson's nominating board.**

ACADEMY		SAT	ACT
United States Air Force Academy Director of Admissions Colorado Springs, Colorado 80840	Telephone: (800) 443-9266	580 Verbal 560 Math 500 Writing	24 English 25 Math 6 Writing Subscore
United States Military Academy Director of Admissions 606 Thayer Road West Point, New York 10996-1797	Telephone: (845) 938-4041	560 Verbal 560 Math 500 Writing	23 English 24 Math 6 Writing Subscore
United States Naval Academy Admissions Office 117 Decatur Road Annapolis, Maryland 21402-5018	Telephone: (410) 293-4361	580 Verbal 580 Math 500 Writing	24 English 25 Math 6 Writing Subscore
United States Merchant Marine Academy Admissions Office Kings Point, New York 11024	Telephone: (866) 546-4778	510 Verbal 560 Math 500 Writing	21 English 24 Math 6 Writing Subscore

United States Coast Guard Academy A congressional nomination is not required for admission to the United States Coast Guard Academy. Therefore, it is not necessary to complete the attached application.

If you are interested in attending the United States Coast Guard Academy, you are encouraged to visit the academy website at www.uscga.edu to obtain your admissions officer, application and eligibility information. Additionally, you may call the Admissions Hotline at (800) 883-8724, the main Admissions line at (866) 435-7196 or contact the academy via mail at: 31 Mohegan Avenue, New London, Connecticut 06320-8103. To be considered for admission, you must submit all required application materials by February 1st of the year of entrance (October 15th or November 1st of the year prior to entrance for Early Action consideration).

ACADEMY CHECKLIST

Applicant Name: _____ *(Print)* Social Security No. -- -- *(Full)*

Academy: ☐ Air Force ☐ Merchant Marine ☐ Naval ☐ Military

Do you currently reside outside of the State of Florida? ____ No ____ Yes if yes, where? _____

INSTRUCTIONS

Read all material carefully, then with equal care, complete the required forms and provide all requested data by **September 20, 2011**. **All required information must be submitted in a single mailing.** Your application is considered complete when the application and the following materials are received by the Orlando, Florida office.

I. In a large envelope, return the following items (I, II, III, IV):

- ___ Completed application
- ___ Academic Recommendation form in sealed envelopes with signature across seal (must be completed by school official)
- ___ Personal statement typed, outlining why you wish to attend a service academy (1 page only)
- ___ Checklist with interview location noted
- ___ Two (2) letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes with signatures across seal

II. Official High School, Junior College or College Transcripts

High School and College transcripts are used to measure an individual's scholastic achievements, interests and progress. **Transcripts must show your final junior year grades, GPA and approximate class rank.** An official, sealed transcript from all high schools, junior colleges or colleges you have attended should be returned to you in a sealed envelope. A report card copy will not be accepted as a substitute.

III. Applicant Test Scores

SAT or ACT scores are required as part of the nomination process. Submitted scores must meet the minimum levels indicated on page two by the postmark deadline. If you have not taken the test before the postmark deadline, you will not be eligible for nomination during this cycle. **If they are not noted on your official academic transcript, test scores must be forwarded directly from the testing center to the Orlando, Florida office by September 20, 2011.**

IV. Personal Interview Location ***Please keep the interview date open on your calendar. There are no make-up or alternate dates.***

Personal interviews will be conducted on Thursday, October 20, 2011. Please select your county of residence. If qualified, you will be notified of the interview time.

- ___ **Fort Lauderdale** (Broward, Collier, Hendry, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, St. Lucie Counties)
- ___ **Jacksonville** (Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flager, Levy, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Union Counties)
- ___ **Orlando** (Brevard, Indian River, Lake, Marion, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia Counties)
- ___ **Tallahassee** (Bay, Calhoun, Dixie, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, Washington Counties)
- ___ **Tampa** (Charlotte, Citrus, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota Counties)

Service Academy Application

Please type or print the required information on both pages.

SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKAGE ONLY

Full Legal Name: **Social Security No.** *(Last Four)*: XXX - XX -

Choice of Service Academy *(check one only)*

☐ Air Force ☐ Merchant Marine ☐ Naval ☐ Military

Personal Data

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____ *(City and State)*

Are you a United States Citizen? ☐ Yes ☐ No I am a ☐ Female ☐ Male

Home Address

_____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

County _____ Congressional District Number *(1- 25)* _____

Home Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Father's Name _____ Daytime Phone No. _____

Mother's Name _____ Daytime Phone No. _____

Mailing Address *(If different than home address above)*

_____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Academic Data

Name of School _____ Date of Graduation _____

Counselor _____ School Phone No. _____

Test Scores: Qualifying scores must be met and submitted by the postmark deadline.

SAT Scores

Verbal _____ Math _____ Writing _____

ACT Scores

English _____ Math _____ Writing Subscore *(2-12)* _____

Are you taking or in *(check all that apply)* ☐ Honor Classes ☐ AP Classes ☐ IB Program

Below, list your school and community activities. Complete form or attach your own typed information.

Activity	Office Held / Letter / Award	Year(s)

☐ Check here if you are adding supporting documents and will leave above section blank.

☐ I have applied to my other congressional members for a nomination to ☐ USAFA ☐ USMMA ☐ USMA ☐ USNA

PLEASE COMPLETE INFORMATION IN ITS ENTIRETY AS THIS IS CONSIDERED AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE INTERVIEW PROCESS.

I have read and fully understand the requirements and procedures for obtaining a nomination to the service academies by Senator Nelson, and do hereby apply for a nomination. I also understand the Academy Selection Board reserves the right to reject any application which contains inaccurate information.

Signature:_____ **Date:**_____

United States Senator Bill Nelson • 225 East Robinson Street, Suite 410 • Orlando, Florida 32801
Telephone (407) 872-7161 • Toll-Free in Florida Only (888) 671-4091 • Fax (407) 872-7165 • http://billnelson.senate.gov

Service Academy Academic Recommendation Form

Please type or print the required information

Principal or Guidance Counselor

This form must be completed by either a high school principal or guidance counselor. **Please note that the completion of the recommendation form is a requirement. Type or print and return your completed form to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your signature across the seal.**

The following information must be included as it is an integral part of the service academy candidate's application. If your school does not rank students, please provide an accurate estimate of the applicant's class standing and an appropriate rank.

Name of Applicant _____
Last First Middle

Social Security No. *(last four)* XXX - XX - _____ Year in School _____

Class Rank (mark one)

◯ Top 5% ◯ Top 10% ◯ Top 15% ◯ Top 20% ◯ Top 25% ◯ Below 25%

Weighted or Un-weighted GPA (mark one)

◯ 4.5 & Higher ◯ 3.7 - 4.4 ◯ 3.6 - 3.4 ◯ 3.3 - 3.2 ◯ 3.1 - 3.0 ◯ Below 3.0

SAT Critical Reading _____ SAT Math _____ SAT Writing _____

ACT English _____ ACT Math _____ ACT Writing Subscore *(2-12)* _____

Additional Academic Criteria (mark all that apply) ◯ Honors ◯ AP Classes ◯ IB Program

Please use the following scale to rate the applicant's abilities	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Leadership characteristics				
Personality traits				
Ability to get along with and work well with others				
Ability to work under pressure				
Ability to take criticism				
Attendance, punctuality and dependability				
Overall assessment of candidate				

General Comments: _____

_____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Title: _____ School: _____

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Bill Nelson
Florida

UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS 2011 SCHEDULE

Tuesday, March 1, 2011	Application process opens.
Tuesday, September 20, 2011	Postmark deadline for file completion and submission of information. **Applications postmarked after this date will be considered incomplete and not eligible for consideration.**
Wednesday, October 5, 2011	Interview notices mailed to qualified candidates.
Thursday, October 20, 2011	Personal interview. **Please keep the interview date open on your calendar. There are no make-up or alternate date dates.**
Monday, December 5, 2011	Nominee notification of status by mail begins.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS TO

U. S. Senator Bill Nelson
Attention: Service Academy Coordinator
225 East Robinson Street, Suite 410
Orlando, Florida 32801

Telephone: (407) 872-7161 or
(888) 671-4091 *(toll-free in Florida only)*

Fax: (407) 872-7165

Website: http://www.billnelson.senate.gov

Applications returned to locations other than the Orlando, Florida office may cause delays in processing.

Bill Nelson
Florida

Helpful Hints For Completing the Service Academy Application Process

- ☐ Read the application packet in its entirety prior to attempting to complete the application. Then follow all directions carefully. **All application materials must be submitted at the same time.**

- ☐ Once the Orlando office receives your application materials, processing will take approximately 7 to 14 days. Applications submitted closer to the postmark deadline may take an additional week for processing. Once your application has been processed, a notification letter with the status of your application will be mailed. Applications submitted within two weeks of the postmark deadline may receive notification of receipt within 4-6 weeks.

- ☐ Applications received at office locations other than the Orlando, Florida office may be delayed. The U. S. Senate's mail security policy for all Washington, D.C. offices remains in effect. This policy requires that all mail must go through an irradiation process before it can be received and opened. Consequently, mail sent directly to the Washington, D.C. Office may not be received for four to six weeks.

- ☐ Applications sent to other office locations may be forwarded to the Orlando office. However, there is no guarantee the application will arrive prior to the postmark deadline. If your application is sent to a location other than the Orlando office, is forwarded and arrives in Orlando after the postmark deadline, it may be considered late and possibly will not be accepted for the current nomination cycle.

- ☐ If you applied during a previous year, you will need to complete the current application and resubmit all materials.

- ☐ **Keep the interview date open on your calendar. Interviews are held on the date published in the application. There are no make-up or alternate dates.**

- ☐ Presentation materials are not necessary when assembling your application. All staples, binders, jackets, plastic sleeves, report covers or other materials used to assemble applications are removed and discarded prior to presenting them to board members for review.

- ☐ The Academy Checklist is an integral part of the application and must be completed and returned with the rest of your application materials.

- ☐ **Applications received without all supporting documents within the same envelope are considered incomplete.** When approaching individuals who will provide information for your application, let them know you need the information back in a signed, sealed envelope. Additionally, let them know your application must be submitted with all supporting documents.

- ☐ Official SAT or ACT test scores are accepted directly from the testing facility or as listed on high school or college transcripts. Student copies are not accepted as official test scores. Check with your school to find out whether your scores are listed on your transcript.

- ☐ If you have not taken your SAT or ACT tests prior to the following testing dates, you may not receive your scores prior to the postmark deadline of Monday, September 20, 2011.

  SAT - June 4, 2011 ACT - September 10, 2011

  The writing portion of the test is required. Applications that do not reflect scores for the writing portion of either the SAT or ACT will be considered incomplete.

- ☐ The application listed at http://billnelson.senate.gov is a fill-in form. This means that you may type directly into the application, print and sign it to prepare it for mailing with the rest of your supporting documents.

- ☐ Obtaining a Congressional Nomination is an extremely competitive process. You are encouraged to apply to more than one academy to increase your chances of obtaining a congressional nomination. However, you may only submit one application with Senator Nelson's office for one academy only. You are encouraged to apply with all of your Florida Congressional members (Two Senate offices plus your Congressional District Member).

- ☐ You may find your Congressional District at http://www.house.gov.

- ☐ Contact and register with each Service Academy in which you have an interest. Applying to one academy does not mean you have applied to all four service academies.

- ☐ Throughout the application process, review board members and academies will be looking at the following factors: character, academics, leadership, physical aptitude, medical fitness, goals and motivation. These qualities are required to meet the challenges of the academy programs and, subsequently in becoming a commissioned officer.

- ☐ Upon graduation from a Service Academy, you are obligated to serve a minimum of five years of active duty.

- ☐ All questions should be directed to the Senator Nelson's Orlando office at (407) 872-7161 or (888) 671-4091 *(toll free in Florida only)*.

- ☐ If you a Floridian currently living outside the state of Florida and qualify for an interview, you must contact the Orlando office as soon as possible to discuss the interview process. You are encouraged to submit your application expeditiously.

- ☐ If you are attending a college or university in a Florida county that is not your home county, please make a note of this on the checklist.

- ☐ You are encouraged to submit your application sooner rather than later.