

Senator Mike Rounds Academy Nominations



Application Booklet

**SENATOR MIKE ROUNDS
CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATION GUIDELINES**

A. CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS

Air Force, Naval, and Military Academies: Each U.S. Senator and Member of Congress may have a maximum of five appointees at each academy at any one time. This generally allows for one vacancy per year at each academy; however, exceptions do exist.

Merchant Marine Academy: Each U.S. Senator and Member of Congress may nominate ten young men and/or women to enter statewide competition for four places at the Merchant Marine Academy.

Coast Guard Academy: There are no Senatorial or Congressional nominations to the Coast Guard Academy. Applications should be mailed directly to:

Superintendent
United States Coast Guard Academy
31 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320

B. ACADEMY PREFERENCE

Some applicants are interested in one and only one of the academies. If so, please indicate that desire on the provided application form. You should not indicate a second, third, and fourth choice if in reality you have no interest in such alternatives. However, please understand that every academy will offer a similar academic experience—and for that reason, I encourage you to consider all of them.

If you do, however, have a genuine interest in more than one of the academies, then please list them in the order of preference. Applicants are sometimes nominated to an academy other than their first choice. Also, this gives the Nominating Board the choice of nominating you to more than one academy.

C. ELIGIBILITY

All candidates applying for one of my nominations must be citizens of the United States and legal residents of the State of South Dakota. They must be at least 17 years of age and not past their 22nd birthday on July 1 of the year they are admitted to the academy. They must have never been married.

D. MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

Some applicants understandably seek admittance to the academies from Senator Thune, Representative Noem, and myself. They may also apply to the Vice President. This is a wise decision as it gives you more than one chance to gain a nomination. If an applicant is nominated on one of these other lists, there is a chance I will not include him or her on my list since it may prevent another worthwhile individual from being considered.

E. QUALIFICATIONS

Although standards vary among academies, candidates must generally be in the top half of their high school class in a college preparatory curriculum and score acceptably on their SATs and/or ACTs. For purposes of nomination, I require only the ACTs. Each academy has different required minimums for the ACT scores for the English and Math portions:

Military Academy:	English 23, Math 24
Naval Academy:	English 26, Math 26
Air Force Academy:	English 25, Math 25
Merchant Marine Academy:	English 22, Math 26

The academies have very strict standards regarding the physical qualifications as outlined in the academy catalogs. If you have any questions about your physical condition, you may wish to have your family physician pre-determine whether you can meet the standards of the academy of your choice before applying.

F. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Step 1: Return the completed application form (either a hard copy to my Sioux Falls office or an electronic copy to academy_nominations@rounds.senate.gov) as soon as possible. Give the Evaluation Form to your guidance counselor or principal to be completed and returned to me (Note: this person should **not** be included as one of your recommendation sources).

Step 2: Be sure your ACT scores are sent to me to be included in your file. **(Use code 7182)**

Step 3: Ask **THREE** people to write letters of recommendation to me on your behalf. Please include at least one teacher. These should be sent directly from the source to my office so that they are confidential. **DO NOT MAIL THEM YOURSELF.**

Step 4: Please provide the other items noted on the enclosed checklist, including an essay explaining why you wish to attend a service academy.

Step 5: 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 write or call me to see what is missing from your file. I will not consider any file unless it is completed by the deadline.

* Be sure to contact the academies you are interested in attending. Open your file online by visiting the respective academies website and creating a profile. (Note: The Merchant Marine Academy requires you to complete Part One of the online application before being considered for a nomination.)

** The deadline for completing your file is **October 1, 2015**. I plan to make the nominations no later than December 31, 2015.

Senator Mike Rounds
ATTN: Michele Mustain
320 N Main Ave, Ste A
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Email: academy_nominations@rounds.senate.gov
Phone: 605-336-0486

U.S. Senator Mike Rounds Service Academy Application

Full Name _____	High School: _____
Address: _____ _____	School Telephone: _____
Telephone: _____	Graduation Date: _____
County: _____	Class Rank: ____ of ____ Upper ____%
Date of Birth _____	Current GPA: _____
Parents: _____	Social Security #: _____
	Email: _____

Please rank your service academy choices. Only rank those academies which you are interested in attending. Do not indicate a second, third, and fourth choice if you have no interest in them. However, know that every academy will offer a similar academic experience.

- _____ U.S. Military Academy (West Point)
- _____ U.S. Naval Academy (Annapolis)
- _____ U.S. Air Force Academy (Colorado Springs)
- _____ U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (Kings Point)

I have also applied with (mark all that apply):

- Senator Thune
 Representative Noem
 Vice President Biden

- Please attach a headshot (e.g., school picture) along with your completed application.
- Applicants will interviewed by the Nominating Board in the fall.
- If you are unable to appear in person, a videotaped interview can be submitted (a list of interview questions is available upon request.)
- Please submit the following items **together in one packet by October 1st** to:
 Senator Mike Rounds, ATTN: Michele Mustain, 320 N Main Ave, Ste A, Sioux Falls, SD 57104
 - Completed application form
 - Cover letter outlining your interest in receiving a service academy nomination and your leadership qualities and experiences
 - Copy of high school transcript, including ACT and/or SAT scores
 - Three (3) letters of recommendation
 - Copies of any correspondence received from the academies
 - Additionally, please attach a separate, *detailed* list of extracurricular activities, awards, honors, employment, and current coursework.
 - Pre-candidate applications must be submitted directly to the academies *prior* to the interview.
- If you have any questions, please call Michele at 336-0486.

Senator Rounds and his staff reserve the right to reject any application materials that are not submitted by the October 1st deadline during each nominating cycle.

DEADLINE: October 1, 2015

CHECKLIST

(Note: this form is for your use only. It lists all the items which you need to complete your file.)

Deadline for all items: **October 1, 2015**

<u>ITEM:</u>		DATE SENT TO SEN. ROUNDS
1. Application Form		_____
2. ACT Score		_____
3. Extracurricular Activities		_____
4. Essay		_____
5. Transcript of Grades		_____
6. Recent Photograph (headshot)		_____
7. 3 Letters of Recommendation	1st	_____
	2nd	_____
	3rd	_____
8. High School Evaluation Form		_____

A completed packet (hard copy or electronic) with **all** completed items should be sent to:

Senator Mike Rounds
ATTN: Michele Mustain
320 N Main Ave, Ste A
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
academy_nominations@rounds.senate.gov

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Michele at 605-336-0486 or at *michele_mustain@rounds.senate.gov*.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND THESE ITEMS TO THE WASHINGTON OFFICE. IT WILL DELAY YOUR APPLICATION AS WELL AS INCREASE THE CHANCE OF IT NOT REACHING THE PROPER STAFF PERSON, THANK YOU.