

Open Continuous Job Announcements Frequently Asked Questions

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Open Continuous Job Announcements

Frequently Asked Questions

General Open Continuous Job Announcement Questions

1. What is an open continuous announcement?

An open continuous job announcement remains open for an extended period (e.g. several months to a year), allowing applicants to apply at any time up until the closing of the announcement. Applications are reviewed at designated cut-off dates, and eligible applicants are referred when vacancies are available.

2. Are all Cohort 6 job announcements an open continuous announcement?

Yes, all Cohort 6 job announcements are open continuous announcements with the same open period dates and cutoff dates.

3. What is the open period for the Cohort 6 job announcements?

The Cohort 6 application period opens on December 1st, 2025, and will remain open until September 30th, 2026. Applicants may apply to a Cohort 6 job announcement any time during this period. Applicants should be mindful of the established cut-off dates.

4. Can I apply to multiple Cohort 6 job announcements?

Yes. Applicants may apply to more than one Cohort 6 job announcement.

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Cut-Off Dates and Eligibility

1. What are the cut-off dates?

The cut off dates are scheduled for 11:59pm ET of the following dates:

- January 5th, 2026 (Initial Cut Off date)
- March 5th, 2026
- May 5th, 2026
- July 6th, 2026
- September 30th, 2026

2. What is the difference between the initial cut-off date and the subsequent cut-off dates?

Applications received before 11:59pm on the initial cut-off date of January 5th, 2026, will receive primary consideration and qualified applications will be referred for current available positions. Applicants who applied before the initial cut-off date and are not selected will receive continued consideration throughout the full application period.

Qualified applications received after the initial cut-off date will only receive consideration and be referred should initial positions remain open and should future vacancies occur.

Applications received by a subsequent cut-off date will be considered for that period and for the remainder of the application period.

3. What is the date of acceptance into the Program for the initial cut-off date of January 5, 2026?

Applicants who apply before the initial cutoff date of January 5, 2026, and are selected are projected to Enter on Duty (EOD) in June 2026.

4. What are the dates of acceptance into the Program for each subsequent cut-off date?

The projected EOD date for each subsequent cut-off date is listed below:

Subsequent Cut-Off Date	Projected EOD Date
March 5, 2026	June 29, 2026
May 5, 2026	September 21, 2026
July 6, 2026	November 2, 2026
September 30, 2026	January 11, 2027

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5. How does the date of my advanced degree impact my ability to be considered for each subsequent cut-off date?

Applicants must obtain their advanced degree with a conferred date between the dates listed below for each subsequent cut-off date to be eligible for appointment into the Program.

Subsequent Cut-Off Date	Degree Conferral Dates
March 5, 2026	March 5, 2024, through December 29, 2026
May 5, 2026	May 5, 2024, through March 21, 2027
July 6, 2026	July 6, 2024, and May 2, 2027
September 30, 2026	September 30, 2024, and June 11, 2027

However, an individual's entry on duty date is contingent upon their ability to meet all pre-employment requirements, including obtaining a clearance as deemed necessary by their Sponsoring Component. Applicants should be mindful when applying that if selected and there is a delay in meeting all pre-employment requirements, they may ultimately be deemed ineligible to participate in the Program.

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Application Management and Continued Consideration

- 1. I have applied and forgot to upload a required document. Can I go back and upload my missing document if the job announcement is still open?**

Yes, applicants may upload missing documents or update their resume before the cut-off date for which they are applying for. It is highly encouraged to review your application and supporting documents before the cut-off date for which they are applying for. Applications that are incomplete will be deemed ineligible and will not receive further consideration.

- 2. Can I update my application after a cut-off date?**

Yes, you may update your application after a cut-off date. Your updated application will be subject to review at the next cut-off date.

- 3. How do I re-apply or update my application?**

To update your application or to re-apply, you will need to sign into your USAJobs account and go to your **Applications** on your **My jobs** page. Find the application you would like to update and select **Edit My Application**. For reference, please [visit this USAJobs link](#).

You can update your resume, documents, and any other parts of your job application. Please note that you will need to re-upload all required supporting documents to ensure they are included in your application. The Department will see your original application and your new submission(s) though will only review your most recent submission.

- 4. I applied before the initial cut-off date and was deemed eligible. However, I did not get selected for a position. Do I need to re-apply for further consideration?**

No, you do not need to re-apply. Your application will continue to receive consideration for the position you applied for should future vacancies occur up through the remainder of the application period or until:

- you are selected;
- the position is filled;
- you withdraw your application; or
- no longer eligible

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5. I applied before the initial cut-off date and was deemed ineligible. May I re-apply for further consideration?

Yes, applicants may re-apply at any time before the closing of the announcement. Your renewed application will be subject to review at the next cut-off date following your re-submission. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their application package is complete and that all eligibility requirements are met at by the cut-off date for which they applied for.

If an applicant was deemed ineligible due to an incomplete application package (e.g. a missing document) or because they did not meet the degree eligibility requirements at the time of the application but may meet them for subsequent cut-off dates, re-applying may change the eligibility determination.

If an applicant was deemed ineligible for reasons that cannot be corrected during the open period (e.g. not meeting basic eligibility or qualification requirements), re-applying may not change the eligibility determination.

6. I applied before the initial cut-off date and was selected for a position. If I don't accept the position, will my application still be considered for future vacancies? Would I need to re-apply?

If you are offered a position and decline, you will need to reapply to be considered for future vacancies.

7. If I missed the initial cutoff date of January 5, can I still apply and be considered?

Yes, you may still apply before any subsequent cut-off date to receive consideration. However, applications received after the initial cut-off date will only be considered if the initial vacancies were not filled and for future vacancies as they occur.

8. If I miss a cut off date, how long will I have to wait before I can receive consideration?

If you submit your application after a certain cut-off date, you will not be considered until after the following cut-off date. For example, you applied after the initial cut off date of January 5, 2026. Your application will not be considered until the next cut-off date of March 5, 2026.

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Communication and Status Updates for Subsequent Cut-Off Dates

1. How long after a cut-off date will I hear about my application status?

Applicants will receive a Notice of Results notification from USAJobs notifying them of their eligibility determination in the weeks following the cut-off date.

2. If a future vacancy occurs, how will I know if my application is considered?

Eligible applicants will receive a notification via USAJobs that their application has been referred for a position.

3. If my application was referred for a future vacancy, will I receive a notification if my application is not selected?

Applicants who were selected will receive a tentative job offer for the position. Applicants who were not selected may not receive a disposition notice until the open period closes on September 30th, 2026.

4. Can I track my application review progress online?

Yes, applicants may log into their USAJobs account and check the status of their application by clicking Track This Application. For reference, [please visit the USAJobs help center page on this subject](#).

5. I am tracking my application status in USAJobs however, my application status has not changed for a while. Why might that be?

Eligible applicants will only be referred should a future vacancy occur. There is a chance that applicants may not see a change in their application status until the closing of the application period, which is September 30th, 2026.

6. Who should I contact if I have questions about my application status?

Applicants may contact the McCain Fellowship Program Office at whs.mccainfellows@mail.mil.