THE NROTC PROGRAM
Information for Students and Parents

The Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Program provides an outstanding education in preparation to gain a commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy or Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. Currently there are over 5,000 students enrolled at more than 150 of the country's leading colleges and universities.

The NROTC Navy-Marine Corps Program is the largest single source of Navy and Marine Corps officers. Its purpose is to prepare qualified young men and women for service as commissioned officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. An officer progresses through a sequence of increasingly complex operational assignments in preparation for eventual assignment to command a ship, submarine, aircraft squadron, Navy support facility, or Battalion of Marines.

Today's Navy involves high technology and demands well-trained, mature men and women. NROTC is continually filling the leadership and management roles demanded in our growing Navy with competent, professional officers.

Information provided with this letter will give you an insight into the administration, academic, and professional training encountered by your son or daughter while associated with the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Program.

THE NROTC UNIT

A Navy Captain or a Marine Corps Colonel commands each NROTC Unit, also known by the university as the Department of Naval Science. As Professor of Naval Science at the NROTC unit, he or she is accorded the status of a full professor at the university. Additional officer personnel are assigned to each unit to act as naval science instructors, counselors, and advisors to midshipmen on personal and academic matters, and on matters relating to their careers in the naval service. Care is taken to ensure each unit has a mix of officers from the various communities from within the Navy or Marine Corps to provide a broad spectrum of experience for the benefit of the NROTC student.

Physical facilities vary widely from unit to unit as office space and classrooms are provided by each host institution. These facilities are fully integrated into the mainstream of university life.

TYPES OF NROTC STUDENTS

FOUR-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP: Many NROTC students are enrolled in a four-year scholarship program. These students typically applied for the scholarship at the end of their junior year of high school. The competition for these scholarships is extremely keen, and you should be justifiably proud of your son or daughter if they were chosen to receive these benefits. These students enter into an agreement with the Navy to complete certain naval science courses and three summer training periods. During the years of college training, the Navy pays tuition, $375 a semester for textbooks, fees of an instructional nature, uniforms, and an annually increased
subsistence allowance beginning at $250 per month. Upon graduating from the university, midshipmen are commissioned as Ensigns in the Navy or Second Lieutenants in the Marine Corps.

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE PROGRAM: Students participating in NROTC without the aid of a scholarship are enrolled in the College Program. During the first two years, students have the status of civilians who have entered into a contract with the Navy. Midshipmen enrolled in the College Program must be selected for advanced standing at the end of their sophomore year in order to continue in the NROTC Program. Midshipmen who are selected for advanced standing and are medically qualified receive a subsistence allowance of $350 per month during their junior and senior years. In order to be commissioned through NROTC, these midshipmen must also complete training (1/C Cruise or OCS) during the summer between their junior and senior year. Because of Navy officer manpower reductions, only a limited number of midshipmen are selected nationwide for advanced standing. In order to be most competitive, a midshipman must have a cumulative GPA above 3.0. College Program Midshipmen may also compete for two and three year scholarships. These scholarships are highly competitive and selection is based on GPA, student’s major, needs of the Navy, and military performance. Upon graduating from the university, midshipmen are commissioned as Ensigns in the Navy or Second Lieutenants in the Marine Corps.

The following factors have been significant in recent Navy scholarship selection boards for Navy Option College Program Midshipmen –

1. Major – Engineering or technology based majors have received preference to liberal arts majors. If the major is not technical, an aptitude for technical work must be demonstrated. (See #2)

2. Calculus and Physics – All Navy option scholarship students are required to show technical aptitude by taking 2 semesters of Calculus and 2 semester of Calculus-based Physics. College Program students who want to be most competitive for a scholarship should attempt to complete these requirements as quickly and proficiently as possible. Any grades lower than a “B” may jeopardize future scholarship opportunity.

3. Students pursuing a major that qualifies as a Language skills, Regional Expertise, and Cultural awareness major, otherwise known as LREC, have had a better opportunity of qualifying for a scholarship than students who major in other non-technical fields. Students who major in an LREC major also must complete the calculus and calculus-based physics scholarship requirement.

TWO-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP: Students with no previous NROTC affiliation are selected from applicants having at least two years of academic studies remaining for a baccalaureate degree. They attend the Naval Science Institute at Newport, Rhode Island for six weeks during the summer between the sophomore and junior years. During the junior and senior years these students complete certain naval science courses and one summer training period. Those enrolled in the two-year scholarship program have the same privileges and obligations as those enrolled in
the four-year scholarship program. This program has been highly limited over the past few years due to a reduction in officer production goals.

**NURSE PROGRAM:** Students participating in the NROTC Nurse Program are fully integrated within the battalion. Their Naval Science and academic course requirements are modified slightly, as are the summer cruise requirements. After graduation, nurses are commissioned in the Nurse Corps as Ensigns in the U.S. Navy. The Nurse program is very similar to the Navy option scholarship and college program commissioning path.

**ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTION**

NROTC students are required to complete the following academic and professional requirements:

**THE ACADEMIC MAJOR:** All requirements specified by the university must be satisfied for graduation. Students are not restricted in the selection of an academic major; however, they are encouraged to pursue majors in engineering and mathematically based sciences to meet the technical requirements of the modern Navy. Since Navy Option scholarships were awarded based on the applicant’s major/tier fields that were listed on their applications at the time of selection, not choosing an equivalent major is a scholarship loss risk. Tier 1 majors can request to change to a Tier 2 major without risking a loss of their scholarship, however, a change from a Tier 1 or 2 major to a Tier 3 major is a scholarship loss risk. For a complete list of majors and the associated tiers, please review [https://www.nrotc.navy.mil/scholarship_criteria.aspx](https://www.nrotc.navy.mil/scholarship_criteria.aspx). Students enrolled as a Navy option college program student may be more competitive for a scholarship if they successfully major in a technical major or a major that qualifies as an LREC.

By the end of September, students must develop a degree plan that shows their plan of action to graduate in the required four year time frame. It is common for midshipmen to register for and complete 16-19 credits per semester in order to ensure they are on pace to graduate. Midshipmen must take a minimum of 15 credits per semester to be within satisfactory academic standing in the NROTC unit.

**REQUIRED COLLEGE COURSES:** Navy Option scholarship students are required to complete one year each of calculus, calculus-based physics, and English Composition, one term of American Military History or National Security Policy, and one term of a course relating to a foreign culture or regional study with a third world focus. College Program students interested in competing for a scholarship are encouraged to fulfill these scholarship requirements. AP and IB courses accepted by the student’s enrolled university and appearing on the student’s transcript may fulfill some of these requirements. Marine Option and Nurse Corps students have slightly different academic requirements for meeting their commissioning standard. (Review the required classes table in the general information pages for more information.)

**NAVAL SCIENCE COURSES:** All Navy option midshipmen are required to complete Introduction to Naval Science, Sea Power and Maritime Affairs, Naval Ship Systems I (Engineering) and II (Weapons), Navigation and Naval Operations I and II, and Leadership and Management I and II. Marine Option midshipmen are required to complete Introduction to
Naval Science, Sea Power and Maritime Affairs, Evolution of Warfare, Amphibious Warfare, and Leadership and Management I and II.

**NAVAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING (LEADERSHIP LAB):** Each semester a naval science laboratory is required of all midshipmen. This weekly laboratory places emphasis on professional training that is not of an academic nature. The laboratory is intended for topics such as drill and ceremonies, physical fitness, swim testing, summer cruise preparation, small sailboat training, safety awareness, preparation for commissioning, personal finances, insurance, and applied exercises in naval ship systems, navigation, naval operations, naval administration and military justice. The battalion also invites guest speakers from the local area.

**SUMMER TRAINING:** A summer training period is held annually (for scholarship students) to furnish NROTC students the opportunity to gain experience in the practical application of their studies in naval science. These training periods normally are four weeks in length. There are three such summer training programs:

Third Class Summer Training: Conducted between the freshmen and sophomore academic years for scholarship students. It is career orientation training with specialized emphasis on the Aviation, Submarine, Surface, and Marine Corps communities.

Second Class Summer Training: Conducted between the sophomore and junior academic years for scholarship students. It is normally at sea training on a fleet surface ship focusing on life as an enlisted sailor. Marines attend Mountain Warfare School.

First Class Summer Training: Conducted between the junior and senior academic years for all NROTC students. It is normally at-sea training for Navy option midshipmen focusing on life as a junior officer. Specialized Marine Corps Officer training for Marine option midshipmen is held at Quantico, Virginia.

**SERVICE OBLIGATION**

Upon completion of the NROTC Program, all Navy option scholarship midshipmen incur a five-year active duty obligation (minimum). Marine option and Nurse Corps option scholarship midshipmen incur a four-year active duty obligation. College program midshipmen incur a three-year active duty obligation. Certain specialized training programs, including aviation and submarine service, exceed the 5 year active duty obligation due to school and training.

For four-year scholarship students, all midshipmen incur an obligation for active service or recoupment at the beginning of their sophomore academic year. A four-year scholarship student withdrawing after the start of their sophomore year and prior to completion of the NROTC program incurs an obligation of two years of active enlisted service, or has to repay the government for all tuition benefits received (including freshmen year.) A four year enlisted obligation is incurred upon completion of the NROTC program if the midshipman refuses a commission. All other scholarship students incur the same obligations as soon as the student
utilizes scholarship benefits. College program students incur their obligation upon receiving benefits at the beginning of their junior year.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

The naval profession is rigorous and exacting, and requires that an officer constantly strive to perform to the best of his/her ability to successfully meet the unremitting demands of naval service. It is thus incumbent upon all midshipmen to develop the characteristic of always working to the limits of their potential in whatever endeavors they may undertake, including academics. A sound academic foundation is necessary to ensure the NROTC graduate can successfully complete Navy follow-on training and be professionally competitive in the various warfare communities. In order to ensure that NROTC graduates are properly prepared, all midshipmen are encouraged to excel in personal/academic excellence. The present Navy goal is to achieve an academic grade point average of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale). In addition, the importance of personal excellence is stressed and measured in the areas of military aptitude, physical readiness and swimming.

Should the midshipman fail to maintain these standards, he/she will be placed on probation. Probation is an administrative counseling tool and has no bearing on any obligation incurred or receipt of benefits. Midshipmen will be notified in writing of probation and shall have the cause, terms, and period of probation clearly specified.

In some cases, it may be necessary to place a student on a Leave of Absence (LOA) due to continued unsatisfactory performance. During a LOA, the student does not receive any benefits from the Navy, including tuition. LOA’s are specifically authorized when there is a genuine anticipation that the student may not be capable of completing the program and he/she is about to incur an active duty obligation. In addition, immediate academic LOA may be included among the options available for initial action.

Disenrollment is used as a last resort when the overall record or specific academic aptitude, physical readiness, or swimming failure makes the midshipman's value as an officer suspect.

SERVICE ASSIGNMENT

During their senior year, Navy option midshipmen request a warfare specialty for follow-on training. Competition is keen and priority for selection is determined by academic performance and major, military aptitude, and the recommendation of the Professor of Naval Science.

Assignments are made from the following Unrestricted Line communities: aviation (pilot or naval flight officer), surface warfare, submarine, special-warfare (SEALs) (male only), and special operations. Restricted line/staff corps billets are not normally available (this category includes JAG, Intelligence, Supply, Cryptology, Civil Engineering, and others.) All Navy option midshipmen should plan on entering an unrestricted warfare community.
FIFTH YEAR BENEFITS

Fifth year scholarship benefits are usually not available to midshipmen. To be eligible for fifth year benefits, students must be enrolled in an academic program where credit hour requirements, including NROTC Program required courses (Naval Science, calculus, physics, etc.) exceed four years of normal full load class work (greater than 18 hours per semester). Entitlement for these benefits will be granted on a case-by-case basis. The active duty obligation is extended commensurate with the additional benefits used by the midshipman.

SUMMER SCHOOL BENEFITS

Summer school benefits are not normally available, although midshipmen may attend summer school at their own expense so long as it does not interfere with summer training. In the event that summer school would preclude the necessity for fifth year benefits, or advance the graduation date, limited opportunity for benefits exists.