

NROTC

Parent Handbook



Information about the Naval Reserve
Officers Training Corps
(NROTC)

Boston University-MIT Consortium

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Program Requirements

Students participating in the NROTC program are required to be U.S. Citizens. Proof of Citizenship will be determined during your student's administration day with the verification of a **birth certificate** or **U.S. passport**, and **social security card**. Those students who enter the program with a dual citizenship must relinquish their non-U.S. citizenship prior to commissioning. In addition, NROTC students are required to complete an accredited Bachelor's Degree and receive a commission as an officer in the United States Navy or the United States Marine Corps. Technical and Engineering majors (Navy Tier 1 or 2) are highly encouraged for Navy Option Midshipmen.

The following are the academic requirements for participation in the NROTC Program and commissioning:

Academics

Class	Semesters	Navy	Marine Corps	Nurse
Calculus	2	X		
Calc-based Physics	2	X		
English	2	X	X	X
Regional Studies	1	X		X
Military History/ National Security Policy	1	X	X	

Navy Option students shall complete calculus by the end of the second year of Naval Science (normally the sophomore year) and physics by the end of the third year of Naval Science (normally the junior year).

College Program students are required to complete two semesters of advanced mathematics and two semesters of science. All college program students are encouraged to complete Calculus and Physics to enhance their competitiveness for scholarships.

Naval Science Classes	Navy	Marine Corps	Nurse
Intro to Naval Science	X	X	X
Sea Power and Maritime Affairs	X		X
Leadership & Management	X	X	X
Navigation I	X		
Engineering Systems	X		
Weapons Systems	X		
Evolution of Warfare		X	
Fundamentals of Maneuver Warfare		X	
Navigation II	X		
Leadership & Ethics	X	X	X

Students are required to maintain an academic Grade Point Average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or 3.5 on a 5.0 scale to remain in good standing. For the required academic and Naval Science classes listed above, passing is achieving a “C-” or better.

All Naval Science (NS) classes are semester specific and students need to be cognizant when scheduling classes for their major so they do not fall behind on their NS courses.

Summer Cruise

All scholarship students and rising senior “advanced standing” Midshipmen will participate in a summer cruise following every academic year.

The **fourth class (4/C)**/ freshmen cruise before the student’s freshman year of college is called New Student Indoctrination. The mission of New Student Indoctrination (**NSI**) is to provide standardized basic military instruction to Midshipmen Candidates to facilitate the successful integration of new students into the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps and college life. College Program Midshipman Candidates who apply for, and are chosen for a National Scholarship or Advanced Standing are required to complete New Student Orientation during the summer.

The **third class (3/C)**/sophomore cruise is CORTRAMID (Career Orientation and Training for Midshipmen) and provides a brief exposure to the various Marine Corps and Naval communities.

Navy Options: The second class (2/C)/junior and first class (1/C)/senior cruises allow students to explore the enlisted and officer responsibilities at sea and afford an opportunity for in-depth exploration of the aviation, submarine or surface communities.

Marine Options: After successfully completing CORTRAMID, Marine Options attend Officer Candidate School (OCS) as a rising

first class Midshipman.

Nurse Options: train with shore-based medical commands.

Students are given the opportunity to provide input with regard to where they would like to travel and when they would like to go. This allows students to plan the remainder of their summers, including work and family vacations. It is required that the student obtain a valid US Passport to allow maximum opportunity for overseas cruise assignment.

Physical Training

All students are required to maintain minimum levels of physical fitness as prescribed by the Navy and Marine Corps.

Navy Option midshipmen are required to achieve a minimum score of “Good” in all categories (forearm plank, push-ups, run/walk) on their bi-annual Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA). Students who achieve less than the minimum score will be placed in a Fitness Enhancement Program (FEP) that will require additional logged weekly workouts. The minimum passing score for Marine Option Midshipmen on the Physical Fitness Test (PFT) is a 235 on a 300 scale.

Option Specific Requirements

Navy Option Midshipmen are also required to qualify:

- Third-Class Swimmer prior to the start of sophomore year

Marine Option Midshipmen are also required to:

- Participate in Semper Fidelis Society (SFS) which include workouts, field exercises, and local events in the community.
- Successfully complete Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Quantico, VA

Monetary Benefits

Scholarship Students

NROTC covers the following for scholarship students:

- Full tuition and mandatory fees
- Semester stipend for books (\$375)
- Monthly stipend for expenses during academic year (\$250 for freshman, \$300 for sophomores, \$350 for juniors, \$400 for seniors)
- All uniforms

Tuition is paid between the middle and end of the semester. You can expect to receive tuition bills from the university your child is attending; however, you do not need to pay the tuition and mandatory fees portion of the bill. The NROTC Unit will inform the university that your child is part of the program and that the tuition will be paid.

In the event of a change in a student's status, a student should inform parents/guardians if his or her tuition will not be paid (see "Change of Status").

College Program

College Program Midshipmen are non-scholarship students at their selected universities. College program students may apply for a variety of scholarships after their first semester of participation in the program. Two- and three-year scholarships exist both for the Navy and Marine Corps. Scholarships are awarded based on academic and aptitude performance. Your child may increase his or her opportunity to obtain a scholarship by achieving good grades, participating in battalion activities, scoring well on the physical fitness assessment and successfully completing calculus and physics early in his or her college career.

The College Program pays for uniforms and instructional fees for Naval Science courses.

Students may be selected for "Advanced Standing" at the beginning of their junior year. Advanced Standing College Program students, if found medically qualified, receive a monthly stipend for a maximum of 20 months. They are required to complete the academic requirements (see "Program Requirements"), one summer cruise, and commission.

Room and Board

The NROTC Program does NOT cover room and board. However, students can apply for any grants or additional scholarships to help cover these expenses.

Boston University provides room and board grants for selected, high-achieving, NROTC scholarship students.

Boston College offers an unlimited meal plan for ROTC scholarship students, but does not provide housing/room financial assistance.

Northeastern, MIT, Harvard, and Tufts do not provide room and board specifically for NROTC students. Students can apply for additional financial aid from the universities to help meet these expenses.

Summer Semesters and Tutoring

Some additional funding may be available for summer semesters or tutoring in special circumstances.

Summer funding cannot be used to cover classes that students could have taken during the academic semester, unless extenuating circumstances apply (i.e. unresolvable class conflicts).

The NROTC program will provide funding for tutors for calculus and physics. Also, all BU-MIT NROTC Consortium schools have tutoring services available to students.

NROTC Policies

The following policies apply to students of the NROTC Program, as well as staff interaction with both the NROTC students and parents. Additional policies regarding changes in student status will be discussed in the “Change of Status” section of this handbook.

A Student’s Right to Privacy & the Family Education Right to Privacy Act (FERPA)

Your student is entitled to privacy with respect to his or her grades, records, and private life. The NROTC program adheres to both federal and university privacy rules.

Students are required to sign both Medical and Privacy Act Statements.

FERPA was enacted to protect your student’s right to privacy. Therefore, under most circumstances, before the NROTC Program can discuss your student’s status with you, your student must give the speaker permission. As a result, our advisors might be required to recommend that you speak with your student if you call to request any information.

Drug Policy and Urinalysis

The Department of the Navy has a “zero tolerance” policy with regard to drug use. The Commanding Officers of all NROTC units are authorized to conduct urinalysis for drug screening. Upon enrollment in the program, all students will sign a statement concerning pre-service illicit drug use. All NROTC students (scholarship and college program) will participate in a random drug testing program. In the event that a student tests positive for drugs, a performance review board (PRB) will be immediately convened and the student will be recommended for disenrollment.

Interaction with Advisors

One distinct advantage of the NROTC Program is that your student will have a dedicated student advisor at the NROTC unit. The advisors check degree plans, confirm that program requirements are being met, verify class schedules, and advise your student on academic and other matters as necessary.

In exchange, your student is required to complete the following:

- A minimum of two meetings with his or her advisor per semester
- Provide their advisor with an up-to-date class schedule
- Provide their advisor with a degree plan (once a major is declared) that is signed by the university academic advisor
- Keep advisor aware of problems (academic or otherwise) that are affecting the student’s work, studying or summer cruise availability
- Inform their advisor prior to dropping any class

The advisors’ doors are always open to students; students can stop by or schedule appointments in person, by phone or by email.

Changes in Status – Academic/Aptitude/Medical

Unfortunately, during the course of your student’s college career, unforeseen circumstances may arise that affect his or her status as a Midshipman. This section will describe three categories of potential problems. The examples given below are not all-inclusive. Each student’s case is determined on an individual basis; however, this information summarizes the guidelines that our staff will use in assessing your student’s status.

Academic – Your student is required to maintain a term and cumulative grade point average (GPA) greater than or equal to 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (3.5 on a 5.0 scale). MIT Freshmen, on the Pass/No Record system, are required to pass all classes and their first semester GPA will still go into their overall cumulative GPA. All students must pass all NROTC requirements and required classes for their majors.

Aptitude – This category applies to physical fitness, swim qualification, personnel qualification standards (PQS), military bearing, and general behavior. Your student will receive an evaluation every semester that assesses his or her aptitude in terms of the items listed above. To remain in good standing, Midshipmen must satisfactorily pass the physical fitness assessment (PFA), complete the required qualifications and demonstrate the character and bearing required of a future Navy or Marine Corps officer.

Medical – This category covers illnesses or injuries that potentially affect your Midshipman's academics, ability to meet required fitness or swim standards, or potential to be commissioned. Some examples of conditions requiring medical action include torn ligaments, migraine headaches, mononucleosis, a broken bone, or laser eye surgery. See the "Leave of Absence" paragraph of this section for more information.

Good Standing

All Midshipmen begin the program in "good standing". Students remain in good standing as long as they meet the program requirements, participate in required activities, and remain on track to graduate and commission in four years.

Warning – Academic/Aptitude

Students will be notified, in writing, of their "warning" status for an academic or aptitude GPA of less than 2.5. Warning status may require mandatory study or workout hours and a weekly meeting with your Midshipman's NROTC advisor, as well as additional actions as required by the case.

Probation – Academic/Aptitude

Students will be placed on probation for an academic or aptitude deficiency, if placed on probation by their university, or failing a required class. Students will be notified, in writing, of the terms of their probation and the actions required to be removed from probation. Failure to complete these actions will result in a Performance Review Board and a possible recommendation for Leave of Absence or Disenrollment.

Performance Review Board (PRB) – Academic/Aptitude

This is a three-member board, usually chaired by the Executive Officer (XO), to review the performance of a Midshipman. The PRB may recommend a change in student status, including Leave of Absence or Disenrollment. A PRB may be convened for repeated poor academic or aptitude performance, multiple or repeated class failures, an official PFA failure, failure to meet program requirements prior to the prescribed deadlines, or a positive drug test, as well other reasons as the Commanding Officer requires.

Leave of Absence (LOA) – Academic/Aptitude/Medical

A “Leave of Absence” may be recommended for any of the reasons listed above, as well as for medical problems while awaiting further evaluation. During LOA, all benefits are suspended, including tuition and stipends; your student will be required to cover all of their own expenses. The Midshipman will be notified, in writing, of the required actions to complete in order to be returned to good standing. Under normal circumstances one condition of the LOA will be continued participation in the NROTC Program.

Your student may request a “Personal LOA” for personal reasons. Your student then voluntarily elects to cover their own expenses for the term(s) that he or she is not participating in the NROTC program.

A student may be placed in “Medical LOA” following pregnancy, illness, injury, or elective surgery, pending further medical evaluation. Your student should keep copies of all records and doctor assessments. Provided that your student heals quickly and the Naval Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) concurs that your student is physically qualified for commissioning, all benefits (including tuition and stipends) are reimbursable. If, for some reason, your student is not commissionable following their injury or illness, a determination will be made by the Naval Service Training Command (NSTC) regarding disenrollment and potential recoupment of scholarship funds.

Disenrollment and Recoupment

Disenrollment is either voluntary or involuntary removal from the NROTC Program. Disenrollment will be recommended for the following (please note that this list is not all-inclusive): Failure to meet required actions during academic or aptitude LOA, second PFA failure in a three-year period or failure to meet “Good” running standard during senior year, and drug use (automatic PRB and disenrollment for first positive test).

Scholarship students who separate from the NROTC Program during their freshman year are not subject to recoupment and are not required to reimburse the navy. If a student drops prior to second semester freshman year, the second semester scholarship will not be awarded.

Scholarship students who are disenrolled after September 1st of their sophomore (second) year will be subject to monetary recoupment or active enlisted service (AES). The Office of the Secretary of the Navy will determine if monetary recoupment or AES is required of the student.

A student who is disenrolled for medical reasons may or may not be required to reimburse the Naval ROTC program for expenses incurred.

College Program midshipmen may disenroll from the program at any time prior to being placed in advanced standing. Once a student is placed in advanced standing, they agree to serve in the United States Navy or Marine Corps and are obligated to fulfill their commissioning requirements and service contract thereafter.

Unit Activities

Midshipmen in the NROTC Program participate in several different activities. This section will discuss a few of these activities.

Weekly Activities

On a weekly basis, your student will attend at least one NROTC class, Leadership Laboratory and PT (physical training). Leadership Laboratory is the weekly meeting of the NROTC Battalion. Midshipmen meet with their student chain of command to discuss current events and career opportunities or participate in unit functions, including the PFA, drill competitions and field meets.

Students are responsible for maintaining his or her own physical fitness; however, PT activities will be provided. Marine Options and other motivated Midshipmen participate in Semper Fidelis Society (SFS), providing additional workouts each week. Navy Option midshipmen must request to participate via the Marine Officer Instructor (MOI).

Social Activities

Both the Boston University and MIT units host several social functions each semester, including squad bonding events and study breaks. These activities allow students to interact outside of the Battalion and help build lasting ties between the Midshipmen.

Additionally, Midshipmen attend a Consortium Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball during the fall semester and a Tri-service ball at either BU or MIT during the spring semester. These balls give students the opportunity to interact with officers and civilians at a military function and experience Navy and Marine Corps tradition and heritage. Seniors participate in a "Dining in," which is a formal dinner exclusive to their classmates and the staff in the spring prior to commissioning.

Semper Fidelis Society (SFS)

The Semper Fidelis Society is responsible for the training and education of future Marine Corps officers. Additional goals include promotion of troop welfare and various social activities. These

events provide an opportunity for members of the Semper Fidelis Society to get to know one another and the Marine Corps on an informal basis. Professionally, all members participate in a rigorous physical training program. This is conducted 2 times a week as a group, led by a different member each day in order to build confidence and knowledge, and 2 times a week as an individual.

Color Guard and Military Excellence Competitions

The Battalion has a color guard and two drill teams. The color guard performs at military and civilian functions, including parades and before university and local sporting events.

The color guard, drill team, and other Midshipmen participate in “Military Excellence Competitions” with other schools from the East Coast. Students participate in drill competitions, track and field events, swim races, SEAL PSTs, and other sporting events with Midshipmen from other schools. These events are a great opportunity for Midshipmen to meet other students from different programs and have fun.

Community Service

Midshipmen are always encouraged to improve civil-military relations by performing community service as both ongoing and single-day events throughout the academic year. In the past, Midshipmen have organized and volunteered at the Veterans’ Health Administration Hospitals, assisted at the Special Olympics, hosted a JROTC Drill Competition, performed a 24-hour POW/MIA vigil, and supported blood drives with the Red Cross.

Transition to the Fleet

Service Assignment

- First Step: Junior Navy Options complete a Service Selection Survey (Spr., 2/C)
- Second Step: Commissioning physicals, applications, and required interviews are completed (Fall & Spr)
- Third Step: All Navy Midshipmen (nation-wide) submit packages in September and are ranked based on academic and aptitude grade averages. Students are then assigned to Line Communities based on preference and rank. Results are published in October. (Fall, 1/C)
- Fourth Step: Surface Warfare/Surface Nuclear selectees choose first ship and homeport (based on national ranking) (Spr, 1/C)
- Final Step: Midshipmen graduate and head to the fleet!
- Marine options preference and receive their Marine Operational Specialty (MOS) (except aviation) after completion of The Basic School (TBS)
 - Nurse options complete dream sheets for specialty training and initial duty station

Commitment

All students who participate in the NROTC program and are commissioned into the Navy or Marine Corps agree to an eight-year minimum commitment. Depending on the selected community, the active duty and inactive reserve duty commitments vary, but add up to a minimum eight years.

Surface Warfare Officer (SWO): 5 years active duty

Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD): 5 years active duty

Special Warfare (SEAL): 5 years active duty

Submarine Officer: 5 years active duty

SWO-Nuclear / Naval Reactors (NR): 5 years active duty

Aviation (Navy or Marine):

Naval Aviator: 8 years active post flight school winging

Naval Flight Officer (NFO): 6 years active post winging

Nurse Corps: 4 years active duty

Marine Corps: MOS dependent (4 years minimum post TBS)

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations**Advanced Standing**

College Program Midshipman in his/her junior or Senior year who is receiving a stipend and has agreed to serve on active duty in the Navy or Marine Corps

College Program

Midshipman who is voluntarily participating in the NROTC program without scholarship benefits

CORTRAMID

Career Orientation and Training for Midshipmen: Summer Training for rising Sophomores at Norfolk or San Diego Naval facilities

First Class

Fourth year midshipman (usually a senior)

Fourth Class

First year midshipman (usually a freshman)

LOA

Leave of Absence

Midshipman

Student participating in the NROTC program

Navy Option

Midshipman who will be commissioned as a Naval Officer following graduation

Nurse Option

Midshipman pursuing a degree in nursing, who agrees to be commissioned as an officer in the Nurse Corps

Marine Option

Midshipman selected for commissioning as an officer in the Marine Corps following graduation

Pass In Review

Annual formal parade of all ROTC participants for presentation to university officials

PFA

Physical Fitness Assessment

PRB

Performance Review Board

Scholarship Student

Midshipman whose tuition is being paid for by the NROTC program

Second Class

Third year Midshipman (usually a junior)

Semper Fidelis Society

Association of all Marine Options and any other willing Midshipman

Third Class

Second year Midshipman (usually a sophomore)

Useful Numbers at the BU-MIT Consortium

	Boston University	MIT
SDO	617-659-0206	617-659-0206
Quarterdeck	617-353-4232	617-252-2991
CO's Office	617-353-0470	617-252-2992
XO's Office	617-358-1167	617-252-2993
MOI's Office	617-353-0478	617-252-1760
AMOI's Office	617-353-0477	617-252-1760
1/C Advisor	317-353-0475	617-252-1762
2/C Advisor	617-353-0473	617-252-1761
3/C Advisor	617-353-3470	617-252-1761
4/C Advisor	617-358-0474	617-252-1763

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