Naval ROTC

The Navy Reserve Officers Training Program (NROTC) (http://www.nrotc.navy.mil) is a multi-year program that runs concurrently with a student’s normal college or university educational course of study. The mission of the nationwide NROTC program is to develop midshipmen mentally, morally, and physically. The program aims to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty and loyalty, and with the core values of honor, courage, and commitment. The program commissions college graduates as naval officers who possess a basic professional background, are motivated toward careers in the naval service, and have a potential for future development in mind and character so as to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship, and government.

In addition to a normal academic workload leading to a baccalaureate degree, NROTC students attend classes in Naval Science, participate in the NROTC unit for drill, physical training, and other activities. The purpose of the NROTC program is to provide instruction and training in naval science subjects which, when coupled with a bachelor’s degree, qualify students for commissions in the US Navy and US Marine Corps.

The NROTC unit at MIT (http://nrotc.mit.edu) offers two officer development programs for which students attending Tufts and Harvard are also eligible. The Scholarship Program provides full tuition, fees, uniforms, a semester book stipend, and a monthly stipend for two, three, or four years. The length of scholarship benefits is predicated upon the student’s degree plan. Students will receive scholarship benefits only for the time required to receive their Baccalaureate Degree or four years, whichever comes first. If additional benefits are necessary, students may request and, in some cases, be granted fifth-year benefits.

Students in the College Program for two or four years receive naval science books and uniforms. College Program midshipmen accepted for advanced standing receive a monthly stipend for up to 20 months during the last two academic years. Each year, College Program students compete for full-tuition scholarships for their remaining years in school.

Program of Instruction

The NROTC program of instruction includes one Naval Science course each semester which encompasses the science of nautical matters and principles of leadership, ethics, and management. Leadership principles and high ideals of a military officer are taught and practiced during weekly drill instruction periods. Concurrently, midshipmen complete all requirements for a bachelor’s degree under their respective university’s rules and regulations. Navy Option Scholarship Program midshipmen must complete one year of calculus, one year of calculus-based physics, and one year of English grammar and composition. Both Navy and Marine Option midshipmen complete one semester of American history or national security policy and one semester of cultural or regional studies. NROTC academic instruction is complemented by tours conducted to local naval facilities, cruises aboard active duty naval vessels, and practical navigation and piloting practice conducted aboard training craft.

Between academic years, Scholarship Program midshipmen attend approximately one month of summer training aboard active duty naval vessels and at shore bases throughout the world to become familiar with Navy and Marine Corps procedures. College Program midshipmen must complete one summer cruise after their junior year.

Graduating Midshipmen

Upon graduation, midshipmen who complete all academic requirements in the NROTC program are offered commissions as Ensigns in the Navy or Second Lieutenants in the Marine Corps. Unrestricted Navy line officers serve in the aviation, submarine, surface warfare, or special operations communities, among others. Additionally, qualified officers may be invited to become Naval Reactors Engineers in Washington, DC. Navy Option Scholarship Program midshipmen are required to serve a minimum of five years of active military service and College Program midshipmen serve a minimum of three years. There may be additional requirements for specific assignments. Marine Corps Option midshipmen serve at least four years on active duty.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the four-year NROTC program at MIT, Harvard University, or Tufts University, a prospective midshipman must be accepted at one of these institutions. Additionally he or she must be a United States citizen, not less than 17 years old by September 1 of the year starting college, and no more than 23 on December 31 of that year. Applicants must also be found physically qualified by the Department of Defense Medical Review Board.

Application Procedure

Further information is available at MIT’s NROTC website (http://nrotc.mit.edu) and at the Naval Reserve Officers Training Program website (http://www.nrotc.navy.mil). Visitors are also invited to learn more at the NROTC unit at MIT, Room W59-110, or at any US Navy Recruiting Station.