



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO  
1524  
Ser N133/104  
11 Jan 26

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: DEEP-SEA SCHOLARS PROGRAM AY 2026/2027

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 1520.23 (Series), Graduate Education  
(b) MILPERSMAN 1520-050, Nuclear Propulsion Training (Surface and Submarine)

Encl: (1) Available Programs for Deep Sea Scholars  
(2) Deep-Sea Scholars Program Application

1. Purpose:

a. The Immediate Graduate Education Program (IGEP) for Naval Officers is a crucial and strategic investment in the development of knowledgeable warfighting leaders. Historically, graduate programs have only been offered to United States Naval Academy (USNA) and Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) midshipmen in exchange for additional service as detailed in reference (a). For nuclear submarine officers and nuclear surface warfare officers (SWO(N)), that additional service requirement is also defined in reference (b).

b. Graduate education programs are also highly appealing to academically driven officers who commission via the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate (NUPOC) program and NROTC and are service selected for Submarines. Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) already allocates quotas for nuclear officer-specific programs under the Immediate Graduate Education Program (IGEP) which is defined in Enclosure (2) of reference (a). NPS has expanded their 1-year program quotas to accommodate up to 40 additional submarine officers in the newly proposed Deep-Sea Scholars Program for Academic Year (AY) 2026 and 2027. These quotas will be distributed evenly between NROTC and NUPOC applicants. The available 1-year programs are shown in Enclosure (1).

2. Eligibility and Selection:

a. NUPOC program participants and NROTC officer candidates who wish to apply shall meet the following criteria:

1) Accepted by, or scheduled to interview with, the Director of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program (NNPP) for submarine service

2) GPA of 3.0 or higher for entire college career

3) Within 24 months of graduation date at time of application

4) Have not already completed or enrolled in post-graduate education of any sort

5) Maintain strong academic record for the remainder of undergraduate career following application approval, subject to N133 review

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6) No significant disciplinary issues over the course of their undergraduate career, subject to N133 review

7) Eligible for the program per Enclosure (1). For some programs, such as Undersea Warfare, a track will also need to be specified in the application. Courses are listed below in Enclosure (1).

b. The following process will be used to allocate Deep-Sea Scholars Program quotas to applicants:

1) Applicants will provide a package to N133 via their accessions point of contact in accordance with Enclosure (2) no later than 60 days preceding the commissioning (NROTC) or graduation (NUPOC) date of each applicant. NUPOC applicants who have already graduated will provide a package no later than 2 weeks following their nuclear interview. This requirement may be waived in extenuating circumstances if there is adequate time to route the application to NPS for approval.

2) N133 will review application packages on a quarterly basis and select the 40 most qualified applicants for approval (20 from each commissioning source). Once each quarterly approved list is created, it will be forwarded to NPS for secondary verification of program requirements.

3) N133 will notify applicants of their selection. Selected officers will then apply to NPS via the NPS website for administrative processing purposes. No transcript is required if selected based on graduate education programs.

4) Applicants will send transcripts to N133 via their accessions point of contact upon graduation from their undergraduate program for re-verification of program requirements.

3. Service Obligation:

a. Service obligation requirements for Deep-Sea Scholars are in accordance with IGEP as delineated in section 8.a.1.a and Enclosure (7) of reference (a) and section 5.d of reference (b).

4. For additional information, please reach out to your program manager or LCDR Eowyn Pedicini at [eowyn.e.pedicini.mil@us.navy.mil](mailto:eowyn.e.pedicini.mil@us.navy.mil).

5. This policy memorandum will be canceled upon being incorporated into a future OPNAV instruction.



E. E. PEDICINI  
Nuclear Officer  
Program Manager

<b>Curriculum</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Tracks</b>	<b>Degree</b>	<b>Start QTR</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
308	Systems Engineering Analysis	N/A	MS, Systems Engineering Analysis	S	STEM or related undergrad
326	Cyber Systems & Operations	N/A	MS, Cyber Systems and Operations	W/S	Info Systems undergrad
360	Operations Analysis	N/A	MS, Operations Research	S	Completed courses in probability, linear algebra, multivariable calc, programming; STEM undergrad with Python preferred; waivers possible for those with aptitude in OA topics
368	Computer Science	N/A	MS, Computer Science	W/S	Undergrad closely related to CS
380	Applied Math	N/A	MS, Applied Math	S	Undergrad applicable to Applied Math
440	Oceanography	N/A	MS, Physical Oceanography	S	3.0 or better in calc/calc based physics
525	Undersea Warfare	Engineering Acoustics	MS, Engineering Acoustics	S	3.0 or better in calc/calc based physics
		Applied Physics	MS, Applied Physics	W/S	STEM undergrad
		Electrical Engineering	MS, Electrical Engineering	W/S	ABET EE undergrad
		Operations Research	MS, Operations Research	W/S	See 360 requirements
		Oceanography	MS, Physical Oceanography	W/S	See 380 requirements
		Applied Mathematics	MS, Applied Math	W/S	STEM undergrad
		Mechanical Engineering	MS, Mechanical Engineering	W/S	ABET ME undergrad (or closely related)
533	Applied Physics of Combat Systems	Sensors	MS, Applied Physics	W/S	STEM undergrad
		Weapons	MS, Applied Physics	W/S	STEM undergrad
		Physics	MS, Applied Physics	W/S	STEM undergrad
		Acoustics	MS, Applied Physics	W/S	STEM undergrad
570	Naval Mechanical Engineering	N/A	MS, Mechanical Engineering	F/W/Sp/S	ABET ME undergrad (or closely related)
580	Systems Engineering	N/A	MS, Systems Engineering	F/W/Sp/S	STEM or related undergrad
590	Electronic Systems Engineering	N/A	MS, Electrical Engineering	S	ABET EE undergrad
591	Space Systems Engineering	N/A	MS, Astronautical Engineering	S	Aero/Astro undergrad (or closely related STEM)

609	Aerospace Engineering	N/A	MS, Aerospace Engineering	F/W/Sp/S	Undergrad closely related to AE
681	Regional Security Studies - Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa	N/A	MA, Security Studies	F/W/Sp/S	N/A
682	Regional Security Studies – East Asia and the Indo-Pacific	N/A	MA, Security Studies	F/W/Sp/S	N/A
683	Regional Security Studies - Western Hemisphere	N/A	MA, Security Studies	F/W/Sp/S	N/A
684	Regional Security Studies - Europe and Eurasia	N/A	MA, Security Studies	F/W/Sp/S	N/A
816	Defense Program Management	N/A	MS, Defense Program Management	W/S	N/A
827	Defense Logistics Management	N/A	MS, Defense Logistics Management	W/S	N/A
837	Defense Financial Management	N/A	MS, Defense Financial Management	W/S	N/A

From: [MIDN/O.C.] [LAST NAME, FIRST NAME], USN  
To: Nuclear Officer Program Manager (N133C)

Subj: APPLICATION FOR DEEP-SEA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Ref: (a) 1524 Ser N133/242 dtd 9 May 25  
(b) MILPERSMAN 1520-050  
(c) OPNAVINST 1520.23C

Encl: (1) Motivational statement  
(2) Academic transcript  
(3) Projected coursework through graduation

1. I hereby apply for the Deep-Sea Scholars program in line with reference (a). Enclosures (1) through (3) are submitted as evidence of my satisfying the requirements of reference (a). The following information is provided:

- a. Date of application:
- b. Commissioning source:
- c. School and major:
- d. Graduation date:
- e. Program preferences in ranked order:
  - 1) Preference 1
  - 2) Preference 2
  - 3) Preference 3
  - 4) Preference 4
  - 5) Preference 5
- f. Applicant email:
- g. Applicant phone number:

2. I understand the academic requirements of this program and agree to uphold a record of excellence for the remainder of my undergraduate education.

3. I understand the service requirements contained in reference (a), (b), and (c) and I agree to remain on active duty for the period of instruction. I understand that my submarine service obligation and my graduate education obligation will not be served concurrently.

Enclosure (2)

4. I expect to be available to commence a post-graduate program in the [FALL/WINTER/SPRING/SUMMER] quarter of [YEAR].

5. I have read reference (a) and upon acceptance for Deep Sea Scholars, I agree to remain on active duty as required by reference (a), (b), and (c) for 12 months as a Deep Sea Scholar followed by a 5-year service obligation, subsequently followed by a 36-month, non-concurrent obligation incurred from a 12-month graduate education program.

6. Additional remarks:

[YOUR NAME AND SIGNATURE  
(INK OR DIGITAL)]