

NSW Education Screening Panel Business Rules

Produced by the SEAL Officer Community Manager (BUPERS-311D)

Encl. (1): NSW ESP Commodore Ranking Template

Encl. (2): NSW ESP Letter of Intent Template

Background

The NSW Education Screening Panel (ESP) convenes each summer to select SEAL officers for civilian in-residence graduate education (IRGE) and make endorsements for Navy-wide graduate education programs. The SEAL OCM coordinates the ESP, chaired by Commander, Center for SEAL and SWCC (CENSEALSWCC). This document aims to provide application guidance, applicant alignment, and program details for interested SEAL officers.

Process

1. Eligible officers (O2 to O5) submit completed packages via their CO to their ISIC or first O6 in their chain of command. Consolidated applications should come to the OCM directly from the ISIC. Applications will not be accepted directly from officers serving within the NSW enterprise.
2. Each Commodore ranks all candidates in their claimancy by program utilizing the template in Encl. (1). If applicants are serving outside of the NSW enterprise, individuals will route their packages directly to the OCM with an O6 endorsement utilizing the same template.
3. Targeted applicant cohorts, listed in the Program Details section, do not preclude an officer from applying for a particular program. These cohorts, however, have been carefully developed to maximize the retention benefits of each program while minimizing individual career risk.
4. Applications will include a Letter of Intent, Curriculum Vitae, GRE/GMAT/EA Scores, CO Endorsement, and Unofficial Transcripts. Photographs will not be accepted – any document containing a personal photograph will be rejected by the OCM.

Program Details

Fleet Scholar Education Program (FSEP)

Targeted applicants: Banked through serving XO

Description: FSEP is a Navy talent management initiative that provides education opportunities to community-selected unrestricted line (URL) and Information Warfare Community (IWC) officers. FSEP selectees will attend an accredited graduate school of their choice in-residence (CONUS, Alaska and Hawaii) for up to 24 months. Distance learning, medical and legal education are not authorized under this program.

NSW has three quotas per academic year.

Point of contact: Assistant SEAL OCM (BUPERS-311D1)
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Princeton University

Targeted applicants: Serving XO

Description: One quota is allocated for a SEAL officer to attend Princeton University. The graduate will receive a 2000P subspecialty code along with their master's degree.

Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab (JHU-APL)

Targeted applicants: Officers serving in acquisitions-coded, acquisitions-related, resourcing, or requirements billets

Description: One quota is allocated per academic year for a SEAL officer to earn a two-year Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) related master's degree at the JHU Whiting School of Engineering. Students will simultaneously work part-time conducting research on a related defense technology project at JHU-APL.

This program is an incentive tool for NSW Acquisitions. Officers will be expected to conduct an acquisitions, resourcing, or requirements utilization tour upon graduation.

Univ. of Calif., San Diego Scripps Institute of Oceanography (UCSD SIO)

Targeted applicants: Officers serving in acquisitions-coded, acquisitions-related, resourcing, or requirements billets

Description: One quota is allocated per academic year for a SEAL officer to earn a two-year master's degree in Applied Ocean Science at UCSD. The graduate will receive a 6301P subspecialty code along with their master's degree. Students will simultaneously work part-time conducting research on a related defense technology project at SIO.

This program is an incentive tool for NSW Acquisitions. Officers will be expected to conduct an acquisitions, resourcing, or requirements utilization tour upon graduation.

Graduate Education Voucher (GEV)

Targeted applicants: All officers eligible for shore duty

Description: Selected URL officers receive a voucher for a maximum of two years for graduate school tuition, books, and some fees. The voucher can be used at any university of the officer's choice with approval of the curriculum from NPS. The curriculum must also meet the requirements of the GEV areas of study and subspecialties prescribed each fiscal year. NSW is allocated two quotas per academic year. Unallocated quotas following the ESP will be managed by the OCM.

Low-Residency Graduate Education Program (LGEP)

Targeted applicants: All officers eligible for shore duty

Description: LGEP is a shore tour graduate degree opportunity in strategy, management or international relations through a low-residency "distance learning" delivery model at the following colleges: Old Dominion University, William and Mary, American University, Johns Hopkins University, University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, San Diego, University of Washington, and the Naval Postgraduate School. LGEP is a Navy-wide program and the number one candidate will receive a CNSWC Flag

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Endorsement Letter. Other candidates deemed eligible will receive a NSW Detailer endorsement.

Navy-Wide Programs

Navy-wide graduate education programs are open to all naval officers within the eligible paygrades identified for each program. Program details are released annually by OPNAV N7 via NAVADMIN – contact the OCM for details on how to sign up for these messages. The ESP serves as NSW’s mechanism for endorsing eligible officers at the Navy Multi-Board and other education screening boards. The number one candidate for each program will receive a CNSWC Flag Endorsement Letter. All officers deemed eligible for each program will receive a NSW Detailer endorsement. The ESP is the only mechanism to receive both a Flag Endorsement Letter and a Detailer endorsement – “off-cycle” requests will not be considered unless a waiver is approved by OPNAV N137. While officers may apply directly to Navy-wide graduate education programs without consideration by the ESP, the required Detailer endorsement may only be obtained through the ESP. Endorsed applicants must apply directly to these programs – the OCM will not forward applications. Below is a list of Navy-wide graduate education programs. More information on each is posted on the SEAL OCM website.

- 1) Olmsted
- 2) Pol-Mil
- 3) USNA LEAD or GET
- 4) LGEP
- 5) Georgia Tech Research Institute
- 6) Temasek Defence Systems Institute
- 7) Massachusetts Institute of Technology-Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute
- 8) Purdue Military Research Initiative
- 9) SECDEF Strategic Thinkers Program
- 10) Arthur S. Moreau PhD Program

Naval Postgraduate School, in-residence service schools, and fellowship assignments fall outside of the scope of the ESP, and placement into these programs is managed directly by the Detailers.

Best Practices

1. Cohorts described in “targeted applicants” represent the ideal candidate for that particular program based on officer community and individual career management. That being said, all interested officers are encouraged to apply to any program and will be considered by the ESP.
2. Applying to multiple education programs gives the ESP options for placement.
3. Non-selects for NSW programs may be offered GEV or LGEP after the ESP. Service school fill requirements may preclude some applicants from receiving civilian graduate education opportunities.
4. GMAT/GRE scores are valued. If deployed or unable to complete exam in time for ESP, include the reason why as a part of the applicant’s letter of intent.

GMAT/GRE scores are valid for five years so, if interested in pursuing a civilian program, take the exams early.

5. The only supported graduate education programs are those listed in the annual Strategic Education and Academic Plan. The Officer Scholarship Program and any other bespoke graduate education programs do not have billets from the Student Individual Account aligned against them and will not be supported by OPNAV N7.

