

Program Authorization: Seaman to Admiral-21 (STA-21) Information Professional (IP) Option commissioning program. STA-21 IP Option will facilitate the completion of a baccalaureate degree and enhance upward mobility by providing an opportunity for enlisted personnel to obtain a commission, designator 1820. Information Professional Officer (BUPERS-317) is the community manager. Naval Service Training Command (NSTC) OD2 is the program manager:

1. Program Authority: Title 10 U.S. Code sections 531, 532, 2013, 8323, and 12209.
2. Cancellation: Program Authorization 150R of February 2015.
3. Quota: As prescribed by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Personnel, Manpower, and Training, N1.
4. Qualifications
  - a. Citizenship: Applicants must be citizens of the United States. Waivers will not be granted.
  - b. Gender: No Restrictions
  - c. Age: Candidates must be at least 18 years old and not have passed their 42nd birthday at commissioning. No waivers will be considered.
  - d. Education
    - (1) Applicants are required to pursue fields of study directly related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to include information technology, information management, computer science, computer network administration, information assurance, information security, electronics engineering technology and computer/software programming.
      - (a) STA-21 IP option participants must take a minimum of two semesters of Calculus and two semesters of calculus based physics, receiving a passing grade of “C” or better. Calculus and physics taken at other than the host institution must be transferable to the host institution to satisfy the STA-21 requirement.
      - (b) Participants must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
    - (2) Applicants must retain educational eligibility in line with OPNAVINST 1420.1 series.
    - (3) STA-21 IP option officer candidates who fail to meet program requirements, but who desire consideration for Unrestricted Line Officer opportunities, may contact the IP Officer community manager for information regarding conversion to the STA-21 core program subject to the requirements of the IP Program.

e. Physical: Must meet physical standards for appointment as prescribed in the Manual of the Medical Department, Chapter 15. Applicants must meet the physical fitness weight and/or percentage of body fat standards at the time of application and at time of commissioning. No waivers will be considered.

f. Duty Preference: No restrictions.

g. Marital status: No restrictions.

h. Program Specific Requirements

(1) Enlisted Time in Service: 72 months. No waivers will be considered.

(2) Clearance: Applicants must meet the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), Intelligence Community Directive (ICD) 704 eligibility standards for access to sensitive compartmented information. Candidates must complete and submit a SF-86 (Questionnaire for National Security Positions) demonstrating eligibility for a top secret/sensitive compartmented information clearance if selected. Applicant must complete an initial suitability screening with the Fleet Cyber Command security directorate prior to final selection. Point of contact can be reached at: 850-452-6868. No waivers will be considered.

5. Waivers: None.

6. Accession Source

a. Enlisted Sailors must be serving on active duty, including Training and Administration of the Reserve (TAR) or Selected Reserve (SELRES) on extended orders (ex. active duty for special work, mobilization, recall, canvasser recruiter). Navy Reservists on active duty for training (ADT), including annual training (AT) and inactive duty for training (IDT), are not eligible.

b. Applicants must have no record of courts-martial convictions or civilian felony convictions, disciplinary action under Article 15 (Uniform Code of Military Justice), or conviction by civil court for misdemeanors (except minor traffic violations) during the three years preceding the date of application to STA-21. Any substantiated drug abuse while in an enlisted status is disqualifying. No waivers will be considered.

7. Indoctrination: Before beginning full-time college studies, STA-21 participants are required to attend the eight week Naval Science Institute (NSI) at OTC Newport, Rhode Island to complete required officer professional core competencies. While attending their selected Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) affiliated college or university, STA-21 officer candidates will participate in drills with their NROTC unit, attend two naval science leadership courses, and are strongly recommended to hold leadership positions within the unit. Upon completion of their baccalaureate degree program, STA-21 participants will be commissioned as officers in the U.S. Navy.

8. Enlistment: Not applicable.


9. Constructive Entry Credit: Not applicable.

10. Appointment: Ensign, USN, Information Professional Officer, Designator 1820, upon graduation from college/university.

11. Service obligation: STA-21 IP option officer candidates will incur a five year active duty obligation upon commissioning. Candidates disenrolled from the program will incur obligation as specified in OPNAVINST 1420.1 series.

12. Time in service: In line with Title 10 U.S. Code section 8328, the months of active service in pursuit of a baccalaureate level degree under the STA-21 program will be excluded in computing the years of service of an officer who was appointed to the grade of ensign in the Navy upon completion of the program to determine the eligibility of the officer for retirement, unless the officer becomes subject to involuntary separation or retirement due to physical disability. Such active service will be counted in computing the years of active service of the officer for all other purposes.

13. Pay and Allowances: Selectees will continue to receive full enlisted pay and allowances, and remain eligible for promotion while participating. An annual \$10,000 educational voucher will be provided to benefit each participant and paid to the educational institution attended. This voucher will be used to pay tuition, fees, and book costs only; the educational institution will remit any excess voucher funding to the program manager NSTC. Selectees will pay for any requirements exceeding the \$10,000 voucher. STA-21 students are not eligible for tuition assistance from the Navy's Tuition Program, but may use Post 911 GI Bill funds and the other VA educational benefits listed in Title 38 U.S. Code section 3681(b) so long as payment is for different courses and not combined to pay for the same course.

Approved:   
J. P. WATERS  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Director, Military Personnel Plans  
and Policy (OPNAV N13)

Date: 7 Oct 22