

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED/
ROUTINE
R 071730Z MAY 25 MID120001919698U
FM CNO WASHINGTON DC
TO NAVADMIN
INFO CNO WASHINGTON DC
BT
UNCLAS

NAVADMIN 102/25

PASS TO OFFICE CODES:
FM CNO WASHINGTON DC//N2N6//
INFO CNO WASHINGTON DC//N2N6//
MSGID/GENADMIN/CNO WASHINGTON DC/N2N6/MAY//

SUBJ/FY26 GRADUATE SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES AT MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY AND WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION//

REF/A/DOC/OPNAV/12NOV24//
REF/B/DOC/OPNAV/17JAN20//

NARR/REF A IS OPNAVINST 1520.31E, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY-WOODS
HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION JOINT MASTER'S IN OCEANOGRAPHY PROGRAM.
REF B IS OPNAVINST 1520.23C CHANGE TRANSMITTAL 3, GRADUATE EDUCATION.//
POC/MICHAEL SAUNDERS/CIV/OPNAV N2N6IP4/-/TEL: (703) 693-4160/EMAIL:
MICHAEL.J.SAUNDERS1.CIV(AT)US.NAVY.MIL.//

RMKS/1. This NAVADMIN announces eligibility requirements and application
procedures for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Massachusetts Institute of
Technology (MIT) - Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) Joint Master's
Degree in Oceanography Program. Where information differs between this
NAVADMIN and reference (a), this NAVADMIN takes precedence. This world-class
program offers deep knowledge of ocean processes, ocean vehicles and
instrumentation, acoustics, and signal processing. Furthermore, it seeks to
enhance understanding and application of operational oceanography as it
pertains to the Undersea Warfare domain.

2. Six quotas are available for the June 2026 program start. Applications
can be submitted online starting 01 July 2025 at
<https://apply.mit.edu/apply/>. The application fee is waived for all active-
duty applicants. Applicants should contact Ms. Patricia Nesti (contact
information below) after beginning an application to request an application
fee waiver be applied to your file. MIT deadline for applications is 01
October 2025. Program information and admission requirements can be found
online at <https://mit.who.edu/>, within reference (a), and from the points of
contact provided in this message.

3. Eligibility and program requirements for active-duty officers in FY-26
include:

- a. Warfare qualified officers from any unrestricted line community.
1110 designator applicants must apply for and be selected by the FY-26 PERS-
412 Talent Management Board to be eligible for MIT-WHOI program selection.
- b. Warfare qualified officers in designator 1800.
- c. Midshipmen 1st Class at US Naval Academy (USNA) or Naval Reserve
Officer Training Corps (NROTC) who will be commissioned in the spring of
2026.

d. Applicants must meet the academic eligibility requirements of MIT-WHOI.

e. Applicants must be available to report to MIT-WHOI at the beginning of June 2026 to start summer refresher coursework.

4. Service obligation requirements: In accordance with reference (b), officers selected for this program must execute an agreement to remain on active duty for a period of three years after completion of or withdrawal from the program. For any officer participating in this program without first serving a tour in a permanent fleet billet (Immediate Graduate Education), the service obligation for this program (81 months) will be served consecutively to their initial service obligation, not to exceed 10 years from the date of commissioning.

5. Selectees are eligible for the 6402P subspecialty code (Operational Oceanography) after fully satisfying the educational skill requirements.

6. Selectees may defer enrollment for up to one year to meet operational and detailing requirements.

7. Two fields of study are offered through the program. The Applied Ocean Science and Engineering field of study is associated with the Mechanical Engineering Department at MIT and the Department of Applied Ocean Physics and Engineering Department at WHOI. The Physical Oceanography field of study is associated with Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences at MIT and the Department of Physical Oceanography at WHOI. Applicants must select the field(s) for which they are applying during the application process.

8. Interested applicants should submit an online application directly to the MIT-WHOI Joint Program. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) results will not be mandatory component of the application this year. However, if applicants desire their results to be included in their application package, the results must be sent directly to the MIT-WHOI Joint Program. If more than six applications are accepted by MIT-WHOI, a Navy selection board will be convened to select the six candidates.

9. Applicants must contact their detailer for counseling on the career impact of participation in the MIT-WHOI master's degree program. An endorsement letter from the detailer is required.

10. In addition to applying online all applicants must submit a separate application package sent via encrypted email to Mr. Michael Saunders, OPNAV N2N6IP4, by 01 October 2025, at the email listed below. This package must include:

- a. Commanding Officer endorsement
- b. Detailer endorsement letter (with the exception of USNA and NROTC Midshipmen)
- c. Last three fitness reports
- d. Copy of GRE scores (not mandatory)
- e. Copies of all post-secondary education transcripts
- f. Copy of Statement of Objective essay from the MIT-WHOI application to include a statement on how they found out about the program.
- g. In lieu of fitness reports, USNA and NROTC Midshipmen may submit three letters of recommendation from professors and military faculty highlighting academic and military accomplishments and capabilities.

11. Overall POC is Mr. Michael Saunders, OPNAV N2N6IP4, (703) 693-4160 or michael.j.saunders1.civ(at)us.navy.mil. For questions regarding the MIT application, POC is Ms. Patricia Nesti, Program Administrator, MIT-WHOI Joint Program, (617) 253-7544 or tnesti@mit.edu.

12. This message is canceled for record purposes on 31 March 2026.

13. Released by VADM Karl O. Thomas, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, OPNAV N2N6.//

BT

#0001

NNNN

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED/