

IIT NROTC Frequently Asked Questions



Where can I find out everything I possibly ever wanted to know about IIT NROTC?

Our website at <http://nrotc.iit.edu> will be your best source of knowledge about the IIT NROTC. The site is especially useful for incoming and current midshipmen. Additionally, you can also find information about the NROTC program in general, especially how to apply for the program, at <https://www.nrotc.navy.mil> (note the “s” in the web address).

What does the NROTC program pay for?

Here at IIT, scholarship midshipmen receive *full tuition*, educational fees (such as lab fees), \$300 for books each semester from the Navy and the school covers room and board. Scholarship midshipmen also receive a tax-free stipend each month that classes are in session, depending on class standing (freshmen: \$250, sophomores: \$300, juniors: \$350, and seniors: \$400).

How much military service will I owe after graduating college?

Scholarship midshipmen owe eight years of service, four of which must be active duty. The remaining four will be inactive reserve where, in time of war and extreme personnel crisis, you could be called to serve. Thus, for all intents and purposes, you are required to serve four years. Those who go into training-intensive fields, such as Nuclear Power, Aviation, or Medical, incur longer service commitments.

What happens if I decide I don’t like NROTC and want to quit?

Midshipmen who drop the NROTC program prior the first day of their sophomore year incur no military commitment, and owe no money. After this point, scholarship midshipmen who decide to drop must either pay off all tuition and benefits accrued since the beginning of their freshman year or serve in the active enlisted ranks, as is deemed appropriate. College program midshipmen do not incur any obligation to serve until they achieve advanced standing and begin to receive financial benefits from the program.

Will I have to go to boot camp?

No. Boot camp trains enlisted personnel, not officers. NROTC midshipmen are given a “freshman orientation,” but it is not designed as a boot camp. NROTC midshipmen do not go to Officer’s Candidate School (OCS) either, with the exception of Marine Option midshipmen, who attend “Bulldog” in the summer before their senior year.

If there is a war while I am in NROTC, will I get sent away to fight?

No. The primary mission of NROTC midshipmen is to work toward a college degree while developing leadership skills, not to fight wars. While midshipmen are technically in the inactive reserve, the military would likely call up the draft before taking midshipmen out of college before graduation.

How do I apply for a scholarship?

Applications for the four-year scholarship are available online at <https://www.nrotc.navy.mil/application/default.cfm> In general, the earlier you apply, the better. You can start the application process as early as second semester of your Junior year in high school; note that to finalize your application, you will need a full transcript including your complete Junior year. Scholarship applications for the 2007-08 school year are due no later than January 9, 2007.

Who may apply for a scholarship?

To be eligible for a four-year scholarship, you must

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be 17 years of age by September 1 of the year starting college no more than 23 on June 30 of that year. Applicants must not have reached their 27th birthday by June 30 of the year in which college graduation and commissioning are anticipated. (Applicants who have prior active duty military service may be eligible for age adjustments for the amount of time equal to their prior service, on a month-for-month basis, for a maximum of 36 months, provided they do not reach their 30th birthday by June 30 of the year in which graduation and commissioning are anticipated.)
- Be a high school graduate or possess equivalency certificates by August 1 of the year of entrance into the four-year NROTC Scholarship Program.
- Be physically qualified by Navy or Marine Corps standards.
- Have no moral obligations or personal convictions that will prevent conscientious bearing of arms, and supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic.
- Apply for and gain admission to NROTC colleges. (This is not required during the selection process, but notification of admission must be received before the scholarship can be activated.)
- Achieve qualifying scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT).

Navy Option: SAT: 530 verbal; 520 math *or* ACT: 22 verbal; 22 math

Marine Corps Option: SAT: 1000 composite *or* ACT: 45 composite

Note that SAT/ACT math and English scores must be from the same test; applicants cannot combine best math with best English scores to achieve a qualifying score.

What can I do if I'm found "not physically qualified" for the NROTC Program?

You can request a waiver through the Department of Defense Medical Examination

Review Board (DoDMERB) and the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET).

Details are online at https://dodmerb.tricare.osd.mil/docs/waiver_rebuttal.htm

Should your waiver be denied, you can also apply for an administrative waiver by faxing a request to (850) 452-2486. We have had midshipmen who requested and were granted waivers for “disqualifiers” such as asthma and allergies; start early and be persistent to maximize your chances.

I didn’t get accepted/didn’t apply for a four-year scholarship. Can I still join the NROTC program?

Yes. The NROTC College Program allows non-scholarship midshipmen who attend UC Davis, UC Berkeley, Cal Maritime, and Stanford to participate in NROTC and provides an opportunity to earn scholarship benefits for your last two, and occasionally three, years of college. The service obligation for college program midshipmen is three years of active duty after graduation (or three and a half years for Marine Option college programmers). If you are interested in participating in the College Program, contact LT Jackson at jackson@iit.edu or (312) 567-8951. There are also a limited number of four-year scholarship opportunities. If you are majoring in a technical major, you have an advantage to one of these scholarships; contact LT Jackson for more details. You may also want to investigate non-NROTC officer programs such as the Navy Baccalaureate Completion Program and the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate (NUPOC) program. For more information on these programs, contact a Navy recruiter; their contact information is listed above under the question “How do I apply for a scholarship?”

What kind of career options will I have?

The NROTC program is designed to commission unrestricted line officers for the Surface Warfare, Submarine, Aviation, Special Warfare (SEAL), and Special Operations (Explosive Ordnance Disposal, etc.) communities. NROTC also offers a Nurse Corps option. This option has a separate application process available at <http://www.nrotc.navy.mil/nursingoption.cfm>.

What limitations are there for women?

Women can serve in every military career field that men can, with three exceptions: Special Warfare, Marine Infantry, and Submarine Warfare. Congress’s “direct ground combat” exclusion law that prohibits females from being assigned to units that engage in direct combat; however, Special Operations (such as Explosive Ordnance Disposal) and nearly every other Marine Occupational Specialty *are* available to women. Women cannot serve on submarines due to problems in providing adequate berthing and sanitation facilities on current submarines; however, women can participate in the nuclear power program on surface ships. (See <http://www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/people/women/wintop.html> and <http://neds.nebt.daps.mil/Directives/1300b12.pdf> for details on the Navy’s policies.) At our unit, women are fully integrated into the battalion, and have served in every

position of responsibility, including Battalion Commanding Officer. Female graduates have gone on to serve on surface ships (both conventional and nuclear), naval aviation, and the medical corps.

As a NROTC midshipman, what majors can I choose?

Although technical majors are not mandatory, they are encouraged for those who show aptitude. You are free to pursue any major you please. The Navy considers it beneficial to commission officers from a wide variety of educational backgrounds and experiences.

What are the academic requirements of the NROTC program?

The NROTC program requires all Navy option midshipmen to take two semesters (or quarters) of Calculus, two semesters of Calculus-based Physics, two semesters of English, and one semester of Military History or National Security Policy, and one semester of Computer Science. AP and transfer credits generally can count towards these requirements provided that they are accepted by your college for the equivalent classes and units. In addition, midshipmen take a Naval Science class every semester. Marine Option midshipmen are exempted all non-Naval Science academic requirements except for one course in Military History or National Security Policy; Marine option midshipmen also participate in Marine Seminar every semester. In order to remain in good academic standing, all midshipmen must maintain a GPA of over 2.5.

What are the physical requirements of the NROTC program?

As future military leaders, midshipmen are expected to keep themselves in good physical shape and maintain their weight/body fat percentage within acceptable standards. Navy option midshipmen between the ages of 17-19 are required to take a Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) every semester. The PFA consists of a weigh-in, 2 minutes push-ups/sit-ups, and a 1.5 mile run. Marine Option midshipmen take a Physical Fitness Test (PFT) on a similar schedule, where pull-ups are required rather than push-ups and the run is lengthened to 3 miles. Failure to pass the PFA/PFT for two consecutive semesters can lead to disenrollment. Midshipmen are also required to demonstrate basic swimming proficiency by their sophomore year. Specific physical standards can be found on our website.

How much of my time in college will NROTC consume? Can I do other extracurricular activities and NROTC?

At IIT, NROTC midshipmen meet every Thursday for a three hour Leadership Lab followed by Naval Science classes. In addition, there are generally a few mandatory all-hands events scheduled on weekends throughout the course of a semester. Those midshipmen who hold positions of responsibility within the battalion and/or participate in NROTC extracurricular activities such as Armed Drill Platoon or Color Guard devote additional time to their NROTC obligations. Although NROTC can be a lot of work, midshipmen's primary mission is to maintain satisfactory progress toward a college

degree. Thus, the NROTC program tries to provide as much academic support as possible, even hiring private tutors if necessary. Midshipmen who are required to take a class that meets Thursday afternoons may apply to go on Naval Science Lab Conflict, which temporarily exempts them from attending Leadership Lab. Most midshipmen are able to balance their commitments with NROTC with other activities. In addition to NROTC extracurricular activities, midshipmen have participated in Greek organizations (fraternities and sororities), and are a part of the school's athletics teams. Midshipmen have also conducted academic research.

If I'm at University of Illinois in Chicago (UIC) how do I get to drill?

Midshipmen who attend UIC can carpool on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to attend the weekly drill practices and Naval Science Lectures afterward. With UIC and IIT being CTA accessible, Midshipmen can easily travel between the two schools by both Green Line (Bronzeville IIT), Red Line (Sox 35th), and multiple bus routes. Additionally, Midshipmen with personal operating vehicles can obtain waivers for school's parking lots.

What kind of summer training does NROTC involve?

Each summer, midshipmen are assigned to a summer training "cruise" designed to expose them to life in real Navy ships and flight squadrons, and Marine Corps platoons:

- Between freshman and sophomore year, all midshipmen participate in Career Orientation and Training for Midshipmen (CORTRAMID) in either San Diego or Norfolk, VA, which exposes them to each of the major career opportunities (Marine Corps, surface warfare, submarine warfare, and naval aviation).
- Between sophomore and junior year, Navy option midshipmen participate in a "second class" cruise, in which they shadow one or more mid-level petty officers and learn about enlisted life aboard ship. Cruises range from two to four weeks; in past years, midshipmen have been aboard cruisers, destroyers, aircraft carriers, supply ships, submarines, and command ships, and have had port visits in Mexico, Hawaii, Japan, Korea, Australia, Spain, France, Italy, and Bahrain. Marine option midshipmen go on "afloat" cruises with amphibious vessels with embarked marines, or participate in Marine Corps Alternate Training (such as Mountain Warfare School, Combined Arms Exercise (CAX), and Amphibious Operation Exercise (AOE).
- Between junior and senior year, Navy option midshipmen conduct their "first class" cruise, in which one learns what it is like to be a junior officer on a ship, submarine, or in an aircraft squadron (either "ashore," on a Naval Aviation base, or "afloat" on an aircraft carrier. Navy option midshipmen also have the opportunity to participate in Foreign Exchange (FOREX) programs with a number of navies; in recent years midshipmen from our program have gone on cruises with the Belgian Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force. Marine option midshipmen participate in "Bulldog," an intensive six-week training program at Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA.

One can receive a waiver to miss any of these cruises except the last ("first class") cruise; however, it is strongly encouraged that midshipmen complete all summer training, as it is

some of the most useful and fun preparation for life as an officer in the Navy or Marine Corps.

I've been accepted as a midshipman in the unit, and I am preparing to attend school in the fall. What next?

1. If you haven't received an information packet from IIT NROTC already, contact the unit at (312) 567-3257 and make sure we have your summer contact info, including phone number, mailing address, and email.
2. Unless you were number one in your cross country/track team and, or workout regularly, you are highly recommended to become physically fit.
2. *Prepare to attend Freshman Orientation before school starts.* This is an optional, but *strongly recommended* step to your success in the NROTC program. It is not hazing or "boot camp," but rather an intense but fun familiarization program to introduce you to the military.
3. Register for classes. IIT students, remember to sign up for Naval Science 1 and Naval Science Lab through Webpage For Students.
4. Get ready for school and to embark on a unique and wonderful experience unparalleled in the civilian sector.

What military benefits am I entitled to as a NROTC midshipman?

Midshipmen are members of the Navy Reserve, and as such are entitled to a full range of military benefits. Midshipmen have full access to military bases and their amenities (commissaries, exchanges, recreational facilities, etc.) The military bases located closest to IIT NROTC and its cross-town affiliate is the Naval Great Lakes Station.

- Midshipmen can access the Naval Great Lakes Station by the following link, www.nsgreatlakes.navy.mil/.
- As future officers, midshipmen have access to civilian programs designed for military service members, such as USAA and Naval Federal Credit Union financial services.

I have some other questions, or would like to talk to some current midshipmen to ask them about the program. How do I do this?

Contact our recruiting officer, LT Jackson, at jackson@iit.edu or (312) 567-8951.