



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

OPNAVINST 1520.31C
N153
31 Oct 2013

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1520.31C

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY/WOODS HOLE
OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION JOINT MASTER'S IN OCEANOGRAPHY
PROGRAM (CURRICULUM #375)

1. Purpose. To announce the policy and procedural guidance governing selection and assignment of naval officers for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (MIT/WHOI) Joint Master's degree in Oceanography Program.

2. Cancellation. OPNAVINST 1520.31B.

3. Scope and Applicability

a. Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) letter of 14 July 1984 (NOTAL) directed the establishment of an MIT/WHOI Joint Master's degree program in oceanography as part of a major reinvigoration of Navy efforts in oceanography. This program continues to serve as an effective cross-pollination between the Navy and the civilian ocean research community and has exposed Navy officers to new tactics, ocean research equipment and oceanographic theories.

b. Each June, unrestricted line (URL) officers and restricted line oceanography (180X) officers will enter the program. URL participants will be selected from warfare specialist communities, specifically: 111X, 112X, 131X and 132X based on projected 6402P (oceanography operational sciences) subspecialty requirements for these designators. Upon completion of the program, these officers will retain their designation as officers of the URL and will be awarded the 6402P subspecialty code. Newly commissioned officers from the United States Naval Academy (USNA) and the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) may also participate, subject to the needs and requirements of the Navy. Specific eligibility will be detailed in the MIT/WHOI naval administrative message (NAVADMIN) issued each year. All applicants for this program

must submit a formal MIT/WHOI entrance application and be accepted by MIT/WHOI in the same manner as prescribed for other students. Participation is contingent upon academic acceptance by MIT/WHOI.

4. Requirements

a. Naval officers must carry a full academic load, including summer sessions, as defined by MIT/WHOI. Degree requirements will be completed in the shortest possible time. Course work must fulfill the educational skill requirements for the 6402P subspecialty. Acceptance of teaching or research assistantships is not permitted under this program. Participation will be limited to not more than 27 months. Extensions to this program are highly discouraged, but may be approved by Chief of Naval Operations upon administrative board action conducted by Commander, Navy Personnel Command (COMNAVPERSCOM).

b. Participants in this program will receive their regular pay and allowances and will be entitled to permanent change of station costs if applicable. The President, Naval Postgraduate School, shall fund this program under the Civilian Institutions (CIVINS) Program. Student expenses will be reimbursed per NAVPGSCOLINST 1520.1J.

c. This program will be considered fully-funded graduate education. As a condition of participating in this program, officers shall execute an agreement to remain on active duty, for a period of 3 years after completion of or withdrawal from education. Newly commissioned officers who participate in this program as part of immediate graduate education (IGE) will incur a greater obligation. For IGE participation of 20 months or less, participants will incur a service obligation of 5 years. For IGE participation for more than 20 months, participants will incur a service obligation of 6 years. These service obligations will be incurred upon completion of or withdrawal from the education program and will be served concurrently with any existing obligation. Such agreements do not obligate the Navy to retain the Service member on active duty.

d. Navy participation in this program will be reviewed biennially by the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Oceanographer of the Navy (OPNAV (N2/N6E)).

e. Active duty naval officers who meet eligibility criteria may participate in this program. Subject to Navy's graduate education plan, each year the program may be open to individuals who will be commissioned following spring graduation from the USNA or NROTC and to URL and 180X officers as specified in paragraph 3, in the rank of lieutenant or lieutenant commander who have demonstrated distinguished performance, noteworthy leadership abilities, academic proficiency, and clear potential for professional growth. All applicants for acceptance into the program must meet the academic eligibility requirements of MIT/WHOI.

5. Selection Procedures. Following are the procedures and supporting actions for all applicants:

a. Officers who take Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test in connection with this program shall report scores to COMNAVPERSCOM and Naval Postgraduate School by entering the respective codes in the GRE registration form.

b. Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (DCNO) (Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education) (MPTE) (N1) shall annually set graduate quotas available for this program.

c. A NAVADMIN detailing specific application information for this program will be issued in late summer or early fall each year.

d. Application packages must be submitted to the MIT/WHOI Program with a copy to OPNAV (N2/N6E) by the deadline stated in the annual NAVADMIN. Completed packages will be screened by the MIT/WHOI Program (generally in February) to identify those packages which meet or exceed program standards. A Navy selection board will then be convened by OPNAV (N2/N6E) and Chief of Naval Research (usually in late February or early March) to select successful candidates from those whose packages that have been determined to meet program standards by the MIT/WHOI screening board. The maximum number of accepted students will not exceed the quotas set by DCNO (MPTE) (N1) for participation in the MIT/WHOI Program for that year.

e. All applicants will be notified of their status by OPNAV (N2/N6E) as soon as possible following adjournment of the Navy selection board. Classes at MIT/WHOI begin in June.

f. Additional application requirements for Midshipmen first class at the USNA and NROTC: The nomination of students at USNA and in NROTC who may apply formally to enter this program after commissioning is the responsibility of the Superintendent, USNA and the Commander, Naval Education and Training Command respectively. Specific academic requirements for USNA and NROTC candidates who are determined to be eligible for this program include:

(1) Major: engineering, mathematics, physics or oceanography or meteorology with a math or physics minor.

(2) Grade Point Average: to be competitive, should be a minimum of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale).

(3) GRE: general test verbal and quantitative sub-scores each should be 650 minimum to be competitive.

6. Assignment

a. Once selected for the program, an officer's assignment to duty-under-instruction will be predicated on continued outstanding professional performance and availability for assignment.

b. For nuclear trained officers being assigned to the MIT/WHOI Program, the officer's total time away from a nuclear billet must be considered. Navy Personnel Command (NAVPERSCOM) Graduate Education and Training Placement Division (PERS-440) will obtain concurrence from NAVPERSCOM Submarine/Nuclear Officer Assignments (PERS-42) and OPNAV Nuclear Propulsion Program Management Branch (OPNAV (N133)) prior to approving orders for these officers.

7. Records Management. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, shall be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of January 2012.



W. F. MORAN
Deputy Chief of Naval Operations
(Manpower, Personnel, Training
and Education)

OPNAVINST 1520.31C
31 Oct 2013

Distribution:

Electronic only, via Department of the Navy Issuances Web site
<http://doni.documentservices.dla.mil/>