

18 Mar 26

From: Recruiting Officer, Naval ROTC Unit, University of South Carolina

To: Prospective Naval ROTC College Program Students

Subj: NAVAL ROTC PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE PROGRAM STUDENT LETTER

Encl: (1) Document Return Checklist
(2) Memorandum of Understanding
(3) Student Questionnaire
(4) Link to NSTC 1533/133 College Program Application

1. Greetings from Gamecock Country! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the University of South Carolina (USC) Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Unit. Every year, we welcome a select number of applicants to our Unit as non-scholarship College Program students, who participate fully in all of our events and compete for the opportunity to commission in the United States Naval Service. The forms in this package comprise your application to our Unit as a College Program student, and we look forward to reviewing your application. If accepted, your time here will prove to be challenging but rewarding. We are here to prepare young men and women mentally, morally, and physically to serve as commissioned Officers in the United States Navy and United States Marine Corps. The information below will provide additional information about the College Program and guide you through the appropriate documents for our staff to review on our College Program Admissions Board.

2. General Information. The College Program is a non-funded opportunity for incoming or current students at USC to participate in NROTC. College Program students are responsible for funding the cost of their education and all additional costs of attending college (room, board, etc.), but participate in all unit activities throughout the school year. College Program students are not eligible to attend Summer Training until they are selected for a scholarship, or Advanced Standing. The scholarships available are the Sideload Scholarships, which provide the benefits of full tuition, fees, and stipends. Advanced Standing ensures a commission but does not cover tuition or fees.

Selection boards for Sideload Scholarships and Advanced Standing occur during the summer after each academic year. For Marine options, there are two Sideload Scholarship boards that occur once per term. Navigating these applications and the submission deadlines will be covered in great detail throughout the semester by the NROTC Advisors to ensure that every College Program student is afforded every opportunity to select for a scholarship option that leads toward a commission in the United States Navy or Marine Corps.

3. New Student Indoctrination (NSI). NSI is a physically demanding 2.5-week indoctrination course designed to provide standardized basic military instruction to Midshipmen Candidates. This course will facilitate the successful integration of new students into Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) and college life. This course is required to receive a scholarship. Further information will be provided by unit staff if you are accepted into the program. Please visit the NSI website here:

www.netc.navy.mil/Commands/Naval-Service-Training-Command/NROTC/Current-and-Incoming-Midshipmen/New-Student-Indoctrination/

4. Alumni Association Scholarship. For those students who are admitted to our program as **out-of-state** College Program students, our strong Alumni Association provides a scholarship that enables recipients to pay their tuition rate at the Departmental Scholarship rate of approximately \$9500 per semester, a savings of over \$7500 per semester versus the standard non-resident tuition. Please visit the University of South Carolina's Bursar website here:

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/bursar/

A list of eligible students will be submitted by the NROTC Unit Staff to the Bursar's Office, and those students will automatically be granted the near in-state tuition rate. Students remain eligible for the scholarship as long as they complete New Student Orientation, remain active in the Unit, demonstrate good aptitude for service, and maintain good academic standing.

5. New Student Orientation. If selected for the College Program at South Carolina, you must attend the NROTC New Student Orientation (NSO) at the University. The details of this NSO will be sent out after your acceptance into our program. NSO training takes place locally and ensures all students are aware of specific unit requirements, services, and support.

6. Physical Readiness. During NSO you will be administered a Navy inventory Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) or a Marine Physical Fitness Test (PFT). Conduct a preliminary service-appropriate PFA or PFT and submit the results on enclosure (3) with your application. The Navy PFA consists of maximum time holding plank, maximum push-ups in two minutes, and finally a timed 1.5-mile run. The Marine Corps PFT consists of maximum time holding plank, maximum pull-ups, and a timed 3.0-mile run. The score must be verified by a coach, gym teacher, school administrator, JROTC staff member, or active-duty military member. As a member of the Naval Service, it is important for you to be able to swim at least 500 yards without stopping. Your response regarding your swimming ability will not be taken into consideration when your application is being considered for acceptance. However, there is a swim qualification required for later success and retention in the program and this will aid in ensuring you are properly prepared to meet standards. It is highly recommended that you take swimming lessons if you do not know how to swim, as you will not be able to earn a commission in the Navy or Marine Corps without passing the swim qualification.

7. Personal Statement. One of the documents you must submit as part of your College Program Application is a personal statement, between 1 and 2 pages in length. This statement should address the topic of why you want to serve as an Officer in the United States Navy or United States Marine Corps. Beyond this general guidance, this essay is also an opportunity to discuss any leadership positions held, athletic endeavors, language expertise, and cultural experiences.

8. Administrative Information. You must fill out the forms included with this letter and send them to the Recruiting Officer. Forms can be submitted by mail to:

Recruiting Officer, NROTC Unit University of South Carolina
513 Pickens Street
Columbia, SC 29208-0064.

Use the Document Checklist to ensure you fill out and return all enclosures. Please print clearly in black ink on all pages. Applications will be accepted any time during the academic year, however, applicants will be notified of our decision no sooner than three weeks after it was received by the officer staff. If selected, more follow-up information will be sent regarding Naval Science Class registration, medical forms, and other administrative requirements that need to be completed prior to NSI and NSO.

9. Should you have any questions concerning these forms or any of the requirements associated with the program, please contact us at NAVYROTC@mailbox.sc.edu or call the Recruiting Officer at (803) 777-3451.

10. You are embarking on an ambitious and important mission here at the University of South Carolina NROTC Unit. The Naval ROTC staff looks forward to meeting you. Congratulations on your decision to serve your country!

Jordan Stickelman

J. STICKELMAN
LT USN

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

Please verify that all of the following documents are completed before mailing your package to the Recruiting Coordinator, NROTC Unit University of South Carolina, 513 Pickens Street, Columbia, SC 29208-0064.

- o Memorandum of Understanding (Enclosure (2))
- o Student Questionnaire (Enclosure (3))
- o College Program Application (Enclosure (4))
- o Personal Essay (1-2 pages in length)
 - o Topic: "Why I want to serve as a Navy/Marine Officer"
- o Copy of high school (college if applicable) transcripts

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

I hereby authorize the Commanding Officer, NROTC Unit, University of South Carolina to provide such information from my University and Naval record (student file, academic and medical) as he/she deems necessary and appropriate, to the following personnel or agencies:

- a. My parents or guardian.
- b. Agencies of the Department of Defense.
- c. University of South Carolina officials.

That this authorization constitutes an exception to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and is limited to the period of time that I am affiliated with the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps or the University of South Carolina.

Such information as I desire released to any other persons or agencies must be accompanied by my specific authorization.

SIGNATURE

DATE

STUDENT'S LEVEL OF COMFORT IN THE WATER: _____

- 1 = Able to easily swim 500 or more yards
- 2 = Able to swim between 50 and 500 yards
- 3 = Able to swim 50 yards, but with some difficulty
- 4 = Able to stay afloat but not a good swimmer
- 5 = Not at all comfortable in the water or swimming

FITNESS TEST RESULTS

NAVY: PLANK: _____ (TIME)

PUSH-UPS: _____ (2 MINUTES)

1.5 MILE RUN TIME: _____

MARINE: PLANK: _____ (TIME)

PULL-UPS: _____

3.0 MILE RUN TIME: _____

Verification of Physical Test scores:

Printed Name Title Phone Number Signature

NSTC 1533/133 College Program Application - You must print this and fill in all applicable information to include in the application