NSTCINST 1533.3B CH-1
N9
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NSTC INSTRUCTION 1533.3B CH-1

From: Commander, Naval Service Training Command

Subj: ACADEMIC MAJOR SELECTION POLICY FOR NAVAL RESERVE
OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS NAVY OPTION SCHOLARSHIP MIDSHIPMEN

Encl: (1) Revised Page 2

1.   <u>Purpose</u>. To transmit new page 2 which removes any material related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives as approved by the memo dated 9 March 2026 from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Military Manpower and Personnel).

2.   <u>Action</u>. Remove page 2 of the basic instruction and insert enclosure (1), respectively.

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Ref: (a) SECNAV Memo of 10 Aug 07
        (b) DCNO (MPT&E) Memo of 19 Oct 07
        (c) Title 10, United States Code, Chapter 103 (Section 2102, et seq.)
        (d) NSTC M-1533.2C CH-2
        (e) ASN (M&RA) Memo of 4 Aug 05

1. <u>Purpose</u>. To prescribe an academic major policy for Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) Navy Option Scholarship midshipmen and ensure NROTC commissioned officers possess the skills desired by the U.S. Navy.

2. <u>Cancellation</u>. NSTCINST 1533.3A

3. <u>Background</u>. Per reference (a), the Secretary of the Navy has authorized the Navy and Marine Corps to establish an academic major policy to better meet specific service needs. Reference (b) directed a minimum of 65% of NROTC Navy Option Scholarship midshipmen complete a technical degree program before receiving a Navy commission.

4. <u>Roles and Responsibilities</u>

   a. The Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education (DCNO MPT&E) (OPNAV N1) provides production guidance, establishes requirements for NROTC commissioned officers, and provides necessary resources.

   b. Commander, Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) supports the production requirements through establishing policy and oversight of execution.

   c. Commander, Naval Service Training Command (NSTC) executes and achieves the requirement by monitoring progress toward achievement, providing incentives, and directing academic major tier assignments. NSTC reviews academic major listings, defines criteria for technical majors, directs student selection and placement, approves enrollment of students, reviews/approves academic major changes, proposes recommendations regarding production issues, directs and manages program components, enforces midshipmen contract agreements to include recoupment and service obligations, articulates policy and procedures to NROTC units,

and monitors unit participation trends and overall applicant metrics. The NSTC Candidate Guidance Office assists applicants and tracks trends.

d. NROTC units maintain a current NSTC listing of approved academic majors offered at institutions participating in NROTC and their associated academic major tier status, update NSTC of any changes in academic major curricula, counsel and mentor midshipmen about academic major requirements and policies, evaluate and recommend academic major change requests, maintain accurate records regarding student majors, and establish and maintain student support programs.

5. <u>Requirements</u>

a. NSTC N9 will conduct an annual review of academic majors and tier assignments no later than 31 May of each year. NSTC Director of Training Operations (N3/5) will solicit change proposals to academic major tier assignments from DCNO (MPT&E) staff, Officer Community Managers, and United States Naval Academy staff, and will submit a consolidated listing of proposed changes to Commander, NSTC for approval no later than 01 July and implementation beginning the next fall term.

b. NSTC N9 will annually review academic institution course catalogs to ensure existing Tier 1 and Tier 2 courses match current technical major requirements. Additionally, NSTC N9 will ensure the academic major tier assignment list includes academic courses and majors with different academic course titles but equivalent academic course requirements to existing Tier 1 and Tier 2 academic courses.

c. Specific Requirements. Two specific requirement categories exist: (1) minimum 65% technical major graduates for Navy Option Scholarship midshipmen and (2) specific officer designator production numbers for the Navy unrestricted line and staff corps communities. Technical major requirements do not apply to NROTC Marine Corps Option midshipmen. Nurse Corps option midshipmen are categorized as Tier 2. NROTC's primary goal for Navy Option and Nurse Corps Option Scholarship midshipmen is to produce 65% technical major graduates.

6. <u>Academic Major Tiers</u>. NSTC will categorize all academic majors for NROTC Navy Option Scholarship midshipmen into one of three tiers.

a. Technical majors. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics majors are categorized as either Tier 1 or Tier 2 based on Navy requirements. NSTC N6 will collaborate with NSTC N9 to ensure eligible Tier 1 and 2 academic majors listed below are posted on the NROTC website.

(1) <u>Tier 1 academic majors</u>:

(a) Aerospace, Aeronautical, Astronautical Engineering

(b) Chemical Engineering

(c) Electrical Engineering

(d) Mechanical Engineering

(e) Naval Architecture & Marine/Naval Engineering

(f) Nuclear Engineering

(g) Ocean Engineering

(h) Systems Engineering

(2) Tier 2 academic majors:

(a) Agricultural/Biological Engineering & Bioengineering

(b) Architectural Engineering/Architectural Engineering Technologies

(c) Astrophysics

(d) Biochemistry, Biophysics & Molecular Biology

(e) Biomathematics & Bioinformatics

(f) Biomedical/Medical Engineering

(g) Biotechnology

(h) Cell/Cellular Biology & Anatomical Sciences

(i) Ceramic Sciences & Engineering

(j) Chemistry

(k) Civil Engineering/Civil Engineering Technologies

(l) Computer Engineering

(m) Computer Programming

(n) Computer Science/Information Technology

(o) Construction Engineering

(p) Electronics & Communications Engineering

(q) Engineering Mechanics

(r) Engineering Physics

(s) Engineering Science

(t) General Engineering

(u) General Science

(v) Industrial Engineering

(w) Manufacturing Engineering

(x) Materials Engineering

(y) Mathematics

(z) Metallurgical Engineering

(aa) Microbiological Sciences and Immunology

(bb) Mining & Mineral Engineering

(cc) Nuclear & Industrial Radiologic Technology

(dd) Oceanography

(ee) Petroleum Engineering

(ff) Pharmacology & Toxicology

(gg) Physics

(hh) Physiology, Pathology & Related Sciences

(ii) Polymer/Plastics Engineering

(jj) Quantitative Economics

(kk) Statistics

(ll) Textile Sciences & Engineering

b. Non-technical academic majors (Tier 3): All other academic majors not listed as Tier 1 or Tier 2.

7. Applicability

a. NROTC Program

(1) Scholarship Program. NROTC Navy Option Scholarship midshipmen must conform to this academic major policy. NSTC shall exempt the following categories of Navy Option Scholarship midshipmen from the NROTC academic major policy requirement: midshipmen who are assigned NROTC Nurse Corps or Marine Corps Option.

(2) College Program. NROTC Navy Option College Program midshipmen are not required to enroll in a specific tier of majors; however, NSTC will encourage midshipmen to pursue a Tier 1 or 2 major to enhance their competitiveness for an NROTC scholarship or Navy commission.

b. STA-21 Program. The requirement to graduate a class with 65% technical majors does not apply to the STA-21 Program.

8. Scholarship Recruiting and Application

a. NSTC N6 will ensure NROTC Program websites and publications indicate that the Navy requires technical major enrollment and completion for no less than 65% of Navy Option Scholarship midshipmen. Communiqués will indicate:

(1) The NROTC application will state whether the applicant is categorized as a Tier 1, 2 or 3 academic major.

(2) The Professor of Naval Science will activate the scholarship only when the student satisfactorily develops a degree plan with the host NROTC unit and university and upon enrollment in the assigned academic major Tier. NROTC units will document the approved degree plan in the automated record (Officer Personnel Management Information System (OPMIS)) and midshipman student file and include in the scholarship service agreement.

b. NSTC will coordinate with the staff of Commander, Navy Recruiting Command and Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruiting Command to provide information and guidance related to this policy.

9. Scholarship Selection. To facilitate achievement of the minimum 65% technical major graduation requirement:

a. NSTC will ensure the selection board choices for incoming Navy Option Scholarship freshmen reach a minimum of 85% enrolled in Tier 1 and 2 academic majors.
The board report shall include specific academic major tier assignment for each selected scholarship candidate and alternate.

b. Selection notifications shall include academic major and tier assignment and an explanation of academic majors available within that tier. Notification shall state that scholarship activation is contingent upon selectee's enrollment in the assigned academic major tier.

10. Class Progression

a. An 85% freshman enrollment target is set to achieve at least 65% technical major graduates requirement.

b. NSTC N9 will award side-load scholarships with preference given to Tier 1 academic majors first and Tier 2 academic majors second to facilitate achieving the minimum 65% technical major graduate requirement.

c. At the beginning of the sophomore year, the class should consist of a minimum of 80% technical majors.

d. At the beginning of the junior year, the class should consist of a minimum of 75% technical majors.

e. At the beginning of the senior year, the class should consist of a minimum of 70% technical majors.

11. Major Change/Tier Transfer Requests. If a midshipman desires to change his/her academic major during the freshman, sophomore or junior year (program policy defines these college years by a midshipman's first through third years of Naval Science), the procedures outlined below apply:

a. For Tier 1 to Tier 2 transfer requests or an academic major change within the same Tier

(1) If the academic major Tier list changes, the most recent approved list will apply to academic major transfers.

(2) If a midshipman adds terms (semester or quarter as appropriate) beyond four years by transferring majors, the midshipman will incur the additional costs or gain additional financial assistance per reference (c).

(3) PNS may approve a transfer request if that request is in the best interest of the Navy.

(4) Process

(a) Midshipman submits an academic major change/Tier change request to the PNS.

(b) The midshipman must submit change requests to the PNS a minimum of one term in advance of the desired change to facilitate its approval before the midshipman executes a new degree plan.

(c) The PNS reviews submission and either approves or disapproves the request and notifies NSTC N9 of the final decision.

b. For Tier 1 or 2 to Tier 3 transfer requests

(1) If the Tier 3 academic major list changes, the most recent approved list will apply to academic major transfers.

(2) If a midshipman adds terms beyond four years by transferring majors, the midshipman will incur the additional costs or gain additional financial assistance per reference (c).

(3) NSTC N9 will convene a panel from a slate approved by CNSTC, as required, to review midshipmen requests to transfer to Tier 3 academic majors. Panels will consist of no fewer than three officers or federal civilians and will include representation from two of the following NSTC departments/divisions: N91, N92, and N93. NSTC N93 will chair the panel. If there are no available Tier 3 quotas, the panel will review the midshipman's request and consider for transfer to the College Program.

(4) Process

(a) The midshipman submits an academic major change/tier change request package for initial evaluation by the NROTC unit staff and final review by an academic major change panel. Midshipman package must include reasons for the desired change, copies of transcripts and existing and proposed degree plans.

(b) The midshipman must submit change requests to the PNS at least one term in advance of the desired change to facilitate its approval before the midshipman executes a new degree plan.

(c) NROTC unit staff reviews the change request package and PNS forwards with endorsement to the academic major change panel for evaluation. Endorsement must include comments related to the reasons for the academic major change and applicant performance (e.g., character, academic performance and course load, aptitude, etc.).

(d) NSTC N9 shall forward the panel results to NSTC Deputy Commander for NROTC Operations (N04) for review and approval. Once approved/disapproved, NSTC N9 will return the results to the PNS for appropriate action.

c. For Tier 2 or Tier 3 to Tier 1 or Tier 2 transfer requests

(1) If the Tier 1 or Tier 2 academic major list changes, the most recent approved list will apply to academic major transfers.

(2) If a midshipman adds terms beyond four years by transferring majors, the midshipman will incur the additional costs or gain additional financial assistance per reference (c).

(3) <u>Process</u>

(a) The midshipman submits an academic major change/Tier change request to the PNS.

(b) The PNS reviews and evaluates request. The PNS may authorize the change of academic major. PNS must notify NSTC N93 once the change has been affected.

d. <u>For failure to enroll in specified courses</u>

(1) If a midshipman fails to enroll in courses appropriate to the academic major tier to which assigned, NSTC will consider the midshipman not in compliance with program requirements and the NROTC unit will take appropriate, immediate action per reference (d).

(2) NROTC units shall offer freshmen NROTC Navy Option Scholarship midshipmen who depart their respective academic major Tier and are not placed into another academic major Tier the option to transfer to the College Program option. or NROTC program disenrollment.
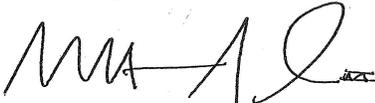
(3) NROTC units shall offer the College Program option as a first choice to NROTC Navy Option Scholarship midshipmen who have become obligated in accordance with their scholarship agreement, depart their respective Tier and are not placed into another Tier. Transfer to the Marine Corps may also be considered. If the midshipman declines the College Program option and is not approved for transfer to the Marine Corps, the NROTC unit will recommend the midshipman for disenrollment, and the midshipman will incur an obligation for recoupment of educational costs expended on the student's behalf, unless waived by the Secretary of the Navy as outlined in reference (e).

12. <u>Records Management</u>. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of media and format, must be managed per Secretary of the Navy Manual 5210.1 of September 2019.

13. <u>Review and Effective Date</u>. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, N9 will review this instruction annually on the anniversary of its effective date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, DoD, SECNAV, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction.

This instruction will automatically expire 5 years after effective date unless reissued or canceled prior to the 5-year anniversary date, or an extension has been granted.

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