

APPENDIX U

Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program Requirements and Regulations

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1. Purpose. This appendix relays the Marine Corps policy for the preparation, administration, and maintenance of MECEP Marines in accordance with the listed references. For detailed information, refer to the most recent Marine Corps Order 1040.43 and Fiscal Year MARADMIN.
2. Overview. Per MCO 1040.43B, the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) allows qualified enlisted Marines in the regular Marine Corps to apply for assignment to OCS, obtain a baccalaureate degree through a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) affiliated college or university, and obtain a commission in the Marine Corps.
3. Eligibility Requirements. Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC) is responsible for the selection and commissioning of MECEP Marines. The Commanding General, MCRC is the

Marine Corps' service level waiver authority for each of the following eligibility requirements, and has final disposition of program status.

a. Officer Candidate School (OCS). All MECEP candidates must successfully complete OCS prior to assignment into the MECEP Program. Marines shall have no more than two opportunities to complete OCS.

b. Education

(1) Applicants must be a high school graduate or must have completed a minimum of two years of high school and have successfully passed the General Educational Development High School level test.

(2) The following minimum college credit hour requirement is established:

(3) Three credits of entry level math or science;

(4) Three credits of entry level English;

(5) Six credits of any other college class;

(6) A total of twelve credit hours.

(7) Credits must be actual college courses taken either at community college, traditional college or university, or online college. College Level Examination Program, Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript credits, and credits earned in a high school will not count towards this requirement.

(8) No waivers will be considered for education requirements.

c. Obligated Service. Marines must agree to reenlist or extend as necessary to have at least six years of obligated service in the regular Marine Corps after graduating from OCS and prior to detaching from his or her parent command. Marines are required to maintain a four-year obligated service commitment during the entirety of enrollment in MECEP. Marines cannot execute PCS orders from their parent command until enlistment or extension is approved.

d. Physical Requirements

(1) Ground Officer Applicants. Must be found physically qualified for appointment to commissioned grade in the USMC per the standards set forth in ManMed, reference (j). Medical waivers may be considered under the policy described in paragraph 15-3 of reference (j).

(2) Naval Aviator Applicants. Must be found physically qualified and aeronautically adapted for duty involving actual control of aircraft and qualified for appointment to commissioned grade.

e. Service Requirements

(1) Marines must have a minimum of three years of active service and one year remaining on their current enlistment or extension from the date of the selection board convening.

(2) Having less than one year remaining on their current enlistment prior to the selection board convening, will make any applicant, regardless of E-O program, ineligible for consideration.

(3) Grade. Applicants must be a sergeant or above at the time of application. No waivers will be considered for rank requirements.

(4) Age. Ground candidates must be at least 20 years of age and less than 30 years of age on date of appointment to commissioned grade. Aviation candidates must be at least 20 years of age and less than 27 1/2 years of age, waiverable to 29 years of age, on date of appointment to commissioned grade. Waivers or exceptions to policy may be considered by the CG MCRC up to the age of 35 for ground officers.

(5) Deployability. Applicants must be available for world-wide assignment and qualified to reenlist per reference (k), as applicable.

4. NROTC Participation

a. All Marines selected for participation in the MECEP shall attend a NROTC participating school, to include cross-town affiliates and consortiums. This does not include attendance at a two year institution. Marines must be accepted to a four-year degree awarding institution. Refer to the current FY MARADMIN for website address of current NROTC affiliated colleges/universities.

b. MECEP Marines are assigned to the school's NROTC unit and are subject to the orders, direction and authorities vested in the CO of the NROTC unit in accordance with the Uniformed Code of Military Justice.

c. Administrative actions regarding official records, leave and pay, lie with the assigned Marine Corps Activity.

d. Final disposition of program status is Commanding General (CG), MCRC.

e. Service Obligations. The period of time served as a MECEP shall be considered as time served on a Marine Corps enlistment.

f. Contracts. Applicants must agree to extend, reenlist, or augment to have six years of obligated service in the regular Marine Corps prior to detaching from their parent command.

g. The Statement of Agreement listed in reference (c) will be executed prior to the transferring of a Marine designated to attend a NROTC unit. The original agreement will be forwarded to the CMC (MMSB), and a copy placed in the Marine's service record book.

5. Reporting. The current FY MARADMIN shall determine the opportunity for Marines to report to either the spring, summer, or fall semester. Applicants are highly encouraged to start the application process early, and if possible, provide acceptance letters to an approved school with their application. If an applicant receives acceptance after forwarding an application, the applicant may forward a copy of their acceptance to MCRC ON/E to be included in their application.

6. Promotions. Promotion opportunities remain uninterrupted and are non-competitive while participating in MECEP.

7. Pay and Allowances. Selectees receive full pay and allowances, excluding proficiency pay, while participating in MECEP.

8. Travel. Marines entering the MECEP are entitled to travel allowances from their last duty station to the NROTC unit.

9. Educational Expenses. All educational costs, to include tuition, fees, and books are the responsibility of the individual participant. Marines should contact the Marine for Life Program, referenced before contacting the Marine Officer Instructor (MOI) at their future university to inquire about the use of their GI Bill, Post 9-11 GI Bill benefits or any other financial aid available. Marines need to consider the cost of living in the area they would reside and the tuition costs at schools to which they intend to apply. When computing the financial worksheet, projected school costs and education benefits must be included on Appendix V of reference (b) or acknowledged in naval letter format. MECEP participants will be disenrolled if they cannot meet financial obligations.

10. Academic Requirements. Students are expected to complete their academic requirements in the most expedient means possible. Pursuit of double majors is authorized provided that the second can be completed simultaneously and the time required is no longer than that required for a single degree.

11. Academic Schedule. Marines participating in MECEP are required to maintain a full-time academic schedule that meets the college or university's full-time student status and enable them to graduate in the most expedient means possible. MECEP students are expected to graduate in four years or less, and maintain a 2.50 grade point average. Degrees requiring five years to complete are not authorized. Applicants may request a waiver for the pursuit of a technical five-year degree. Marines are not authorized to attend graduate school. MECEP Marines will not be authorized PCS moves to transfer to another college or university from which originally enrolled, unless within the same consortium. Approved moves will be personally funded by the MECEP Marine.

12. Administrative Control.

a. While attending school, all MECEP participants will be carried on the rolls of the nearest Marine Corps activity in the vicinity of the academic institution. Administrative and disciplinary jurisdiction will be given to the CO/Professor of Naval Science (PNS) of the NROTC unit at the academic institution. All matters relating to military personnel administration will be the responsibility of the Marine Corps activity.

b. CG, MCRC is the final adjudicating authority for all administrative action for MECEP students, including disenrollments. Recommendations for disenrollment regarding MECEP students should be forwarded expeditiously from NROTCU to CNSTC via N9 and the Senior Marine, NETC.

4. Post-OCS. Upon completion of OCS, MECEP on-campus training, physical qualification, and receipt of a baccalaureate degree, participants will be commissioned as second lieutenants in the Marine Corps. Enlisted contracts to include any extensions are vacated and the officer is required to serve a minimum of four years of active duty. Newly commissioned second lieutenants attend The Basic School (TBS) for follow on training and military occupational specialty (MOS) assignment.

13. Student Naval Aviator (SNA) Applications. Once at an NROTC Unit and eligible, applicants must submit the NAVMC 11878, "Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program Student Naval Aviator Service Agreement," or NAVMC 11879, "Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program Student Naval Flight Officer Service Agreement," in addition to NAVMC 11877, "Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program Ground Service Agreement," in the event they are deemed medically unqualified for aviation.

14. Request For Appointment Procedures

a. Submission of Request for Appointment. At least 120 days prior to appointment, each student will coordinate with their MOI and forward a Request for Appointment (RFA) for commissioning as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. By first endorsement, the CO of the NROTC unit will indicate the date of graduation, the projected commissioning date, the date of completion of summer training, and a statement as to whether or not the individual is recommended for appointment in the Marine Corps.

b. Appointment. Upon graduation, students will be appointed second lieutenants and issued PCS orders to TBS.

c. MECEP Service Agreement. Per the Service Agreement, the officer is required to serve at least eight years in the Marine Corps from the date of appointment to commissioned grade, with a minimum of four years on active duty. Any portion of this eight-year period not served on active duty will be served on inactive duty as a member of the Marine Corps Reserve. A resignation of a reserve commission submitted prior to completion of this eight-year period will normally be rejected and, after this period, may be accepted or rejected by the President as the needs of the service may then require.

15. Naval Aviator and Naval Flight Officer Training

a. Eligibility

(1) Underclassman at a NROTC unit, to include MECEP Marines, may submit an aviation guarantee request as early as the completion of their first semester on campus and up until the second semester of their junior year.

(2) Seniors must submit an aviation guarantee request in conjunction with their RFA package, to include a physically qualified Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI) letter.

b. Qualifications

(1) Personnel assigned to flight training must meet the criteria defined in reference (m).

(2) To ensure prospective commissioned officers meet the required mental and physical qualifications for flight training, the following actions will be completed on all aviation applications:

(a) Completion of a flight physical examination per reference (f), Chapter 15, Section V.

(b) Satisfactory completion of the ASTB. Aviation selection tests may be administered by the Marine Officer Selection Officer (OSO), MOI, and designated naval flight surgeons. Applicants must attain the minimum score of four on the AQR portion and six on the PFAR or FOFAR portions. Examinees that would like to improve their scores on the ASTB must wait until the 91st day following their initial attempt. A third and final attempt is authorized on the 91st day following the second retest. Examinees will only be authorized three attempts to successfully pass the ASTB in a lifetime.

(c) Completion of Proper Service Agreement. Reference NAVMC 11878, "Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program Student Naval Aviator Service Agreement," or Statement of Understanding – Service Agreement (1100), "Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program Cyber Officer Service Agreement," in addition to NAVMC 11877, "Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program Ground Service Agreement."

c. Assignments

(1) Aviation candidates, upon commissioning, will be assigned to TBS prior to flight training.

(2) Ground officers attending TBS may request assignment to an aviation training program as part of the competitive Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) assignment process at TBS. Those qualified will be evaluated along with their contemporaries, on the basis of demonstrated performance at TBS.

16. References:
- (a) Title 10 U.S. Code
 - (b) MCO 1040.43: Enlisted to Officer Commissioning Programs
 - (c) MCRCO 1100.2A: Officer Commissioning Manual
 - (d) SECNAVINST 5510.30B
 - (e) MCO P1070.12K
 - (f) MCO 7220.24N
 - (g) MCO P1610.7F

- (h) MARADMIN 03/09
- (i) SECNAVINST 5210.8D
- (j) Manual of the Medical Department (ManMed)
- (k) MCO 1040.31
- (l) Selecting, Screening, and Preparing Enlisted Marines for Special Duty Assignments and Independent Duties (Short Title: SDAMAN)
- (m) MCO 1542.1H
- (n) Department of Defense Military Pay and Allowances Manual
- (o) Joint Travel Regulation
- (p) SECNAV M-5210.1
- (q) SECNAVINST 5211.5E
- (r) MCO P1900.16
- (s) Current FY MARADMIN