

Naval Science

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Students enroll in the Navy Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program as scholarship or nonscholarship students. Sophomores may apply for the optional two-year program. The Department of Naval Science is administered by a senior U.S. Navy officer, assisted by officers and enlisted personnel of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

Degree Requirements for Naval Science Program

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 16–18). For further details on ROTC programs at Rice, see page 23. Program requirements differ slightly depending on the student's scholarship status.

Scholarship Navy ROTC students are appointed midshipmen, U.S. Naval Reserve, on a nationwide competitive basis. They receive retainer pay of \$250–\$350 per month for a maximum of four academic years, with all tuition, fees, and equipment paid for by the government. Additionally, students receive \$250 per semester for books. Midshipmen must complete the prescribed naval science courses and participate in drills and three summer cruises. After graduating with a bachelor's or graduate degree, they accept a reserve commission as an ensign in the U.S. Navy or as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Nonscholarship Navy ROTC students enter into a mutual contract with the Secretary of the Navy to take naval science courses and to participate in drills and one summer training cruise. On a competitive basis, students may apply to continue in the Navy ROTC program through their junior and senior years. The U.S. Navy pays these continuing students \$300–\$350 per month during their junior and senior years, offering them a reserve commission in the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps upon graduation. The program chair may recommend nonscholarship students, on a local competitive basis, for scholarship status.

Two-Year Program Option. In their sophomore year (junior year for five-year Rice students), students may apply for the two-year Navy ROTC program, competing nationwide for available scholarships. If selected, they attend the six-week Naval Science Institute (NSI) at Newport, Rhode Island, during July and August. NSI provides students with course material and training normally covered during the first two years of the regular Navy ROTC program. Successful completion of NSI qualifies students for enrollment in the advanced Navy ROTC program on an equal footing with the four-year students. Usually about 15 percent of the nonscholarship students finishing NSI are offered two-year Navy ROTC scholarships. Additional scholarships occasionally may be awarded to others upon the recommendation of the program chair.

U.S. Marine Corps Program. Navy ROTC students, either scholarship or nonscholarship, may apply for the U.S. Marine Corps program. Students selected for that program are referred to as “Marine Corps option students” and attend separate classes under a U.S. Marine officer instructor during their junior and senior years.

See NAVA in the Courses of Instruction section.