Students enroll in the Navy Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) program as scholarship or nonscholarship students. 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.

Rice does not offer a bachelor's in naval science. However, interested students can obtain a degree in any of the other programs offered by Rice. Credit for courses in naval science may be obtained. Financial aid and scholarships may be available to a Navy ROTC student.

For university requirements for a specific degree, see Graduation Requirements and the section pertaining to that degree. 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 stipend pay of $250–$400 per month for a maximum of 4 academic years, with all tuition, fees, and equipment paid for by the Navy. Additionally, students receive $375 per semester for books. Midshipmen must complete the prescribed naval science courses and participate in drills and 3 summer cruises. After graduating with a bachelor's degree, they accept a commission as an ensign in the U.S. Navy or as a 2nd 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 1 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–$400 per month during their junior and senior years, offering them a 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.

2-Year Program Option—In their sophomore year (junior year for 5-year Rice students), students may apply for the 2-year Navy ROTC program, competing nationwide for available scholarships. If selected, they attend the 6-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 1st 2 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 4-year students. Usually about 15 percent of the nonscholarship students finishing NSI are offered 2-year Navy ROTC scholarships. Additional scholarships occasionally may be awarded to others upon the recommendation of the program chair.

**U.S. Marine Corps Option 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 complete Evolution of Warfare and Amphibious Operations classes during their junior and senior years.

*See NAVA in the Courses of Instruction section.*