

Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

CONTACT NUMBERS: (301) 319-4520 or (301) 295-0925

ALL APPLICANTS MUST TAKE THE SAT OR ACT TEST

Recommended Score:

SAT - 1000 (Verbal & Math)

ACT - 42 (E-21 & M-21)

Applicants must be commissioned before their 42nd birthday. (NO AGE WAIVERS)

1. WHAT IS THE MEDICAL ENLISTED COMMISSIONING PROGRAM (MECP)?

- MECP is an in-service procurement program that gives qualified enlisted men and women a chance to earn an entry level degree in nursing and be appointed as an Ensign, USN, Nurse Corps. Passing a state licensure examination is required to practice as a registered nurse.

2. WHAT DOES A NAVY NURSE CORPS OFFICER DO?

- Navy Nurse Corps Officers provide direct patient care (physical assessment, assistance with hygiene, nutrition, and safety), administer and monitor treatments (medications, laboratory tests, intravenous fluids, and diagnostic treatments), and teach Sailors, Marines and their families how to improve and maintain their health. They serve in the CONUS, OCONUS, aboard ships and with the Fleet Marine Force (FMF).

3. WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS?

- U.S. Citizenship (No Waivers)
- Opened to all rates
- Applicant must be commissioned prior/before reaching their 42nd birthday (No Waivers)
- High School Diploma or GED
- High School transcript – **NOT REQUIRED**
- A minimum of 30 semester hours (or 45 quarter hours) of undergraduate courses **accepted** for transfer towards a bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) by the institution(s) for which you are applying. Courses such as English, Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, Physiology, etc. are desirable.
- Cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- SAT or ACT test taken within the **past 3 years** from application due date.
- Must complete all requirements for a BSN within 36 months or less.
- No history of felony conviction or any record of drug abuse. A driving under the

influence (DUI/DWI) violation is disqualifying if within **four years** of the application deadline or convicted of any misdemeanors (except minor traffic violations) within three years of the application deadline.

- Have no record of courts-martial convictions or civilian felony convictions.
- Security Clearance – contact your Security Management Office. Signed copy of JPAS security investigation printout.
- Favorable endorsement from commanding officer.

4. WHEN IS MY PACKAGE DUE?

- See current NAVADMIN for submission deadlines.
- Incomplete packages will not be reviewed by the board.

5. WHAT IS THE ADDRESS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PACKAGES?

Commanding Officer
Navy Medical Leader and Professional Development Command
Attn: HMDT, 16th Floor
8955 Wood Road
Bethesda MD, 20889-5611

NOTE: If using any ground delivery other than USPS, the address MUST include Building Number 1, Room Number (16148/16144) and telephone number (301) 295-0925/ (301)-319-4520

6. HOW MUCH TIME SHOULD I ALLOW TO PREPARE A COMPLETE PACKAGE?

- Preparing a quality package takes time. Applicants must depend on several others for items such as transcripts, school letters of acceptance, degree completion plans, medical examinations, and interviews to name a few. It is recommended that applicants allow several weeks lead time to meet the application deadline.

7. WHY DO I HAVE TO EXTEND FOR 6 YEARS BEFORE ENTERING THE PROGRAM?

- So your active duty enlisted obligation will not disengage while you are in training. Also, it ensures that those who are not successful in completing their degree will be retained on active duty to fulfill obligated service time related to training.

8. WHAT IS THE AGE REQUIREMENT TO APPLY TO MECP?

- Applicants must be able to complete school and get commissioned prior/before they reached their 42nd birthday. **NO AGE WAIVERS**

9. I HAVE A LOT OF ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE TIME. HOW SOON COULD I RETIRE AFTER I AM COMMISSIONED AS AN OFFICER?

- All officers must serve the minimum 20 years active commissioned service per Title 10 U.S.C. 8323 to be eligible for retirement. The law requires 10 years of active commissioned service for retirement eligibility. MECP graduates will receive a "permanent" appointment; **there is no option to revert back to enlisted status to retire prior to completing the statutory requirement for retirement eligibility as a commissioned officer.**

10. WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PROGRAM?

- OPNAVINST 1420.1B CH-1, 2, and 5.
- Use the following as resources:
 - Your Command Career Counselor
 - NMLPDC:
Phone: (301)319-4520/295-0925 or DSN 285-4520/295-0925
Email: usn.bethesda.navmedleadprodevcmd.list.opd-mecp@health.mil

11. SHOULD I INCLUDE A CONDITIONAL/PROVISIONAL OR FINAL LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE TO AN ACCREDITED BSN PROGRAM IN MY PACKAGE?

- Yes. At a minimum, a provisional or conditional letter of acceptance is required. Additionally, a Degree Completion Plan from the Nursing school to which you are applying that includes those transfer credits they are willing to accept. Please contact the School of Nursing Admissions Office at the University/College to which you are applying to coordinate this.

12. HOW LONG AFTER THE BOARD CAN I EXPECT RESULTS TO BE PUBLISHED?

- The Board routinely meets during the month of November. Results may be available three to six weeks after the Board adjourns.