

Program Authorization: Seaman to Admiral-21 (STA-21) nuclear option commissioning program. STA-21 will facilitate the completion of a baccalaureate degree and enhance upward mobility opportunity for enlisted personnel to obtain a commission, designator 1160N or 1170. Nuclear Program Management Branch (OPNAV N133) is the community manager. Naval Service Training Command, (NSTC) Officer Development (OD) is the program manager.

1. Program Authority: Title 10 U.S. Code sections 531, 532, 647, 2013, 6323 and 12201 to 12209.

2. Cancellation: Program Authorization 150A, December 2015.

3. Quota: As prescribed by the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education) (DCNO N1).

4. Qualifications

a. Citizenship: Applicants must be citizens of the United States.

b. Age: Candidates must not have passed their 31st birthday at commissioning. Waivers may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

c. Education

(1) Must be able to complete the requirements for a bachelor's degree in 36 months.

(2) Participants must meet stringent academic requirements. Applicants must provide SAT or ACT scores. Minimum SAT/ACT score of 500 verbal/500 math, with a minimum 1140 SAT (combined), or a minimum ACT score of 21 math/21 english, with a minimum 50 ACT (combined math/english).

(3) Applicants must have completed or be enrolled in the naval nuclear power training pipeline at either the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command or at a Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit.

(4) Enrollees will attend selected Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC)-affiliated colleges or universities and be full-time students throughout the year (including summer sessions). Designated nuclear-option schools are approved and promulgated by OPNAV N133. Enrollees must remain at the university in which they initially enrolled and will not be permitted to transfer to another university while participating in STA-21.

(5) Selectees must major in a technical curriculum and maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Each student's academic transcripts will be reviewed by OPNAV N133 after the completion of each semester, quarter or term. Students must earn a "C" or better in all technical/math/science classes. Students who do not maintain academic requirements may be disenrolled from the STA-21 nuclear option program by OPNAV N133. Approved technical majors are defined by OPNAV N133 and promulgated by NSTC OD.

(6) Candidates for STA-21 nuclear option who are disenrolled for any reason will not be permitted to remain in the STA-21 program.

(7) In addition to disenrollment for academic reasons, nuclear candidates may be disenrolled because of discipline/moral problems (drug usage, civil convictions, etc.) by OPNAV N133.

(8) Waivers of these educational/academic requirements may be granted on a case-by-case basis (i.e., a 6-month extension for an established 5-year degree program).

d. Physical: In line with the U.S. Navy Manual of the Medical Department, Chapter 15.

e. Duty Preference: Not applicable.

f. Program Specific Requirements

(1) Candidate must begin coursework in the STA-21 nuclear option program prior to entering their 8th year of service.

(2) All nuclear candidates will be interviewed by Director, Naval Reactors for acceptance into the naval nuclear propulsion program as officer candidates approximately 6 to 12 months prior to graduation. Candidates not accepted for nuclear training will normally be allowed to complete their degrees and may be commissioned. They will not be commissioned as nuclear power officers, but will be handled as general STA-21 officers and compete for unrestricted line programs.

(3) Candidate must attend a NROTC host university as designated in Enlisted to Officer Commissioning Programs Application Administrative Manual, OPNAVINST 1420.1B.

5. Waivers: In cases where the applicant does not meet all of the qualifications, but otherwise has an exceptional record or proven skillset required by the Navy, a waiver may be authorized in limited numbers. If a waiver is requested then follow the steps below, and must be adjudicated prior to the convening of the selection board.

a. Application Contents

(1) Age: A written waiver request may be considered on a case basis for those who would exceed 31 years of age at commissioning.

(2) Education: A written waiver request may be considered on a case-by-case basis for those candidates who:

(a) Are not able to complete a bachelor's degree in the allotted time (i.e., a 6-month extension for an established 5-year degree program).

(b) Do not meet the requirements of earning a “C” or better in all technical/math/sciences classes.

b. Routing: NSTC will forward all waiver requests to OPNAV N133 for adjudication. OPNAV N133 will forward all education waivers to Director, Naval Reactors for concurrence.

c. Approval Authority

(1) Age: OPNAV N133.

(2) Education: Naval Reactors.

d. Notifying the Applicant: NSTC will notify applicants of waiver status.

6. Accession Source: Active duty enlisted personnel in the U.S. Navy who are enrolled in or have completed Naval Nuclear Power School.

7. Indoctrination: Before beginning full-time college studies, STA-21 participants must attend the 8-week Naval Science Institute (NSI) at Newport, RI, to complete all required officer professional core competencies. While attending their selected nuclear option NROTC-affiliated college or university, STA-21 officer candidates will become members of the NROTC unit and drill, but are only required to take two Naval Science Leadership courses since coverage of most material is provided during NSI. Upon completion of their bachelor’s degree program, STA-21 participants will be commissioned as officers in the U.S. Navy.

8. Enlistment: Not applicable.

9. Constructive Entry Credit: Not applicable.

10. Appointment: Candidates will be commissioned in the unrestricted line of the U.S. Navy as an ensign, designator 1160N or 1170.

11. Service Obligation

a. Selectees must volunteer to enlist for 6 years from the execution of orders for STA-21 training.

b. Selectees will incur a 5-year active duty obligation upon commissioning.

c. Those STA-21 disenrollees that drop on request prior to commissioning will be obligated for 5 years of enlisted service from the date of program disenrollment or the remainder of their current enlistment, whichever is longer.

d. Those who complete degree requirements but fail to be commissioned will be obligated for 5 years enlisted service from date of disenrollment.

e. Additional obligated service may be incurred as a result of special training received following commissioning.

12. Time in Service: In line with Title 10 U.S. Code section 6328, the months of active service in pursuit of a baccalaureate-level degree under the STA-21 program shall be excluded in computing the years of service of an officer who was appointed to the grade of ensign in the Navy upon completion of the program to determine the eligibility of the officer for retirement, unless the officer becomes subject to involuntary separation or retirement due to physical disability. Such active service shall be counted in computing the years of active service of the officer for all other purposes.

13. Pay and Allowances

a. Participants will continue to receive full enlisted pay and allowances, and remain eligible for promotion while participating.

b. Participants will receive an annual \$10,000 education voucher, provided to benefit each participant and paid to the educational institution attended. This voucher will be used to pay tuition, fees, and book costs only. Excess funding for vouchers will be remitted by the educational institution to NSTC as program manager.

c. Participants will pay for any requirements that exceed the \$10,000 voucher. STA-21 students are not eligible for tuition assistance from the Navy's tuition program, but may use Montgomery GI Bill funds and the other veterans affairs educational benefits listed in Title 38 U.S. Code section 3681(b) so long as payment is for different courses and not combined to pay for the same course.

Approved: _____


JOHN B. NOWELL, JR.
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy (N13)

Date: _____

