
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
 THE BASIC SCHOOL
 MARINE CORPS TRAINING COMMAND
 CAMP BARRETT, VIRGINIA 22134-5019

MARINE CORPS EDUCATION PROGRAMS B141116 STUDENT HANDOUT

Marine Corps Education Programs

Introduction The purpose of this lesson is to familiarize you with the various Marine Corps education programs in order to provide information to your Marines.

Importance This lesson covers both degree seeking programs for enlisted Marines and education benefits that are available for all Marines.

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Marine Corps Education Programs (continued)

Learning ObjectivesTerminal Learning Objective

MCCS-LDR-1004 Without the aid of reference, describe Marine Corps education programs to coordinate academic assistance for Marines.

Military Academic Skills Program (MASP)

Purpose

The Military Academic Skills Program (MASP) is a 4-week education program designed to increase the skill levels of Marines in the areas of reading, mathematics, and communication/writing. It is designed to improve competence, promotion potential, and reenlistment potential of individual Marines in order to strengthen the enlisted personnel base of the Marine Corps. MASP is not meant to be a general educational development (GED) preparation course.

Eligibility

Marines who have reading, mathematics, or communications skills below the 10th grade level or a general technical (GT) score of 99 or below are eligible to attend MASP.

Application

Anyone can refer a Marine to MASP based on the observation of that Marine. A Marine can also be self-referred to MASP.

US Naval Academy and Preparatory School (USNA/NAPS)

Purpose

USNA/NAPS provide an opportunity for qualified Marines to embark on careers as officers. If accepted, students are considered midshipmen, US Navy, receiving appropriate midshipmen pay, tuition, and room and board.

Requirement

To apply for USNA/NAPS, Marines must:

- Be a US citizen.
 - Be at least 17 years of age but less than 22 by 1 July of the year entering (can not be waived).
 - Be medically qualified.
 - Not be pregnant.
 - Be unmarried.
 - Have no dependent children for which they are legally responsible.
 - Have good moral character.
 - Be motivated.
 - Have a combined SAT score of 1050 or ACT score of 45.
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US Naval Academy and Preparatory School (USNA/NAPS) (Continued)

Application	Regular and reserve Navy and Marine Corps service members compete for 170 appointments by applying via their commanding officers in accordance with MCO 1530.11 series. The commanding officer's endorsement must accompany the application.
Preparatory School	The NAPS provides an excellent means to get back into the school environment for service members who have been out of the classroom. It prepares selected candidates morally, mentally, and physically with emphasis on strengthening the academics foundation of individuals for accession through the US Naval Academy. The ten-month course emphasizes preparation in English composition, mathematics, chemistry, physics, and information technology.

Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECEP)

Purpose	MECEP is designed to provide outstanding enlisted Marines the opportunity to become Marine Corps officers. Selection is based on potential for commissioned service as demonstrated by the Marine's service record, previous academic record, and evidence of career and academic self-improvement.
Eligibility	To apply, Marines must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a US citizen. • Be active duty. • Be a corporal or above. • Be at least 20 years of age but less than 26 by the year applying. • Meet physical standards. • Have been in the top 50 percent of their high school class or successfully passed the GED with a minimum score of 75 percent in each of the five areas of the GED requirement. • Have a minimum combined SAT score of 1000, minimum 400 verbal (waiverable if EL is 115 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery).

Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECEP) (Continued)

Eligibility (Continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to reenlist or extend to have 6 years obligated service upon assignment to college. • Not have unsatisfactorily participated in any other officer commissioning program. • Be able to obtain a SECRET clearance.
Application	The US Marine Corps solicits applications through MCO 1560.15L and annual Marine Corps bulletins.
Preparatory School	All Marines selected for participation in MECEP are assigned to attend a 9-week MECEP preparatory school prior to reporting to their college or university unless waived by Marine Corps Recruiting Command or the MECEP selection board.

Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST)

Purpose	The BOOST program provides an opportunity for personnel of educationally deprived or culturally differentiated backgrounds to compete more equitably for selection to commissioning programs.
Eligibility	To apply, Marines must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be active duty or active reserve. • Be a lance corporal or above. • Have one year of active duty completed after recruit training. • Be at least 19 years of age but no older than 25. • Have a high school diploma or GED equivalent with a minimum score of 45 percent in each of the five areas. • Have a SAT score with a minimum of 800 combined or a minimum EL of 110 on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. • Agree to reenlist/extend to have 3 years obligated service upon assignment to BOOST. • Be a US citizen. • Be eligible to receive a SECRET clearance. • Be medically qualified.
Application	The USMC solicits applications through MCO 1560.24D and annual Marine Corps bulletins.

Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) (Continued)

Preparatory School	Based on academic evaluations, Marines selected for BOOST attend a 3-, 6-, or 9-month preparatory school.
BOOST Completion	Upon completion of the BOOST program, Marines are assigned to another commissioning program.

Marine Options Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC)

Purpose	The purpose of the Marine Option Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Program is to educate and train highly qualified young men and women for careers as commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps.
Eligibility	To apply, candidates must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be US citizens. • Not have reached their 27th birthday by June 30 of the year in which college graduation and commissioning is anticipated. (Applicants who have prior active duty military service may be eligible for age adjustments for the amount of time equal to their prior service on a month-for-month basis, for a maximum of 36 months, provided they do not reach their 30th birthday by June 30 of the year in which graduation and commissioning are anticipated.) • Be a high school graduate or possess a GED. • Be physically qualified by Navy or Marine Corps standards. • Apply for and gain admission to NROTC colleges. • Achieve a SAT score of 1000 combined or an ACT score of 45 combined.
Application	The Marine Corps conducts two selection boards per year. While attending a university as a scholarship student, active duty Marines who are selected as Marine Option NROTC scholarship recipients are released to the inactive ready reserve (IRR) and do not receive active duty pay and allowances. Midshipmen receive full tuition, books, and a monthly stipend.

Staff Noncommissioned Officer Degree Completion Program (SNCODCP)

Purpose	The SNCODCP provides SNCOs the opportunity to obtain a degree which fulfills Marine Corps requirements and concurrently satisfies personal educational goals. The SNCODCP is based on the need for SNCOs with skills in specific educational disciplines above those associated with normal grade and military occupational specialty (MOS) requirements.
Eligibility	To apply, Marines must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be active duty. • Be staff sergeant through master sergeant. • Have sufficient college credit to obtain a degree within 18 months. • Be accepted to an accredited college. • Have an associates degree or at least 2 years advanced standing towards a baccalaureate degree. • Be accepted in a degree program designed to fill a specific discipline to which the Marine Corps is petitioning. • Be a single major study area with a minimum of 24 semester hours.
Application	The USMC solicits applications per MCO 1560.21D and annual Marine Corps bulletins.
SNCODCP Completion	Upon completion of degree requirements, a new primary or additional MOS is assigned that is commensurate with the participant's field of study. Assignment to the payback tour is made based on the needs of the Marine Corps.

Marine Corps Lifelong Learning Program

Purpose	The Marine Corps Lifelong Learning Program provides personal and professional learning opportunities to the Marine Corps community.
Tuition Assistance	The program is available to all active duty Marines and provides up to 100 percent (not to exceed \$4500 per year) of the cost of any off-duty or voluntary education at accredited colleges and universities. Enlisted Marines incur no additional service obligation; officers incur two additional years obligated service from the completion of the course for which tuition assistance is used.
Defense Activities for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES)	DANTES provides nationally recognized examination and certification programs and facilitates the availability of independent study courses, distance learning programs, external degree programs from civilian educational institutions, and contracts various examination programs.
United States Military Apprenticeship Program	The United States Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) is a formal military training program that provides active duty Marines the opportunity to improve their job skills and to complete their civilian apprenticeship requirements while they are on active duty. The US Department of Labor (DOL) provides the nationally recognized "Certificate of Completion" upon program completion.

Veterans Educational Assistance Benefits

Purpose	Veterans educational assistance benefits provide information on educational benefits available to veterans.
Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)	This program is known as the "Vietnam Era" GI Bill. It applies to service members who entered the service between 1 January 1977 and 30 June 1995 and started contributing before 1 April 1987. VEAP provides 1 to 36 months of benefits depending on contribution and is good for 10 years from date of release from active duty (extensions are available). This program may only be used if the service member is discharged for any reason other than dishonorable.

Veterans Educational Assistance Benefits (Continued)

Montgomery GI Bill	The "modern" GI Bill is for service members who entered active duty after 30 June 1985 and contributed \$1200 during their first year of service. Benefits are available after continuous service of 3 years or entitlements remained from a Vietnam Era GI Bill. The Montgomery GI Bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits and is good for 10 years from date of release from active duty (extensions are available). The service member must have received an honorable discharge and have a high school diploma or GED.
\$600 Buy-up Program	For a \$600 contribution made while on active duty, Marines receive an additional \$5400 in GI Bill benefits. The increased benefit is only payable after leaving active duty.

Summary

This lesson covered both degree seeking opportunities and the education benefits available to Marines. These programs allow officers to instill the lifelong learner concept in subordinates.

References

Reference Number or Author	Reference Title
MCO 1530.11G	Application for Nomination to the US Naval Academy and Naval Academy Preparatory School
MCO 1560.15L MCO1560.21D	Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program Staff Noncommissioned Officer Degree Completion Program
MCO 1560.24D MCO1560.25C MCO 1560.28B	Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training Marine Corps Lifelong Learning Program Veterans Education Assistance Benefits
