

STRATEGIC SEALIFT OFFICER PROGRAM

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MAINE
MARITIME
ACADEMY

STRATEGIC SEALIFT OFFICER PROGRAM

The Strategic Sealift Officer Program (SSOP), formerly the Merchant Marine Reserve (MMR), is an excellent way to serve your country and assist with the financial obligations of a college education.

The SSOP is designed to train and educate highly qualified students to become commissioned officers in the Strategic Sealift Readiness Group (SSRG) component of the U.S. Navy Reserve (USNR).

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM, A STUDENT MUST:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be at least 17 but less than 25 years of age (upon enrollment at MMA).
- Be physically qualified.
- Have a satisfactory record of academic ability and moral integrity.
- Have no moral reservation or personal conviction that prevents the bearing of arms.
- Be enrolled in a Bachelor of Science degree program leading to a U.S. Coast Guard Unlimited License:
 - Marine Engineering Operations
 - Marine Engineering Technology
 - Marine Systems Engineering - License Track
 - Marine Transportation Operations

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR COLLEGE

Students who meet the qualifications may apply for Midshipman status in the SSOP and apply to participate in the U.S. Maritime Administration's Student Incentive Payment (SIP) Program.

If selected, an incentive payment of \$8,000 per academic year is provided for up to a maximum of four years, for a total of \$32,000! Student Incentive Payments of \$4,000 are made each semester to qualified students.

The SIP Program requires students to obtain a Coast Guard Unlimited License and to apply for, and accept if offered, a Reserve officer commission in the U.S. Navy.

A student who receives SIP incurs an obligation to serve as an employee in the maritime or maritime-related industry, and in times of national emergency, to serve as a Naval Officer aboard a U.S.-flagged merchant vessel.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Apply for the SSO program. Applications are on our website: mainemaritime.edu/nrotc/reserve-commission/.
2. Complete a physical examination to verify eligibility (at Department of Defense expense).
3. Students must agree in writing to apply for, and accept if offered, a United States Navy Reserve commission.
4. The medical process may take several months and must be completed in order to be eligible to receive SIP and Commission in the USNR.
5. Continuation in the program is based on sustained, superior performance, to include a minimum GPA of 2.5 each semester.



SSOP AT MMA

FIRST YEAR

1. Participate and successfully complete New Student Orientation.
2. Participate in weekly Naval Science Lab.
3. Participate in physical training.
4. Complete NV-101 Naval Orientation.
5. Pass Navy physical fitness assessment and swim qualification.

SECOND YEAR

1. Participate in weekly Naval Science Lab.
2. Participate in physical training.
3. Pass Navy physical fitness assessment and swim qualification.
4. Complete NV-222 Naval Science for the Strategic Sealift Officer.

THIRD YEAR

1. Complete NV-222 if not already done.
2. Participate in weekly Naval Science Lab.
3. Participate in physical training.
4. Pass Navy physical fitness assessment and swim qualification.

FOURTH YEAR

1. Complete all processing and apply for a commission.
2. Pass the U.S. Coast Guard Unlimited License examination.
3. Complete NV-402 Leadership and Ethics.
4. Participate in weekly Naval Science Lab.
5. Pass Navy physical fitness assessment and swim qualification.
6. Upon graduation, be commissioned as an Ensign, USNR.



MINIMUM OBLIGATION AFTER GRADUATION

- Complete a minimum of two weeks of active duty each year for a total of eight years in a merchant marine related billet, with pay and travel/food reimbursement.
- At least 150 days of sailing employment aboard a U.S. flag vessel using your Coast Guard license for three years.
- Maintain your Coast Guard license for three additional years (first 6 of 8-year obligation).
- Submit annual service obligation compliance reports to MARAD for eight years.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Commanding Officer
NROTC Unit
Maine Maritime Academy
207-326-2352
mmanrotc@mma.edu



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