

Chapter 12
MEDICAL ENLISTED COMMISSIONING PROGRAM (MECP)

1. Reference

(a) OPNAVINST 6110.1E

2. Program Information

a. The Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program (MECP) is a commissioning program specifically intended to provide an advancement pathway to commissioned status in the Nurse Corps, U.S. Naval Reserve, on the active duty list. It is not intended to serve as a precursor to medical school, nor for academic programs leading to certification, or licensure as a physical therapist, physician assistant, or other health care specialty. MECP provides outstanding career-motivated enlisted personnel of all ratings, who have attained previous college credits, the opportunity to complete the requirements for a baccalaureate degree in nursing and ultimately a commission in the Nurse Corps.

b. Selectees for the program will participate in a nationally accredited academic program leading to a baccalaureate degree in nursing. The college or university must be within 50 miles of a naval activity to which the participant will be ordered, for administrative purposes, on a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) basis. The naval activity may be a Naval Reserve Center, Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit, or some other command.

c. MECP students receive full pay and allowances for their enlisted paygrades and are eligible for advancement while in college. The student pays tuition, fees, books and other expenses incurred while participating in MECP. If eligible, students may use the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) or Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) educational benefits, however, students are not eligible for benefits under the Tuition Assistance program.

d. Selectees are required to complete the requirements

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for a baccalaureate degree in not more than 36 consecutive calendar months and attend school on a full-time, year-round basis. Advanced academic standing may be granted at the discretion of the individual school; however, candidates must then complete the degree requirements in a proportionately reduced period of time.

e. Selectees disenrolled from MECP at any time, either for academic or administrative reasons, will be made available and issued PCS orders to a new assignment in their enlisted rating to complete their active duty service obligation.

f. Graduates from MECP are commissioned as Ensign, Nurse Corps, United States Naval Reserve, attend Officer Indoctrination School (OIS), and incur an eight-year service obligation with a minimum of four years served on active duty.

3. Eligibility Requirements. To be eligible to apply for MECP, applicants must meet the following requirements:

a. U.S. citizenship is required and cannot be waived.

b. Age requirement: candidates must be able to complete the baccalaureate nursing degree requirements and be commissioned prior to their 35th birthday.

c. Moral character and conduct. Applicants must be of good moral character and have no courts-martial conviction or civilian felony conviction. Have no record of disciplinary action under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice, or conviction by civil court for misdemeanors (except minor traffic violations) during the three years preceding 1 October of the fiscal year in which the selection board is held. All minor traffic violations must be listed on this application. For the purpose of this sub-paragraph, an offense involving driving under the influence of an intoxicant (DUI/DWI) is a major traffic violation and is disqualifying if within four years preceding 1 October of the fiscal year in which the selection board is held.

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d. Drug Use. A felony conviction or any record of in-service drug abuse, regardless of the date, is disqualifying for MECP. A person who is drug or alcohol dependent, abuses drugs or alcohol, whose pre-service abuse of drugs or alcohol indicates a proclivity to continue abuse in the service or who has a record of trafficking offenses is ineligible for MECP.

e. Active Duty Service. Be serving on active duty as enlisted personnel in any rating of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, Naval Reserve (including the Training and Administration of the Reserve [TAR] Program), and the Marine Corps Reserve (including Active Reserve (AR) Program). Reserves on Active Duty for Special Work or One-Year Recall (ADSW/OYR) and Canvasser Recruiters are not eligible for the program. Must have completed at least three years active service as of 1 October of the fiscal year in which the selection board is held.

f. Performance record. Have a superb performance record as well as strong academic potential.

g. Education and Scholastic Aptitude

(1) Be a high school graduate. High School diplomas or equivalency certificates based upon military educational experience and general equivalency diploma (GED) are acceptable if they are issued by the Department of Education of a State, Commonwealth, or Territory of the United States or the District of Columbia.

(2) Have applied for acceptance or transfer into a baccalaureate degree in nursing program during the fiscal year in which the selection board is held at a United States college or university and its nursing school that is accredited by a nationally recognized nursing accreditation agency.

(3) Be able to complete the requirements for a baccalaureate degree in nursing within 36 consecutive months from the date of enrollment into the MECP. Full-time student status must be maintained throughout the calendar

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year, including fall, winter, spring, and summer sessions. Therefore, acceptance must be to a college or university offering courses, which offers classes applicable to MECP for each of those sessions.

(4) Have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Have completed a minimum of 45 quarter, or 30 semester credit hours in undergraduate courses such as English, mathematics, psychology, sociology, chemistry, biology, anatomy, physiology, nutrition or other courses acceptable for transfer in to the nursing program to which applying. The credit hours may be a combination of traditional classroom courses and College Level Entry Program (CLEP) credit, provided the non-traditional credits are accepted by the school to which the application is made.

(5) Individuals who have already obtained their baccalaureate degree are not eligible for the MECP and should apply directly for Officer Candidate School.

h. Marital status and number of dependents. No restrictions.

i. Physical qualifications. Physically qualified for commissioning in the Staff Corps, of the U.S. Navy as prescribed in the Manual of the Medical Department. The Commander, Navy Personnel Command (COMNAVPERSCOM) upon the recommendation of the Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) may waive minor physical defects, non-organic in nature. The candidate must meet physical fitness and percent body fat standards at the time of application, while in training, and at the time of commissioning. Failure to maintain physical standards will result in immediate disenrollment.

j. Commanding Officer's Recommendation. Recommended by their commanding officer. Applications not favorably recommended should not be forwarded.

k. Waivers. Waivers of eligibility requirements, other than minor physical defects, are normally not granted.

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4. Application Submission Procedures and Deadlines. Application Procedures.

a. Applications are reviewed by selection boards on a competitive basis. They must be complete, concise, and accurate in every detail. Recommendations should be specific and not general in nature. Each applicant's service record should be complete and up-to-date. Each applicant is responsible for ensuring that the forms accompanying the signed application are complete and correct. Incomplete applications will be returned without board action.

b. Applicants must fill out the Officer Programs Application form provided in this manual, and submit it via the commanding officer, to COMNAVPERCOM (PERS-811) postmarked not later than 1 October of the fiscal year in which the board meets. The personal information requested in the application will be used by board members to identify those candidates who are fully qualified for appointment and are the best candidates. Applications must contain the following:

(1) Officer Programs Application.

(2) Sample Degree Plan, (see item 14), signed by the school of nursing to which the applicant is applying, showing the projected program of study and completion date with the number of transfer credits the school will accept. If already accepted into the program, submit the letter of acceptance with the degree completion plan.

(3) Original academic transcripts for each high school, technical school, college, and university attended. Failure to disclose complete academic transcripts or evidence of tampering in any way will result in disqualification. If the institution will not forward transcripts to the applicant, they may be sent directly to COMNAVPERSCOM (PERS-811), provided they include the applicant's full name and social security number.

(4) Certified and legible copies of Proof of Citizenship. Copy of birth certificate or certified statement signed by an official who has cited the

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naturalization certificate. Waivers of eligibility requirements, other than minor physical defects, are normally not granted.

(a) Enlisted Qualification History. NAVPERS 1070/604, page 4 of the enlisted service record.

(b) History of Assignments. NAVPERS 1070/605, page 5 of the enlisted service record, annotated, if necessary to include all periods of Temporary Duty Under Instruction (TEMDUINS).

(c) Evaluations. Copies of last three years observed Evaluation Report & Counseling (NAVPERS 1616/26) or Fitness Report & Counseling Record (NAVPERS 1610/2).

(d) Medical Examination/History. Two copies each of current Report of Medical Examination (SF 88) and Report of Medical History (SF 93). Physical examinations completed within 18 months prior to 1 October application deadline are acceptable, provided there has been no change in the applicant's health status. The applicant shall ensure that the forms are completed and signed by the attending physician and include results of the most recent drug screening and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) testing, an EKG, complete eye exam, clinical records, and consultation sheets, if applicable.

(e) Statement of age. The following statement must be contained in the application: "My date of birth is _____. Age computed to 1 October of the fiscal year in which selection board is held is _____ years, _____ months, _____ days. My projected date of graduation is _____ (Month and Year) at which time my age will be _____ years, _____ months, _____ days."

b. Commanding Officer. Upon receipt of an application, the applicant's commanding officer shall:

(1) Appoint and convene a board of three officers in the grade of lieutenant or above, to include one or more Nurse Corps officers, when available, to interview and evaluate each applicant. Each board member shall complete an Interviewer's Appraisal Sheet, NAVCRUIT 1100/13

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(Chapter 2). Assessing the applicant's motivation, potential, attitude, and maturity. A letter of recommendation and evaluation by a Nurse Corps officer is highly recommended if a Nurse Corps officer cannot be appointed to the board.

(2) Interview the applicant personally. Complete the Commanding Officer's Recommendation Form (OPNAV 1420/1) provided in the Officer's Program Application. Recommend only those applicants who have demonstrated continued superior performance with the potential and motivation for successfully serving as a Nurse Corps officer and with the academic ability to complete a demanding college curriculum. Applications without command endorsement shall be returned. The commanding officer's endorsement shall contain:

(a) Statement addressing any waivers requested by the applicant.

(b) Statement indicating whether or not the applicant is serving on full duty without limitation.

(c) Statement that the applicant meets physical fitness and percent body fat standards as outlined in reference (a).

(d) A typewritten, signed copy of each board member's Interviewer's Appraisal Sheet as an enclosure.

(3) Ensure that each MECP Program applicant has been counseled as to his or her financial status and the extent of benefits while enrolled in a MECP Program.

(4) Forward applications to:

Commander
Navy Personnel Command, (PERS-811)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-8110

c. Acknowledgment of Receipt of Applications.
COMNAVPERSCOM (PERS-811) will post a list of names of

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applications received on their homepage at www.bupers.navy.mil (Selection Boards/NPC81homepage/In-Service Procurement Branch).

d. Additional Correspondence. Candidates may submit certified copies of additional correspondence (e.g., transfer evaluations, awards/letters of appreciation or commendation, letters of acceptance to a nursing school, transcripts, etc.) to reach COMNAVPERSCOM (PERS-811) no later than 1 November of the fiscal year in which the selection board meets.

e. Change of Address. Applicants must notify the Commander, Navy Personnel Command (PERS-811) in writing of any change in mailing address.

5. Selection. Eligible MECP applicants will be considered by an annual selection board convened by the Chief of Naval Personnel (CHNAVPERS) in December. The board will recommend those applicants best qualified for appointment within authorized quota limitations established by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). The names of those selectees will be published by NAVADMIN.

6. Withdrawal of Application or Recommendation

a. An applicant may withdraw from consideration any time prior to transfer from present duty station. A selectee desiring to withdraw should decline transfer orders and notify the Commander, Navy Personnel Command (PERS-811).

b. Should there be a marked drop in the overall performance of the selectee or violations against the UCMJ prior to the selectee's transfer, the commanding officer shall immediately inform the Commander, Navy Personnel Command (PERS-811) and make a recommendation for the individual's disenrollment from the program.

7. Transfer Policy. Transfer directives/orders will be issued by the Commander, Navy Personnel Command. Commanding officers shall ensure that no person ordered to the MECP is transferred without the required obligated service.

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8. Advancement in Rating. MECP students are eligible for advancement provided requirements for advancement are fulfilled. Students are encouraged to complete all requirements for advancement prior to entering the program.

9. Appointment. Upon successful completion of a baccalaureate degree in nursing (certified by the accredited college/university), the candidate will receive a permanent appointment in the grade of Ensign in the Nurse Corps, U.S. Naval Reserve, per Title 10 U.S. Code 12203 and under the guidance of the current SECNAVINST 1120.6B (NOTAL). No subsequent reversion to an enlisted status is authorized. Commissioned officers must serve the minimum years active commissioned service per Title 10 U.S. Code 6323 to be eligible for retirement. Appointees incur an eight-year obligation upon commissioning, four of which must be served on active duty.

10. Officer Indoctrination School. Appointees must complete Officer Indoctrination School (OIS) and will be assigned to the next available class upon successful completion of the baccalaureate degree in nursing and commissioning.

11. Licensure

a. Nurse Corps officers must obtain and maintain a license to practice as a professional registered nurse from a State, Territory, or the District of Columbia based on the licensing examination (NCLEX-RN) provided by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and administered by one of its member boards of nursing.

b. Appointment as a Nurse Corps officer may occur prior to licensure; however, the NCLEX-RN must be taken at the first available opportunity following graduation from the baccalaureate program.

c. Obtaining and maintaining a license to practice as a professional nurse is an expense incurred by the individual.

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d. Officers who twice fail the licensure examination will be re-appointed in a different competitive category to complete any incurred active duty obligation. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs (M&RA)) may relieve an officer of incurred active duty obligation, considering the comments and recommendations of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower and Personnel), when such action would be in the best interest of the naval service. Officers whose active duty obligation has been waived shall either submit a voluntary resignation or be processed for administrative separation per the current SECNAVINST 1920.6B (NOTAL).

e. Before appointment, applicants will be required to acknowledge in writing that they are aware of licensure requirements.

12. Educational Program Management. The following administrative guidance applies to the educational program management:

a. Any selectee who does not desire to participate in the program must notify COMNAVPERSCOM (PERS-811) with the Naval School of Health Science (NSHS) (Code E) as an information addressee within 15 days of notification of selection.

b. Selectees have until 15 March of the fiscal year in which the selection board was held to submit a letter of acceptance from a U.S. college or university and its nationally accredited nursing school. A final degree completion plan, (see Appendix H), must be submitted with the letter of acceptance showing the approved transfer credits and the expected degree completion date. Acceptance letters must be submitted to:

Commanding Officer
Naval School of Health Sciences, Code OE
8901 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20889-5611

The letter of acceptance must state:

(1) Accreditation status of the nursing program;

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(2) Specific acceptance of the applicant to the school of nursing as well as the college/university in a course of study leading to a baccalaureate degree in nursing;

(3) That the applicant has been accepted for the fall term of the fiscal year in which his/her application was made; and

(4) That the applicant can complete the baccalaureate degree program in nursing in 36 consecutive months or less.

(5) Some schools of nursing will not formally accept a student into their program until certain criteria have been met. If this is the case at the applicant's preferred college/university, then a provisional letter of acceptance is satisfactory. A provisional letter of acceptance must state that the applicant will be accepted to the school of nursing upon satisfactory completion of specific prerequisite courses. A provisional letter must be accompanied by a letter of acceptance from the college/university itself, and the proposed degree completion plan.

c. MECP students will receive PCS orders to begin their studies within five months of receipt by NSHS of their letter of acceptance. Orders will be to a naval activity within 50 miles of the college or university which they will attend. The commanding officer or officer in charge of the naval activity to which ordered will maintain administrative jurisdiction over the candidate during the period of instruction.

d. Prior to detachment from their present command, each MECP student will incur a six-year active service obligation by extending or reenlisting. Selectees are authorized to reenlist more than one year early if they are unable to satisfy the six-year obligated service requirement with an extension of 48 months or less. Payment of the Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) is not authorized for selectees who reenlist for the purpose of meeting the obligated service requirement. If the selectee is entitled

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to an Enlistment Bonus or SRB, the selectee's commanding officer must counsel the selectee individually per Department of Defense Financial Management Regulations (DOD 7000.14-R Volume 7A, July 96) Chapter 9, concerning suspension of entitlement and ensure a page 13 entry is signed acknowledging that the entitlement for a bonus will be reinstated and paid on a pro-rata basis if the member is not commissioned and returns to enlisted status in the same bonus skill rating. Upon execution of an extension, the following entry shall be made on page 1A in the service record: "Reason for extension: Training (MECP). I understand that upon admission to a college/university under this program, this extension becomes binding and may not thereafter be cancelled except as provided in the MILPERSMAN."

e. The MECP students will maintain their enlisted status and be eligible for advancement in rating under the Navy advancement system. Their Armed Forces Identification Card, DD 2N (ACT) will reflect the enlisted paygrade currently held.

f. MECP students may not use Navy-sponsored tuition assistance to pay for their tuition but may use the inservice Veteran's Administration "GI" bill or Veteran's Education Assistance Program (VEAP) if eligible.

g. Applications of selectees will be kept by Naval School of Health Science (NSHS)(Code OE) and become part of the selectee's academic file. Non-selectee applications will not be returned to the applicant.

h. Disenrollment from MECP will be by determination of the Commanding Officer, NSHS; with information copies to BUMED (MED 05, MED00NC), and CNO (N131M5). Reasons for disenrollment may include unsatisfactory academic performance, inability to maintain commissioning physical fitness/body fat standards, or for other reasons of unsuitability. Disenrollees shall be made available for assignment to duty in their current paygrade and rating and shall complete the terms of their enlistment. The periods served at the college/university shall count as shore duty.

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i. MECP students are not required to have an annual physical, but must pass the Physical Readiness Test as required by reference (a). Further, the commanding officer or officer in charge of the unit to which the student is assigned for administrative purposes is responsible for ensuring that each student completes the Risk Factor Screening/ Physical Readiness Test Results (NAPERS 6110/2) for each biannual test cycle.

13. Action

a. Commanding Officer, NSHS will report to COMNAVPERSCOM (PERS-811), twice a year, the names, last four digits of their social security numbers, administrative commands to which assigned, and expected graduation dates of all candidates. For continuity purposes and to facilitate the completion of commissioning documents, a copy of the report will be forwarded to COMNAVPERSCOM (PERS-4415), and the Chief of Naval Operations (N131M5), Commander, Navy Recruiting Command (Code-13), The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, BUMED (MED-52) and BUMED (MED-OONC).

b. Commanding officers, command master chiefs, career counselors, education service officers, and Navy Campus for Achievement advisors will ensure widest issuance of information regarding eligibility requirements for the MECP. Eligible, interested, and qualified personnel should be encouraged to apply for MECP.

c. Inquires concerning Fleet applications should be addressed to:

Commander
Navy Personnel Command (PERS-811)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-8110
(901) 874-3170/DSN 882

d. For the most up to date MECP information, access the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page under "Services" on the BUPERS home page at www.bupers.navy.mil.

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14. Sample Degree Plan

SAMPLE DEGREE PLAN UNDER THE MEDICAL ENLSITED COMMISSIONING PROGRAM (ECP)

NAME (FIRST/MI/LAST)	RATE	SSN
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1. The nursing curriculum at (School's name and address) is designed so that I can complete the program within ____ months.
2. The fall session begins (day-month-year) and the projected date for degree completion is (month-year).
3. The school will accept _____ transfer semester/quarter hours toward degree completion.
4. The following is a projected program of study as outlined by the school:

FALL (YEAR)	SPRING (YEAR)	SUMMER (YEAR)
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COURSE 1
 COURSE 2
 COURSE 3

FALL (YEAR)	SPRING (YEAR)	SUMMER (YEAR)
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COURSE 1
 COURSE 2
 COURSE 3

(List classes and units of credit for each session as outlined by the school specifically for the individual applicant's projected degree completion plan.)

(Signature of nursing school agent)	(Signature of student)
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