

# Holy Cross

## NROTC Frequently Asked Questions

### What does the program entail?

- Comprehensive Four-Year Program blending liberal arts education with military leadership training.
- Courses taught by active-duty officers in leadership, ethics, navigation, and warfare.
- Physical training (PT) and summer cruises providing hands-on experience in Navy and Marine Corps operations.
- Marine Corps Officer Candidates School (OCS) and specialized training opportunities available to selected midshipmen.
- Distinguished guest speakers, including admirals, SEALs, and Medal of Honor recipients, offering real-world insight and mentorship.

### How do I join the program?

Students may apply for the NROTC scholarship as early as the spring of their junior year in high school. Applicants must use the online application to complete and submit all the required information in order to apply for the NROTC scholarship. This online application is extensive and may require several hours to complete. You are able to start the application and save your progress as you complete each section.

The scholarships are managed nationally by the Naval Service Training Command.

- Go to <https://www.netc.navy.mil/NSTC/NROTC/> to start the application process.

If you plan to list Holy Cross, WPI, WSU, or Brown as one of your scholarship institutions, or if you have already received the scholarship and are applying to one of our four institutions, call (508) 793-2433 or email [nrotc@holycross.edu](mailto:nrotc@holycross.edu) to speak with a member of our staff today.

Please email [nrotc@holycross.edu](mailto:nrotc@holycross.edu) or directly to one of our staff to schedule an NROTC interview for your scholarship application.

### What is the College Program option?

Our unit proudly includes crosstown students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester State University (WSU) and Brown University with our headquarters at the College of the Holy Cross. Any student enrolled at one of our four institutions can still apply for two- or three-year scholarship directly through the Holy Cross NROTC unit.

After completion of at least one semester in the College Program, students who have achieved a GPA of 2.5 or higher, passed one semester of calculus with a grade of “C” or better, and performed well in the battalion may be recommended by the NROTC Commanding Officer for a Naval Service Training Command Controlled Scholarship. These scholarship includes all the same financial benefits as a full scholarship student for either the two or three years remaining at the college or university.

Additionally, College Program students not selected for a scholarship by the beginning of their junior year can still be selected for “Advanced Standing.” Selection for advanced standing is competitive and centrally but still allows a path towards commissioning. It also provides military uniforms and a subsistence allowance of \$350/\$400 per month for juniors/seniors respectively while attending college.

If you are currently enrolled at Holy Cross, WPI, WSU, or Brown and are interested in the College Program option, please email [nrotc@holycross.edu](mailto:nrotc@holycross.edu) or reach out to one of our staff directly.

### **What is the Holy Cross O’Callahan/Brooks NROTC Scholarship?**

The O’Callahan/Brooks NROTC Scholarship is a merit-based award offered by the College of the Holy Cross to current sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are enrolled in NROTC with Advanced Standing but have not do not received a scholarship. Its purpose is to support midshipmen and recognize outstanding achievements and scholarship, specifically assisting College Program midshipmen who are not on a full-tuition Navy scholarship. Recipient(s) are recommended to the Office of Financial Aid by the Department of Naval Science during the fall semester.

### **Are tuition and benefits included?**

Selected students in the Four-Year National Scholarship Program receive full tuition, academic fees, uniforms, a \$750 annual textbook stipend, and a monthly allowance (from \$250 to \$400).

### **What is the Holy Cross NROTC Scholarship Incentive Grant?**

Covers the cost of standard on-campus housing charges each year for national scholarship recipients.

### **What incentives are offered by partner schools?**

Students from WPI, Worcester State University, and Brown University may be eligible for similar benefits through their institutions.

### **What is the service commitment?**

NROTC participants serve five years (Navy) or four years (Marine Corps) as an officer on active duty following commissioning.

### **How does the application process work?**

Start the process before your high school senior year. The NROTC application opens April 1st at the end of your junior year. Go to <https://www.netc.navy.mil/NSTC/NROTC/> to start the application process. If you are also interested in applying to Holy Cross, WPI, WSU, or Brown, please reach out [nrotc@holycross.edu](mailto:nrotc@holycross.edu) or one of our staff directly as we can assist you and answer any questions you may have. The Navy Recruiting Command or Headquarters, Marine Corps will notify you of the results of the scholarship selection board.

If you are already a student at Holy Cross, WPI, WSU, or Brown you can apply for the NROTC College Program. By entering NROTC as a College Program student, you can be selected for a three-year scholarship at the end of your freshman year or a two-year scholarship at the end of your sophomore year.

If you have any questions about the scholarship process, the program, or the Navy as a whole, please reach out to a staff member at the unit or email us at [nrotc@holycross.edu](mailto:nrotc@holycross.edu) and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

### **If I am given an NROTC scholarship, does that guarantee that I will be admitted?**

No. The scholarship selection process is TOTALLY INDEPENDENT of the admission processes at each school. You must seek admission to the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester State or Brown University. Remember that the NROTC scholarship cannot be awarded to you until you have been accepted for admission at an NROTC host school. It is a good idea for NROTC scholarship applicants to apply to more than one NROTC host school to provide options upon scholarship approval.

### **Will my scholarship selection be held up if I have trouble passing the medical exam?**

The scholarship selection process is completely independent of the medical examination. Scholarship selection is based on academic performance, extracurricular activities, and demonstrated leadership potential. You can be selected as a scholarship nominee even before you take the medical exam, but it cannot be awarded to you until you have passed the medical exam. It is up to you to do all you can to complete the medical exam in a timely fashion. If follow-on exams or inputs from your local doctor are required, then you must ensure you meet these requirements. Again the Holy Cross NROTC staff can assist you with any questions you may have about the medical evaluation.

**If I am notified that some physical problem will disqualify me from scholarship eligibility, is there anything I can do?**

That depends on the nature of the problem, but there is a waiver process that the unit can assist you with processing. When in doubt, ask for a medical waiver. These issues should be addressed with Dept of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DoDMERB) and the Naval Schools Training Command (NSTC) medical board. Again, the NROTC unit can assist you with this process, but DO NOT send medical documentation directly to the local unit. Your medical privacy is our #1 concern and properly submitting required paperwork through the DoDMERB process is essential.

**In addition to the medical exam, is there a physical fitness exam required for scholarship selection?**

Marine Option students are required to pass a physical fitness exam to be eligible for scholarship selection. Navy Option students do not take this exam as a prerequisite to selection. Once in the NROTC program, all Midshipmen are required to pass a semi-annual physical fitness assessment, which, for Navy option students, consists of push-ups, a plank, and a 1.5 mile run. All Midshipmen are encouraged to seek excellence in their physical fitness, and to do more than the minimums in their fitness tests. Marine Option students take a slightly different test that consists of pull-ups, sit-ups, and a 3 mile run. For further reading on Navy PFA standards and procedures, [please see the following pdf.](#)

**If I missed the deadline for the National four-year scholarship application, is there any way that I can still obtain an NROTC scholarship?**

Maybe, but not through the previously stated process. Students can become eligible for the award of a scholarship by joining their NROTC unit in the College Program (non-scholarship) status. After one academic term, the student may be recommended for scholarship status to the Naval Schools Training Command (NSTC), who is empowered to award scholarships to promising College Program students. In general, if you can earn better than a 3.0 GPA in your first academic term, achieve a “B” or better in Calculus, and demonstrate a high aptitude for Naval Service, you will have a good chance for a NROTC scholarship. The availability of these “side-load” scholarships is also dependent on the officer production needs of the Navy and NROTC budget.

**Can you offer any hints regarding what the scholarship selection board looks for in making its selections?**

Yes. The NROTC scholarship selection board holistically evaluates students using criteria including College Board scores (SAT, ACT, or ASVAB), grades, class standing, athletics, participation in extracurricular activities, recommendations, the NROTC interview, and perceived potential. We are looking for the future leaders of the Navy and Marine Corps. We want well-rounded students who are intelligent enough to excel in academics, athletic enough to

meet the physical challenges of military service, and who are personable and dynamic enough to assume roles as military leaders. It is not enough to be only bright, or only athletic, or only personable; it takes a combination of the three qualities to be a successful Naval Officer. Officer candidates must also be of high moral character. Students with criminal records or who have gone beyond experimentation with illegal drugs are not likely officer candidates. The NROTC application interview is important. Look sharp and present yourself well. College Board scores can be a positive factor for the student, but only insofar as they are supported by actual academic achievement. A student with high SAT or ACT scores, but mediocre grades and class standing, is less desirable than a student with moderate scores and high grades and standing.