The primary mission of the Department of Naval Science is to provide professional and leadership instruction to students who desire to serve as commissioned officers in the United States Navy or Marine Corps. Participation in the NROTC Program is voluntary, and any student who meets the qualifications is eligible to participate.

The NROTC Program consists of two courses of instruction: the four-year program and the two-year program. Both apply to scholarship and non-scholarship (college program) students.

The four-year program is divided into a two-year basic course and a two-year advanced course. The basic course (NSC 101 Naval Orientation, NSC 102 Sea Power & Maritime Affairs, NSC 201 Naval Ship Systems I, NSC 202 Naval Ship Systems II and accompanying naval laboratory sessions) is normally pursued by NROTC midshipmen during their freshman and sophomore years. While most freshmen begin the basic course during the fall semester, it is possible to enter the program at the beginning of the spring semester. The advanced course (NSC 301 Navigation & Naval Operations I, NSC 302 Navigation & Naval Operations II, NSC 401 Leadership & Management, NSC 402 Leadership & Ethics and accompanying naval laboratory sessions) is normally pursued during the junior and senior years. Students seeking a commission in the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve substitute NSC 310 The Evolution of Warfare, NSC 410 Amphibious Warfare, and two approved elective courses for NSC 301 Navigation & Naval Operations I, NSC 302 Navigation & Naval Operations II, NSC 401 Leadership & Management, and NSC 402 Leadership & Ethics.

Scholarship recipients supplement classroom instruction with at-sea training the summer between their junior and senior years. Similarly, Marine Corps option students attend the six-week Marine Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia, the summer between their junior and senior years.

The two-year NROTC Program (when offered) is extended to students who do not participate in NROTC during their freshman and sophomore years and who meet the program requirements. Applications to join must be submitted early in the spring semester of the sophomore year. For students accepted into this program, a six-week summer training period at the Naval Science Institute (NSI) in Newport, Rhode Island, following their sophomore year, replaces the Basic course segment of the four-year program. Students successfully completing summer training enroll in the Advanced course for their junior and senior years.

Requirements for Formal Enrollment in NROTC

1. Be a citizen of the United States.
2. Be physically qualified under standards prescribed by the Department of the Navy.
3. Be accepted by the University as a full-time enrolled student or enrolled at Tidewater Community College.
4. Be at least 17 years of age and not have reached 27 years of age by 30 June of the year you graduate. (Scholarship)
5. Be at least 17 years of age and not have reached 27 years of age by 30 June of the year you graduate. (College Program)
6. Possess a satisfactory record of moral integrity, maintain high standards of performance in academic and extracurricular activities, and manifest potential officer characteristics.
7. Have no moral obligation or personal convictions that prevent you from conscientiously bearing arms and supporting and defending the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Participation Requirements

Students enrolling in the Basic course of instruction during their freshman year incur no military obligation. Those in the Advanced course must agree to serve a specific active duty period.

All College Program students may compete for three and two-year NROTC scholarships. NROTC scholarships pay for tuition, books, laboratory fees, and other required fees, except room and board. Additionally, scholarship students receive a monthly stipend of $250-$400 (tax free). For specific information and requirements, contact the Department of Naval Science (sdmckenzie@nsu.edu).

Advanced course students in the College Program (non-scholarship) are entitled to subsistence pay at the rate of $350 JR and $400 SR per month for each month of the school year, not to exceed 20 months maximum. While engaged in summer cruise training, all students receive one half of the basic pay of an Ensign.

Naval Science Programs

- Naval Reserve Officers Training Corp (NROTC) (https://catalog.nsu.edu/undergraduate/science-engineering-technology/naval-science/nrotc/)