



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
DEPARTMENT OF NAVAL SCIENCE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY MARITIME ACADEMY  
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12 Mar 2021

Consider The Strategic Sealift Officer Program (SSOP) at Cal Maritime

One of the unique opportunities available to students attending Cal Maritime is the chance to subsidize the cost of tuition, uniforms, books, and living expenses up to \$32,000 in exchange for committing service part time to the United States Navy Reserve through the Strategic Sealift Officer Program (SSOP). The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to this program.

The SSOP builds and strengthens the bond between the U.S. Navy and the civilian, U.S. flagged vessels and crew also known as the Merchant Marine. As licensed merchant mariners in their civilian careers, Strategic Sealift Officers serve two weeks per year on active duty as an essential link between commercial and naval vessel operations. Missions can range from providing secure communications as a Tactical Advisor on a merchant ship, to providing engineering expertise during the build and repair of some of the world's most technically advanced naval vessels.

The SSOP at Cal Maritime is proud to be a part of this effort. Students pursuing a Coast Guard license degree track (required for those majoring in marine transportation and marine engineering technology, but optional for those majoring in mechanical engineering) may apply to participate in the SSOP, a unique program focused on training college students in the disciplines of leadership, physical fitness, and military sciences as a Navy Midshipman. Upon graduation and completion of the program, Midshipmen receive a commission as a Naval Officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve (allowing for concurrent civilian employment). Opportunities are also available to pursue a commission as a Naval Officer on Active Duty.

Eligible students can receive an appointment as a Midshipman, and those actively participating in the program may apply for a stipend of \$32,000 over four years as part of the Student Incentive Pay (SIP) program.

Interested freshmen and transfer students (with fewer than 75 semester units) apply for acceptance into the SSOP through a competitive selection process looking at medical qualification, physical aptitude, and academic aptitude. Medical qualification is determined through the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB) as well as the Coast Guard physical required for license track students (students are encouraged to complete both prior to arrival on campus). Physical aptitude will be assessed with a Body Composition Assessment and Navy Physical Readiness Test (planks, push-ups, 1.5 mile run) administered at the beginning of the fall semester.

The purpose of the unit is to develop Navy Midshipmen "morally, mentally, and physically" in order to commission successful Naval Officers. Enrollment in the program includes three required Naval Science classes as well as ongoing physical fitness training and leadership development. Should you choose to join the SSOP, be prepared to work hard and adhere to the Navy's Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

Please visit the SSOP webpage at <https://www.csum.edu/academics/military-options/ssop/index.html> for more information on academic requirements, physical fitness requirements, age requirements, service obligations, or SIP. If you wish to ask questions about the program, feel free to contact the Naval Science Department at [wbrickham@csum.edu](mailto:wbrickham@csum.edu) or [avasquez@csum.edu](mailto:avasquez@csum.edu).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Curtis Allen', written in a cursive style.

CURTIS ALLEN

LT USN

Officer in Charge