



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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Voluntary Education Programs

"Navy leadership is committed to providing opportunities and financial assistance to Sailors as they pursue their educational goals. Our highest priority is to reward Sailors who are responsible, plan ahead and who are good financial stewards of Navy education funds."

– Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, Chief of Naval Personnel

Voluntary education benefits are available to Sailors in many different forms, including Tuition Assistance, Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE), [Advanced Education Vouchers](#) and [Graduate Education Vouchers](#). There are also many resources to assist Sailors in making smart decisions when it comes to voluntary education to include Navy College Offices and the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support ([DANTES](#)).

Tuition Assistance

- NAVADMIN [105/10](#) was recently released and revises Tuition Assistance (TA) policies to continue to reward top performance and maximize use of TA funding.
- Policy changes include the requirement for Sailors to have an education plan before enrolling in any TA-funded course. Sailors should work with their local Navy College Office to develop their education plan. Funding will only be authorized for courses listed in the approved education plan. These plans will express courses in semester or quarter hours and identify the path to an associate, bachelor's or master's degree.
- There are many voluntary education options available to Sailors. All programs should be considered in order to take full advantage of opportunities which best meet a Sailor's personal and professional needs.
- To allow greater flexibility for TA applicants, applications may now be completed electronically by visiting the [Navy College Program website](#).

Navy College Office

- Navy College Offices form a network of professional education services specialists, education technicians and guidance counselors located at installations around the world. These professionals counsel and advise Navy members on all matters relating to academic programs, authorize TA, and administer all on-base education programs.
- Each major shore installation has a Navy College Office which forms the backbone of the Navy College Program organization.
- Navy College Offices offer information on how to earn a college degree; improve math, reading and English skills; work on a technical or occupational certificate; or obtain a high school diploma.

Navy College Program for Afloat College Education

- [NCPACE](#) provides Sailors with a tuition-free, Department of Defense-accredited education. Sailors are able to continue their personal and professional growth while on sea duty assignments by taking courses to improve academic skills and complete college (undergraduate and graduate) requirements.

Key Messages

- Voluntary education is a key component of the personal and professional growth of Navy Sailors.
- Sailors should consult their Navy College Office as an important first step toward earning a degree.
- In addition to TA, there are many other voluntary education programs available to today's Sailor.

Facts & Figures

- Fiscal year 2009 TA participants: 53,543
- Fiscal year 2009 NCPACE participants: 14,997
- Fiscal year 2009 TA budget: \$96.3 million
- Fiscal year 2010 TA budget: \$83.7 million
- There are 49 Navy College Offices around the world to meet the voluntary education needs of Sailors.