CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS
Frequently Asked Questions
- On Applying -

1. I am interested in employment with the Navy as a civilian. How do I apply?

    a. There are far more civilian employees in Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) than military employees! With or without a uniform, we are all members of the Navy-Marine Corps team in NAVFAC. [Follow this link for more information about civilian engineering careers with NAVFAC.](#)

2. Am I eligible for the Navy Civil Engineer Corps (CEC)?

    a. Candidates for the CEC must be U.S. citizens between 19-36 years old who are enrolled in or graduated from an ABET-EAC engineering or NAAB architecture degree program with above a cumulative 2.7 GPA. You must score 45 or better on the Officer Aptitude Rating (OAR) exam which is administered at Navy Officer Recruiting Stations.

3. I am not a U.S. citizen. Can I still qualify?

    a. Candidates MUST be U.S. citizens to apply for the CEC – no exceptions. A candidate with dual citizenship can still apply for the CEC (assuming one of those citizenships is U.S.).

4. How do I know if my degree is accredited by ABET-EAC or NAAB?

    a. The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) provides assurance that a university program meets the quality standards of the profession. The Civil Engineer Corps only accepts degrees accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC). Engineering Technology Accreditation

Commission (ETAC) degrees are not accepted. [Follow this link to verify if your degree is accredited by ABET-EAC.](#)

b. The National Architectural Accrediting Board is the agency authorized to accredit professional degree programs in architecture offered by institutions with U.S. regional accreditation. There are 172 NAAB-accredited programs offered by 136 institutions of higher learning in the U.S. and abroad. [Follow this link to verify if your degree is accredited by NAAB.](#)

c. Candidates without a qualifying degree or a 2.7 GPA MUST have a professional certification (EIT, PE, or RA) AND significant professional experience in a relevant field (e.g. civil service, military service, engineering, architecture, construction, project management) before preparing an education waiver request. Education waiver requests are rarely granted. Refer to the CEC Program Authorization (PA 104). Contact your recruiter and CEC accessions officer.

5. Do degrees like Construction Management, Engineering Physics, or Engineering Technology qualify?

a. No. Refer to the CEC Program Authorization (PA 104)

6. I am over 36 years old. Can I still qualify?

a. Candidates who are under 42 years old with an exceptional record of prior military service may qualify for an age limit exemption without a waiver. Refer to the CEC Program Authorization (PA 104). Contact your recruiter and CEC accessions officer.

b. Candidates who will be over 36 by the time of commissioning may prepare an age waiver request in accordance with the CEC Program Authorization (PA 104). Waiver requests are rarely granted. Historically, age waivers have been granted to candidates with an outstanding physical fitness regimen, a professional certification (EIT, PE, RA), AND significant professional experience in a relevant field (e.g. civil service, military service, engineering, architecture, construction, project management). Contact your recruiter and CEC accessions officer.

7. I meet the requirements, I am enrolled in a qualifying degree program, and I will graduate within two years. Can I apply for the CEC Collegiate Program (CECP)?

    a. If you have only A's and B's in science, technology, engineering, and math classes, you may be eligible for up to 24 months in the CECP. You may apply up to 27 months before graduation. Provide unofficial transcripts to a CEC accessions officer to validate eligibility.

    b. If you have one or more C's in ANY science, technology, engineering, or math classes, you may be eligible for up to 18 months in the CECP. You may apply up to 21 months prior to graduation. Provide unofficial transcripts to a CEC accessions officer to validate eligibility.

    c. If you are an active duty service member applying to the CECP, refer to question 12.

    d. All CECP applicants must submit AFQT (ASVAB) scores with their application. The scores do not have an expiration date; active duty service members may submit scores from their initial enlistment. Collegiate officer candidates who fail to comply with the program requirements or fail to complete OCS may incur an enlisted service obligation – hence the program requirement for AFQT scores. Refer to the CEC Program Authorization (PA 104) for all other requirements.

8. What are the ideal traits of CEC candidates?

    a. Ideal applicants have great grades, executive leadership roles in student organizations or professional societies (e.g. ASCE, IEEE, SAME, etc.), have a professional certification (EIT, PE, RA) or are on track to attain one, have volunteer habits and community involvement, relevant work experience (internships, part-time or full-time jobs in engineering, architecture, construction, project management), are physically fit and/or participate in competitive athletics, have strong interview skills, strong organizational and writing skills, and have three great reference letters from supervisors or professors.

9. How do I schedule an interview with a CEC accessions officer?

    a. If you are an active duty service member, refer to questions 11-14. You may introduce yourself to an accessions officer via email. Include your age, your city of residence, a summary of your work history (i.e. resume), your college transcripts (unofficial), proof of enrollment/degree from a qualifying program, and your intended or actual graduation month/year. Fleet candidates will prepare an application package with assistance from your career counselor, your chain of command, and a CEC accessions officer. Refer to OPNAVINST 1420.1B and the CEC Program Authorization (PA 104) for more detail on application requirements.

    b. If you are a civilian college student or graduate, prior service member, or a military reservist, you are advised to make an initial appointment with your local Navy Officer Recruiting Station where you will talk to an officer recruiter. After an initial eligibility screening, the recruiter may introduce you to a CEC accessions officer.

10. Can I contact a CEC accessions officer with questions that my recruiter or chain of command are uncertain of?

    a. Yes! But first, review the [CEC Accessions Program Homepage](#). The PDFs on the homepage are very useful for helping prospective applicants frame CEC-specific questions that an accessions officer will be more than happy to answer. Follow the link tree from Careers > Students & Grads > CEC Accessions Program for additional guidance to prospective applicants about eligibility and application instructions. CEC accessions officers are a resource for questions about what life in the CEC is like, but recruiters and your chain of command are the first and best resources for general application questions.

11. I am an enlisted service member under 36 years old (refer to question 6), I already have a qualifying degree (refer to question 4), and I plan to apply for direct accession into the CEC. Where do I begin?

    a. Refer to the CEC Program Authorization (PA 104) and OPNAVINST 1420.1B. Work with your chain of command to complete the Fleet Officer (OCS) Application Checklist. Schedule an OAR exam with a local Navy Officer Recruiter. Identify three (3) officers, Navy CEC or otherwise, to interview and write appraisals for you using NAVCRUIT 1131/5. A CEC accessions officer will provide one of the interview appraisals (refer to question 9). It is recommend that you choose officers in your own chain to provide the other appraisals. Provide three (3) reference letters using DD Form 370, ideally from prior supervisors, senior officers, or senior enlisted. Your application must include command endorsement and a GPA calculation worksheet.

    b. HM, Nuclear, and USNR sailors must submit proof of conditional release from BUPERS.

    c. Inform your detailer of your intention to apply for OCS or within 90 days of current PRD to obtain PRD adjustment.

    d. Refer to the CEC Program Authorization (PA 104) for specific instructions to Navy Reserve personnel and enlisted personnel of other branches of the armed services (Active or Reserve).

    e. A CEC accessions officer will review your application for completeness prior to submission. Refer to question 8 for considerations that make for competitive applications. You may submit the application in accordance with the instructions on the Fleet Officer (OCS) Application Checklist.

    f. Board results may be released to BOL 2 - 10 weeks after the convening of the board.

12. I am an enlisted service member under 36 years old (refer to question 6), I am enrolled in a qualifying degree program (refer to question 4), and I plan to apply for the CEC Collegiate Program (refer to question 7). Where do I begin?

a. Refer to the CEC Program Authorization (PA 104) and OPNAVINST 1420.1B. Work with a Navy Officer Recruiter AND your chain of command to complete the Fleet Officer (OCS) Application Checklist. Refer to question 11. Additionally, you must provide an Academic Degree Completion Plan (NAVCRUIT 1131/4).

b. A CEC accessions officer will review your application for completeness prior to submission. A Navy Officer Recruiter may submit the application on your behalf.

13. I am an enlisted service member under 36 years old (refer to question 6), and I intend to transfer to a qualifying degree program (refer to question 4) so that I may apply for the CEC Collegiate Program (refer to question 7). What should I consider?

a. Refer to questions 11 and 12. If you are on sea duty, it may be challenging to coordinate in-person class schedules with exercises and deployments. Consider applying to a qualifying program with an online option. Some institutions offer engineering programs that can go online or in-person. If you are enrolled in classes at an in-person institution and you are deployed or receive new PCS orders before being accepted into the CECP, you may be unable to continue your coursework. If you are selected for the CECP, you can easily transition from part-time, online classes to full-time, in-person classes without changing institutions.

14. If I am selected for CEC direct accession or the CECP as an enlisted service member, what happens next?

a. Commander, Navy Recruiting Command will coordinate with your chain of command to determine your OCS start date (direct accession) or your date of transfer to a Navy Talent Acquisition Group to begin full-time student status (CECP). Your conditional release must be approved before assuming status as an officer candidate in the CECP. Active duty members retain their current paygrade upon starting in the CECP. Reservists assume the paygrade of E-3 upon starting the CECP.