



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST  
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY  
589 MCNAIR ROAD  
ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21402-1300

February 3, 2023

Dear Prospective Midshipman of the Class of 2027,

Welcome Aboard! On behalf of the faculty at the Naval Academy congratulations on being selected to attend one of the premier institutions of higher education in the United States. We are pleased that you have chosen the Naval Academy and believe that you will find your academic experience here to be challenging and rewarding.

Several important academic events have been scheduled during Plebe Summer. The purpose of these academic events is to place you in courses most appropriate to your academic background, determine if credit should be awarded for college-level work done elsewhere ("validation"), and prepare you for the Naval Academy's academic program. However, even prior to Induction Day, we must collect information from you about your academic background so that we are prepared to best help you with your academic future.

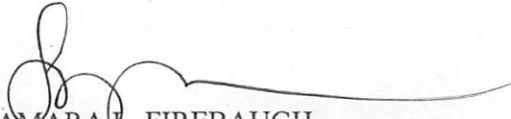
Before you arrive, you must log into the "Academic Background System (ABS)", described in the attachment with this letter, to complete several questionnaires and also some mathematics skills assessments (exams). You may exit and return to ABS to update or complete your responses to the questionnaires, and you may also take breaks between different portions of the exams. Completion of the questionnaires, and the exams is required prior to arrival at the Naval Academy. Typically, the questionnaires take about an hour to complete, and the exams may take about two hours to complete. As indicated in ABS, if you have taken or will take AP or IB examinations (any subject), ensure your results are sent to the Naval Academy.

The exams contained in ABS allow us to place you in an appropriate mathematics course upon your arrival and/or possibly give you validation credit for some courses. Be sure to follow the directions. It is very important that your performance on these tests reflects your current knowledge and abilities. It is therefore in your best interest that your work is entirely yours-unaided by anyone or anything in order to place you most appropriately.

Immediately after Induction Day, you will begin a sequence of additional placement and validation tests in Chemistry, English, and Physics. The particular tests that you take will depend on information you enter in the ABS questionnaires. In some cases, taking a test will be optional in other cases, the test will be required. Please be prepared for these tests. In most cases, they will be your only opportunity to validate certain courses. As you will learn, it is advantageous for you to gain validation credit for courses at the Naval Academy since validations increase the choices and special opportunities available to you.

During Plebe Summer, you will also be assigned an Academic Adviser who will meet with you to help with your academic orientation, ensure your fall semester class schedule is set appropriately, and discuss many of your future academic options. Your adviser will also be available to answer any questions you may have then or throughout the year.

Congratulations once again. We look forward to your arrival at the Naval Academy!

  
SAMARA L. FIREBAUGH  
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs