MIT Naval Construction and Engineering (Course 2N) Admission Information

There are three key milestones on the path to the Naval Construction and Engineering (Course 2N) program at MIT: acceptance into the EDO Community (for USN officers,) gaining acceptance to the Mechanical Engineering Department (Course 2) at MIT, and securing one of nine 2N billets available each year (for USN officers.)

The curriculum is geared towards U.S. and foreign naval and Coast Guard officers but is open to anyone. The curriculum requirements for U.S. Navy Engineering Duty Officers far exceed the MIT degree requirements.

USN officers may apply to MIT prior to becoming an ED, but will not get orders to MIT until a lateral transfer occurs or ED option is exercised. The MIT application deadline is usually in early December and the November lateral transfer board results are usually released in late December or early January. Notification of admission and subsequent detailing to MIT will occur in early February. The 2N program begins in late May, so your PRD may have to be adjusted for a May arrival.

The application to the Mechanical Engineering Department at MIT is completed online. The application usually is available by September 15th and must be completed by early December (it varies year to year—usually either the 1st or 15th of the month—be sure you know which it is.) Paper applications are not accepted. Useful application links:

ME Graduate Admission Home:

http://meche.mit.edu/academic/graduate/applying/

Mechanical Engineering Department Admissions instructions:

https://www.applyweb.com/apply/mitg/mechinst.html

A list of application best practices and pitfalls is attached at the end. The best practices are not minimum criteria and are provided to help you maximize your chance at admission. The pitfalls are not disqualifiers but are to be avoided if possible. Remember if you don’t apply you absolutely will not be admitted! If you are interested in coming then you must apply! Give it your best shot. Be sure to leave yourself time to prepare for the GRE and retake it if needed. If you want some feedback prior to applying, send your undergraduate school/degree/GPA and GRE scores to the 2N Academic Officer.

Once the MIT admission and Navy lateral transfer results are out, the ED accessions detailer (PERS 445D) will fill the 9 USN billets available each year. Admission to MIT does not guarantee a billet assignment.

Now the "big picture.” The primary purpose for coming to MIT is to study Naval Construction and Engineering (i.e. naval architecture and ship design). The program is designed to grow U.S. and foreign navy technical leaders, particularly in the areas of ship and submarine design, engineering, acquisition, construction, maintenance, modernization, and repair. The 2N curriculum is platform focused (including HM&E systems and mission systems integration) and is built to satisfy the U.S. Navy's 510X subspecialty code (Naval Architecture). If your professional interests lie elsewhere, then the Naval Postgraduate School has many more ED approved curricula and subspecialty codes available. The program takes 3 full years and results in a Naval Engineer degree, plus a Master of Science in a compatible field such as ME, EE, etc. In certain cases, ED's will leave at the 2-year point with a Master of Science in Naval Architecture.
and Marine Engineering (i.e., senior O-4s or submarine ED options). Check out the 2N website at http://web.mit.edu/2n for more info.

**MIT 2N Application Best Practices (i.e., the “ideal” application)**

Undergraduate GPA in engineering 3.75 or better (out of 4.0)

GRE Quantitative/Verbal/Analytical percent rank 90/80/75 and above

TOEFL of 105 or better (for non-native English speakers only).

Three concise, well-written and current recommendation letters from academics (and/or MIT graduates) that explicitly rank you higher than most of your peers and comment on your ability to conduct research and succeed at MIT. Specific comments on undergraduate or other research projects you have completed.

Concise, well-written personal statement that stands out by providing a detailed and specific account of an event/project that gives the reader insight into (some or all of) the applicant’s 1) ability to succeed academically 2) research interests 3) personal motivations and 4) other broadening factors (community service, foreign travel/study, internships)

Complete application including letters of reference and GRE scores submitted by deadline.

Communication with 2N Academic Officer well prior to application deadline (to ensure your application is complete and routed through the MIT admissions process smoothly and correctly)

**MIT 2N Application Practices to Avoid (not disqualifiers)**

Multiple letters of recommendation from Navy supervisors who are not MIT alums.

Non-current references (“Although I haven’t had any contact with Frank since he graduated ten years ago, I remember him and he’s a great guy...”)

Irrelevant references (“I was Ralph’s fencing instructor and he got an A...”).

Irrelevant statements in reference letters (“Sue is a very warm and friendly person...”).

Hand-written letters of reference.

Remember, you don’t necessarily have to submit a letter just because someone wrote it for you. Some letters may have a neutral or negative effect on your application.

Application submitted by the deadline without GRE scores or reference letters (awaiting results.)

Personal statement includes, “All my life I have always wanted to...”
Personal statement includes lots of explanation of things that mostly all naval officer 2N applicants have in common (nuclear power school, officer of the deck responsibility, lead a division of sailors, time in a shipyard in an availability, etc.)

Personal statement points out everything that is wrong with current navy ships/policies and indicates that the applicant will fix them once they have graduated from MIT.

Personal statement does not include motivation for pursuing a course of study in naval architecture and marine engineering.

Typos, misspellings, poor grammar. Have someone else read your statement. If English is not your primary language, have a native English speaker read it.