

USNA AND NAPS APPLICANT STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING  
REGARDING BODY ALTERATIONS

1. U.S. Naval Academy policy regarding body alterations is as follows:

a. **Tattoos and Body Art.** Four criteria will be used to determine whether tattoos/body art/brands are permitted for Midshipmen and M/C: content, location, size, and cosmetic. Failure to comply with established acceptable tattoo criteria as stated, is a violation of midshipmen regulations and may subject a Midshipman or M/C to disciplinary action to include involuntary separation.

(1) **Content.** Tattoos located anywhere on the body that are prejudicial to good order, discipline, morale or are of a nature to bring discredit upon the naval service are prohibited. For example, tattoos that are obscene, sexually explicit, or advocate discrimination based on sex, race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin are prohibited. In addition, tattoos that symbolize affiliation with gangs, supremacist or extremist groups, or advocate illegal drug use are prohibited. Waivers will not be granted for tattoos with prohibited content.

(2) **Location.** No tattoos are permitted on the head, face (to include ear), neck, and scalp. Permissible tattoos on the torso area of the body shall not be visible through white uniform clothing. Chest tattoos will not be visible when v-neck undergarments are worn underneath any uniform.

(3) **Size.** Leg and arm tattoos can be of any size..

(4) **Cosmetic Tattoos.** Cosmetic tattoos are authorized to correct medical conditions requiring such treatment. For purposes of this regulation, cosmetic tattooing refers to medical or surgical procedures conducted by a licensed, qualified medical professional.

b. **Mutilation.** Intentional mutilation of any part of the body is prohibited. Mutilation is defined as the intentional, radical alteration of the body, head, face, or skin for the purpose of, or resulting in, an abnormal appearance. Examples include, but are not limited to:

(1) Split, forked, or pierced tongue;

(2) Pierced nose, lip, eyebrow, or other areas of the face or body;

(3) Foreign objects affixed to or inserted under the skin to create a design or pattern;

(4) Enlarged or stretched holes in ears (other than normal piercing);

(5) Intentional scarring on neck, face, scalp; or

(6) Intentional burns creating a design or pattern



5. I understand and agree that any required body alteration removal must be completed no later than the start of my third academic year at the U.S. Naval Academy and removal treatment must begin no later than January of my Plebe year or January of my year at NAPS.

6. I enter into this agreement voluntarily, of my own free will. I may void this agreement at any time by withdrawal of my application to the U.S. Naval Academy.

7. I understand the policies stated above, and I agree to not receive any body alteration without prior permission after the signing of this statement or while at the U.S. Naval Academy or the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School. I understand that violating these body alteration policies or application requirements may result in disqualification from consideration for an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy or the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature, Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Appointee Signature, Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

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