

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

c. Dental Ornamentation. The use of gold, platinum, or other veneers or caps for purposes of dental ornamentation is prohibited. For purposes of this regulation, ornamentation is defined as decorative veneers or caps. Teeth, whether natural, capped, or veneered, will not be ornamented with designs, jewels, initials, etc.

2. All applicants offered an appointment for admission shall complete the following statement: I DO/DO NOT (circle one) HAVE ONE OR MORE BODY ALTERATIONS. I AM/AM NOT (circle one) A PRIOR ENLISTED SERVICE MEMBER. (If the applicant is a prior enlisted Service Member, did you obtain the body alteration while on active duty? ___ Yes ___ No.) Thoroughly describe any alterations below. The written description shall accurately describe the type, nature, location, and size of the body alteration and translate any foreign language or symbology contained in the alteration, as applicable.

3. Each appointee shall also attach a photograph of any body alteration to this form and submit both with their Certificate of Acceptance of their offer for appointment. For the sake of modesty and privacy, only close-up photographs of alterations normally covered by a regulation swimsuit shall be submitted for review. Prior enlisted service members with pre-existing waivers shall also attach a signed copy of the waiver to this form.

4. By signing below, I acknowledge that, as a condition of admission to the U.S. Naval Academy or the U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS), I voluntarily agree to undergo all body alteration treatment or removal required by the U.S. Naval Academy Body Alteration Review Board for alterations that do not comply with U.S. Naval Academy policy at my own expense. I understand that military treatment facilities may not be able to provide treatment or removal services and I may have to use a civilian facility at my own expense.

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

AGENCY DISCLOSURE NOTICE: The public reporting burden for this collection of information, 0703-0036, is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.