

## COMMON NOAA CORPS APPLICANT MEDICAL DISQUALIFICATIONS

The following are some common medical disqualifications found during the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) medical exam for NOAA Corps applicants. **THIS LIST IS NOT ALL INCLUSIVE**, but rather reflects the conditions that most commonly arise. The only way to determine medical fitness (qualification) is to apply to the NOAA Corps and begin the medical evaluation process. Medical Affairs cannot make medical assessments over the phone or via email. Preferred method of contact for NOAA Corps Medical Affairs is email at [noaacorps.medical@noaa.gov](mailto:noaacorps.medical@noaa.gov).

**ALLERGIES:** History of anaphylaxis or severe, life threatening allergic reactions to stinging insects, food or food additives. Any allergic condition that requires use of emergency medication interventions (Epinephrine).

**COLOR VISION:** Color perception deficiency, either complete or partial.

**DENTAL:** Current orthodontic appliances, traditional braces or clear alignment devices (Invisalign®) for continued treatment are disqualifying. Retainer appliances are acceptable once all orthodontic care is complete. History of symptomatic Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) disorder requiring treatment within the past 12 months.

**EARS and HEARING:** Moderate hearing loss in the 500 to 4000 Hz frequencies. Current or history of use of hearing aids. Abnormalities of the external ear requiring recurrent evaluation/treatment that would interfere with proper wearing/use of equipment.

**ENDOCRINE SYSTEM and METABOLISM:** **Current thyroiditis.** History of diabetes or nutritional deficiency disorders. History of thyroid disorders may not be disqualifying with medical documentation of thyroid control.

**EXTREMITIES:** Any defect or disorder of the extremities (including movement and range of motion) that produces noticeable deformity or interferes with normal daily function. Chronic knee pain syndrome including, but not limited to patella-femoral syndrome. Symptomatic pes planus (flat-footed) or use of prescribed orthotics. Knee ligament repair (ACL/PCL) within 12 months or recurrent repair of ligaments of the knee or meniscus repair within the last 6 months.

**EYES and VISION:** Uncorrected visual acuity worse than 20/400 in either eye. Distant visual acuity of any degree that does not correct to 20/40 in both eyes with corrective lenses. Refractive error corrected by orthokeratology, kerato-refractive, PRK, laser or any other corneal enhancement have numerous criteria to meet in order to be qualified.

Additional **Aviation** Specific Requirements: uncorrected distance vision of 20/50 for each eye and uncorrected near vision of 20/20 of each eye. A cycloplegic exam is required for all applicants. Aviation specific medical information contact [noaacorps.aviationmedical@noaa.gov](mailto:noaacorps.aviationmedical@noaa.gov).

**GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:** Kidney disorders, some instances of kidney stones, kidney atrophy, absence or undescended testicle(s).

**HEART and VASCULAR SYSTEM:** Cardiovascular defects or other congenital abnormalities. History of recurrent or ongoing cardiopulmonary symptoms including, but not limited to syncope (fainting), presyncope and chest pain.

**LUNGS and CHEST:** History of pneumothorax within the past year, if due to simple trauma or surgery, or history within the past three years, if spontaneous. Asthma, including reactive airway disease, exercise-induced bronchospasm or asthmatic bronchitis, reliably diagnosed and symptomatic after the 13th birthday.

**NERVOUS SYSTEM:** Diagnosed seizure disorder after the 6th birthday. Any chronic pain syndrome. History of or recurrent syncope, presyncope or non-traumatic loss of consciousness. History of recurrent headaches or frequent / severe headaches within the past two years. Two or more concussions within the last 12 months. History of three or more concussions.

**PSYCHIATRIC and PERSONALITY DISORDERS:** Any disorder or history of disorders with psychotic features. History of impulse control or conduct disorders. History of depression requiring medication, outpatient treatment or hospitalization within the last 36 months. History of anxiety requiring medication, outpatient treatment or hospitalization within the last 36 months. Attention deficit, hyperactivity disorder or learning disability such as dyslexia, which interferes with perceptual or academic skills past the 14th birthday. Use of medications to reduce symptoms of ADD or ADHD within the previous 24 months.

**SKIN:** Eczema or atopic dermatitis after the 12th birthday. History of psoriasis. Severe Acne. Treatment with some acne medications.

Additional Medical Qualification References [\*DOD INSTRUCTION 6130.03, VOLUME 1 MEDICAL STANDARDS FOR MILITARY SERVICE: APPOINTMENT, ENLISTMENT, OR INDUCTION\*](#) and [\*The Coast Guard Medical Manual, COMDTINST M6000.1.\*](#)