



# 1 SERVICE-WIDE EXAM

## Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated 2 September 2021  
\*\*Additional FAQs

---

### **GENERAL**

**1. Why the change from two service-wide exams (SWE) annually to one?**

One SWE a year for E-6s and E-7s means they are eligible for an entire year and benefits them when competing for assignments and applying for advanced education programs. Changing E-4s and E-5s to one SWE annually will allow members to be notified of upcoming advancement six months earlier and provide fair competition at the start of the assignment year. It provides the service member, families, units, and CG more time to plan and prepare for advancement and likely transfer. Additionally, it provides members and commands increased awareness of billets due to open in the upcoming Assignment Year.

**2. If the current two cycle service-wide exams (SWE) occurred in May and November, when will the one cycle SWE be administered?**

The 1-SWE will be administered annually each May beginning in May 2022. There will be no November 2022 SWE for E-4s competing for E-5 and E-5s competing for E-6.

**3. Who is affected by this 1-SWE?**

This change only affects active duty E-4s and E-5s as active duty E-6s and E-7s already compete in one SWE annually in May. This change does not affect the Reserve component.

**4. Does this change mean there will be less advancements in a calendar year?**

No, enlisted advancements are based on Coast Guard personnel service needs, special assignments, advanced education, enlisted to officer appointments (i.e. CWO, OCS), and losses such as retirements, separations, and Release from Active Duty requests. These numbers vary each year and ultimately determine the final number of enlisted advancements. The number of SWE competitions administered during the calendar year has no impact on the number of advancements.

**5. Does the 1-SWE affect the Reserve members?**

No, the Reserve SWE is already administered annually in October. There are no changes to the Reserve SWE.

**6. When will initial cuts be made for the 1-SWE? And when will subsequent cut revisions be made?**

Initial cuts will be published in July/August. At a minimum, one revised cut will occur each quarter of the fiscal year and additional cuts will be released as necessary.

**7. When will the 1-SWE advancement list be published and what is the lifecycle of the list?**

The advancement eligibility list will be published in June. The list will be effective 1 January of the following year to 16 December (e.g. the May 2022 SWE list will be effective from 1 January 2023 to 16 December 2023).

**8. Will there be a need to create additional Supplemental Lists for ratings that are exhausted early in the advancement cycle?**

At this time, there are no plans to increase the use of Supplemental Lists beyond BM2. The strength of each rating will be re-evaluated and additional Supplemental Lists will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

**9. Will there be any schedule changes to the administration of the 1-SWE in May 2022?**

The current schedule administers the SWE in 2 days during the first week of May. Discussion is underway to extend SWE administration to 4 days due to an increase in SWE participants.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

**1. What will the SWE eligibility date (SED) be?**

The SED for 1-SWE will remain the same - 1 February of the SWE year. For example: the SED for May 2022 SWE will be 01 February 2022. All SWE competition requirements are required to be met by the SED to be eligible to receive a SWE.

**2. What if a service member does not have the required EER to be eligible for a SWE? Will they have to wait a whole year to compete through examination?**

Service members are required to meet all eligibility requirements by the SED, which includes an evaluation in their current grade and a "Ready" Advancement Recommendation by their Commanding Officer/AO. If a service member is missing an eligibility requirement, including an in-grade EER by that date, he/she will not be eligible for the current SWE administration and must complete all requirements to be eligible by the next SED.

**3. What if a service-member receives a mark of not ready? Will they have to wait a whole year to compete through examination?**

To be valid for the current SWE, a service-member must be marked f "Ready" on the most recent EER with an effective date after the SED of the previous SWE cycle and on or before the SED of the current SWE cycle. This advancement recommendation must be maintained from the recommendation date up to the advancement date. Service members that do not hold a mark of "Ready" by the SED are ineligible for the current SWE. These members can be eligible for the next SWE competition by meeting all requirements including a mark of "Ready."

**4. Are professional growth points (PGP) and High Year Tenure (HYT) policies changing to increase time in grade due to lowering SWE testing from twice per year?**

There are currently no proposed changes to the HYT policy or PGPs.

**5. Will SWE eligibility requirements change in order to allow more competition?**

At this time, all current competition and advancement requirements remain the same.

Do you have a question that was not addressed in the FAQs above? Email your questions specific to the 1-SWE to [HQS-SMB-CGPSC-EPM-1-Advancements@uscg.mil](mailto:HQS-SMB-CGPSC-EPM-1-Advancements@uscg.mil) and it can be incorporated into the FAQs. Please include 1-SWE FAQ in the Subject title of the email.

Updated FAQs will be posted as necessary, but at least once every two weeks.