

Naval War College Special Program Information for March 2025 Graduates

The Naval War College (NWC) offers an array of special programs integrated with the Core and Elective curriculum and available to students on a volunteer basis. Special programs require a careful interview/selection process for a limited number of openings. This document categorizes these programs into:

- Group Advanced Research Programs (Halsey Alfa, Halsey Bravo, Holloway Group)
- Directed Research Projects (CIPI Gravely Program, Individual Research)
- Graduate Certificate Programs (Maritime History; Ethics and Emerging Military Technology)

These programs are *optional*. No student should feel pressured to commit to any particular program at the NWC. Any perceived expectations of your professional community should not determine your freedom of choice at the Naval War College—this is *your* learning opportunity. To borrow from Thucydides, your NWC education will be “a possession for all time.” Chart the path that intrigues you and enhances your intellectual journey. This document will aid your decision.

You will receive formal briefings on each special program during Student Orientation. Meanwhile, if you want to learn more about one of these programs feel free to contact the relevant professor(s) at any time. *Doing so places zero obligation on you.* If you would eventually like to interview for one or more programs, interviews commence on 21 February during Student Orientation.

Group Advanced Research Programs

Group Advanced Research Programs (ARPs) enable a cohort of students to work together throughout the year and examine the tactical, operational, and strategic elements of current and near-future warfighting in key geographic areas. Students must interview for these programs, which are open to intermediate (ILC) and senior (SLC) U.S. students. If selected, students take ARPs in lieu of traditional electives. Also, students selected for a Halsey program must substitute one of the traditional core courses for a full-time version of the Halsey program.

Halsey Alfa

Halsey Alfa is a collaborative faculty-student group Advanced Research Program (ARP) seeking to derive insights and recommendations for joint operations in increasingly challenging, maritime-relevant, real-world contingencies involving a major military competitor in East Asia. The Halsey Alfa student process includes group free-play war games, lectures (including guest speakers), individual and group research efforts, and group seminars. Halsey Alfa is focused on the tactical-operational level of warfighting within a realistic theater strategic framework. Insights and recommendations are provided to a broad range of commands and leaders in the United States Indo-Pacific Command Area of Responsibility, the Navy, and Department of Defense. Halsey Alfa is normally conducted at the SECRET/NOFORN level with weekly TS/SCI intelligence sessions.

Note: ILC students take a full-time 8-credit version of Halsey Alfa in the spring trimester in lieu of the 8-credit JMO core course. ILC students also take the 2-credit LPA core course in the spring. SLC students take the full JMO core course in the fall trimester and Halsey Alfa as their 2-credit elective. SLC students will likely take a full-time 8-credit version of Halsey Alfa in the winter trimester in lieu of the 8-credit Strategy and Policy core course; for their 2-credit elective in the winter, they take a “light” version of the Strategy and Policy course to meet JPME requirements. Halsey SLC students also take a 1-credit version of the LPA course in June.

Halsey Alfa Director: Professor James FitzSimonds
james.fitzsimonds@usnwc.edu; 401-841-6931 (W)
Halsey Alfa Associate Director: Professor Craig Koerner
koerner@usnwc.edu; 401-841-6932 (W)
Halsey Alfa Associate Director: Professor Paul Schmitt
paul.schmitt@usnwc.edu; 401-841-3067 (W)

Halsey Bravo

Halsey Bravo is a collaborative faculty-student group Advanced Research Program (ARP) seeking to derive insights and recommendations for joint operations in increasingly challenging, maritime-relevant, real-world contingencies in the Middle East. The Halsey Bravo student process includes group free-play war games, lectures (including guest-speakers), individual and group research efforts, and group seminars. Halsey Bravo is focused on the tactical-operational level of warfighting within a realistic theater strategic framework and provides insights and recommendations to a broad range of commands and leaders in the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR), the Navy, and Department of Defense. Halsey Bravo is normally conducted at the SECRET/NOFORN level with weekly TS/SCI intelligence sessions.

Note: ILC students take a full-time 8-credit version of Halsey Bravo in the spring trimester in lieu of the 8-credit JMO core course. ILC students also take the 2-credit LPA core course in the spring. SLC students take the full JMO core course in the fall trimester and Halsey Bravo as their 2-credit elective. SLC students will likely take a full-time 8-credit version of Halsey Bravo in the winter trimester in lieu of the 8-credit Strategy and Policy core course; for their 2-credit elective in the winter, they take a “light” version of the Strategy and Policy course to meet JPME requirements. Halsey SLC students also take a 1-week, 1-credit version of the LPA course in June.

Halsey Bravo Director: [Professor Bill Murray](#)
william.murray@usnwc.edu; 401-856-6057 (W)
Halsey Bravo Associate Director: [Associate Professor Steve Fuller](#)
stephen.fuller@usnwc.edu; 401-856-6051 (W)
Halsey Bravo Military Faculty: [CDR Dan Leonard](#) (USN)
daniel.leonard@usnwc.edu; 401-856-6036 (W)

Holloway Group

The Holloway Group is an elective-based program that students take for three trimesters under the aegis of the NWC’s Russia Maritime Studies Institute (RMSI). Working closely with faculty, joint U.S.

students conduct wargaming, data collection, research, and analysis on Russian military challenges. Wargame scenarios involve a variety of access-denial challenges and joint-maritime high-intensity conflict at the operational and tactical levels of war. Students derive strategic insights from tactical/operational warfighting and provide recommendations directly to leadership of U.S. Naval Forces Europe, multiple numbered fleets, U.S. European Command (USEUCOM), Department of the Navy, and Department of Defense. Holloway is normally conducted at the SECRET/NOFORN level with optional, weekly TS/SCI intelligence sessions. Note: Holloway students do not take the 2-credit LPA core course in the fall, winter, or spring; instead, they take a 1-week, 1-credit version of the LPA course in June.

Holloway Director: [CDR Ryan Vest](#)

ryan.vest@usnwc.edu

Holloway Professor: [Dr. Mike Petersen](#)

michael.petersen@usnwc.edu; 240-533-1302 (mobile)

Holloway Technical Director: [Dr. Rick Moss](#)

richard.moss@usnwc.edu; 703-585-9226 (mobile)

Directed Research Projects

A student may engage in a “Directed Research Project” which permits scholarly research on a focused subject under the direction of a NWC professor with relevant expertise. These opportunities are limited to academically oriented students with significant writing and research abilities and with the goal of formal publication. A DRP may be conducted in lieu of a 2-credit elective for one or—rarely—a maximum of two trimesters.

CIPI Gravely Program

The Cyber & Innovation Policy Institute (CIPI) Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely, Jr., Program is a Directed Research Project. This graduate-level program guides advanced student research on cyber and information operations and the information environment. In honor of this program's namesake, CIPI Gravely students do trailblazing work under demanding circumstances. Each student conducts research on cybersecurity and information-related capabilities, informed by rigorous social scientific theories and analytical methods. This work results in publication-quality writing to help shape operational and strategic thinking for the Navy and Joint Force. CIPI Gravely students are supervised by CIPI faculty, and research is typically unclassified with opportunities to write at higher levels of classification depending on research question and student expertise. The small number of students in Gravely should plan on taking the “Technology and Military Innovation” elective in the fall.

CIPI Director: [Dr. Frank Smith III](#), frank.smith@usnwc.edu

Gravely Program Director: Dr. Nina Kollars, nina.kollars@usnwc.edu

Individual Directed Research

While the CIPI Gravely program offers a relatively structured approach for a small cohort of student-researchers in the subjects of cyber and the information environment, an Individual Directed Research project outside of the CIPI Gravely program is also possible. These are rare. A student with a

substantial graduate-level academic background, proven writing abilities, and a specific, feasible, and preferably unclassified area in which he or she would like to research and publish may be permitted to pursue this effort in lieu of one or—rarely—two traditional 2-credit electives. Interested students must contact the Associate Dean of Academics for consideration. It is recommended an Individual Directed Research project not be pursued in a student’s first trimester to permit time to informally develop a research agenda and connect with relevant NWC experts.

NOTE: Students interested in conducting an Individual Directed Research project in the field of “Women, Peace, and Security” should contact Dr. Saira Yamin (saira.yamin@usnwc.edu) in addition to Dr. Tim Schultz.

Primary POC: Associate Dean of Academics: Dr. Tim Schultz, timothy.schultz@usnwc.edu

Graduate Certificate Programs

The NWC offers two different graduate certificate programs to March graduates: the “Ethics and Emerging Military Technology (EEMT)” program and the “Graduate Certificate in Maritime History (GCMH)” program. These programs invite a limited number of highly motivated and academically oriented students from the intermediate or senior class. Successful students are awarded a Graduate Certificate in addition to the NWC M.A. degree.

Ethics and Emerging Military Technology (EEMT)

The Naval War College’s Graduate Certificate in Ethics and Emerging Military Technology (EEMT) deepens expertise in the ethical complexities imposed by new technology. Students examine the ethical and military relevance of technologies such as artificial intelligence, genetic manipulation, neuro-enhancements, quantum computing, autonomous systems, hypersonic weapons, etc. They also develop the ability to apply ethics-based reasoning to the challenges and consequences of rapid technological change in the modern security environment. Recent student cohorts interacted with national thought leaders such as the DARPA Chief of Staff and the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center Director. Integral to the program is the formulation of a professional paper on a student-chosen topic concerning current or potential technologies and their ethical implications for the profession of arms. EEMT students are required to take the “Ethics of Technology” elective in the fall, and they are given priority enrollment in choosing their remaining two electives in the EEMT concentration. They must also take the LPA course in one of their three trimesters. Selection is limited to a small number of highly motivated and academically oriented students. For more information contact:

EEMT Director: Dr. Tom Creely (College of Leadership and Ethics)
thomas.creely@usnwc.edu; 843-441-0153

Associate Dean of Academics: Dr. Tim Schultz, timothy.schultz@usnwc.edu

Graduate Certificate in Maritime History (GCMH)

GCMH is a specialized track for students seeking to deepen their expertise in maritime and naval history. Over the course of the year, students will write an article-length academic paper on a topic in maritime history. To choose their topic and develop their research, students work closely with a faculty

supervisor from the Hattendorf Historical Center (HHC) or other Naval War College departments. Paper topics and research may draw from the unique resources of the Naval Historical Collection (the Naval War College's archives). Students are encouraged to submit shorter versions of their papers to the Chief of Naval Operations Naval History Essay Contest. Their research may also serve as the basis for applications to complete additional graduate studies with other academic institutions.

Students are given priority enrollment for their three electives approved in the Maritime History concentration. They must also take the LPA course in one of their three trimesters. Selection is limited to a small number of highly motivated and academically oriented students. Students in a Graduate Certificate program complete four additional credits, including a two- credit, faculty-mentored, research-based professional paper of approximately 9,000+ words. Thus, instead of 30 credits (8 JMO, 8 S&P, 8 NSA, 2 LPA, 4 Elective), Graduate Certificate students earn 34 credits (8 JMO, 8 S&P, 8 NSA, 2 LPA, 6 Elective, 2 professional paper).

For more information contact the GCMH directors at gcmh@usnwc.edu. The three GCMH Directors are: Dr. Evan Wilson (HHC), Dr. Ryan Wadle (HHC), and Dr. J. Ross Dancy (JMO).

A NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN OF ACADEMICS:

For information on the Electives Program in general, see <https://usnwc.edu/college-of-naval-warfare/Electives> or <https://usnwc.edu/college-of-naval-command-and-staff/Electives>. Please inform Dr. Schultz, timothy.schultz@usnwc.edu, if there are any additional concepts or courses you would like to see represented in the NWC Electives program—your inputs are an important factor in shaping the future curriculum.