About Us

U.S. Naval War College is a fully accredited graduate-level institution located on Coasters Harbor Island in Newport, Rhode Island, and offers, among other programs, a master’s degree in National Security and Strategic Studies, Defense and Strategic Studies, or a diploma.

The school graduates approximately 600 in-residence students each year, and also supports a robust distance education program that graduates over 1,000 students annually. All U.S. students earn Joint Professional Military Education Phase I, or II certification.

All students attending U.S. Naval War College are currently serving in the military or in a federal government position.

History

The Naval War College began educating leaders in 1884 as a small institution primarily offering summer courses. The first class in 1885 had just nine students.

The school is now the oldest institution of its kind in the world, boasting more than 50,000 graduates. The College counts among its alumni nearly 300 of today’s active-duty Admirals, Generals, and Senior Executive Service Leaders.

Programs

The College’s Professional Military Education programs prepare leaders for the challenges of operational and strategic-level leadership during their careers as decision makers and problem solvers. In addition to our graduate-level programs, the College has graduated more than 2,000 students from the Maritime Staff Operators Course, more than 300 from the Executive Level-Operational Level of War Course, and more than 500 U.S. and international Flag and General Officers through a variety of executive level courses.

The College also performs research and analysis efforts that are conducted by the Center for Naval Warfare Studies. Through war games, conferences, workshops, and publications, the Center provides direct curriculum support to the College’s educational programs. The Center also provides focused, task-driven analysis for Fleet customers and government agencies across the national security spectrum.

Looking Ahead

To stay abreast of the changes in our strategic environment and best fulfill our mission, the College will:

- Continue to operationalize efforts to optimize support to the fleet. The College will provide greater focus on understanding today’s emerging threats while further enhancing combat readiness through expanded teaching of maritime warfare.
- Expand the navalization of the curriculum to balance joint warfare concepts with increased understanding of what sea control means in the modern era.
- Inculcate an understanding of future technologies through futurization. The college must continue to prepare students for the extraordinary, dynamic, and ever-increasing pace of change.
- Continue to internationalize our efforts to remain as the locus of international maritime cooperation.

The strength of our military forces has always been an important deterrent to war, and we must always be ready to answer the clarion call to duty. Rear Admiral Stephen Luce’s foundational guidance was for the college to be a place of original research on all questions relating to war, and to statesmanship connected to war or the prevention of war. As such the College will continue to learn from the lessons of history while preparing for an uncertain future.
The Naval War College is “a place of original research on all questions relating to war and to statesmanship connected with war, or the prevention of war.”

RADM Stephen B. Luce, USN, (1903)

The center provides a place for researching important military issues that, in turn, inform and stimulate the faculty and students in the classroom. The center works closely with the teaching departments and is a center of both scholarship and original research.

NWC PRESS

The Naval War College Press publishes the quarterly Naval War College Review, and occasional books, including the Newport Papers and the Historical Monograph series. The press also provides editorial and production support for college departments as needed.


LIBRARY

The U.S. Naval War College has adopted the Learning Commons model that centralizes the library, writing center, Information Resources Department, and other services to support and enhance teaching, learning, and research.

NWC MUSEUM

The museum educates the Naval War College community and all visitors on the history of naval warfare, particularly as studied at the college, and the naval heritage of Narragansett Bay, which stretches back to the nation’s colonial roots.