

## JPME Phase I & Master's Degree

The Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies is a 10-month curriculum for resident students divided into trimesters with core teachings and electives. Core courses are primarily taught in seminar format but include capstone exercises, wargame participation, and writing assignments.

### Eligibility

- Students are selected to attend the College of Naval Command and Staff (CNCS) by each service based on professional performance. Candidates are intermediate officers (O3-O4) that are Majors or Lieutenant Commanders. In addition, selected departments and agencies are invited to nominate civilian applicants (GS13-GS14, or equivalent) for admission. A limited number of Lieutenants can attend CNCS, rank waiver is approved by the Navy Personnel Command.

### Location & Duration

- The 10-month curriculum for resident students is divided into trimesters and is taught at the U.S. Naval War College (NWC) in Newport, Rhode Island.

### Learning Format

- Core Courses are primarily seminar format but include capstone exercises, wargame participation, and comprehensive writing assignments.

### Outcome

- U.S. resident students in CNCS are awarded a Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies degree, graduates are also eligible for JPME Phase I certification.

## General Program Overview

- Student Selected Elective | All Trimesters, Required  
*The elective program offers graduate level courses that expand on subjects not in the core curriculum, enhance your regional expertise, or examine core subjects in greater detail.*
- Theater Security Decision Making | Fall Trimester, Required  
*Educates students on effective decision-making and leadership, focusing primarily at the theater strategic level.*
- Strategy and War | Winter Trimester, Required  
*Examines how the overall strategic environment shapes operational choices and outcomes. It also examines the strategic effects of operations, exploring how battlefield outcomes can change the strategic environment.*
- Joint Maritime Operations | Spring Trimester, Required  
*Prepares students on critical and creative problem-solving skills that pertain to decision-making and leadership in the maritime domain.*