

Updated March 17, 2021

Online Program Information Packet

The Naval Command and Staff (NC&S) online program meets the requirements for Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase I, service-related requirements, and desired U.S. Naval War College (NWC) program core competencies. Graduates of the online program will receive JPME-I certification only and are not eligible for the NWC master's degree.

Course Highlights

- Students complete this program in 41 weeks.
- Students earn JPME Phase I credit.
- Courses are taken on a computer or mobile device from anywhere.
- Active Officers, Reserve Officers, and Government Civilians can apply.

Who is Eligible

Active Officers, Reserve Officers, and defense-related Government Civilians can apply for the Online program, contracted personnel are not eligible to apply.

- Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard must be in the grade of O3 and above.
- Active and reserve officers in other military services must be in the grade of O4 and above.
- Defense-related federal civilians in the grade GS11 and above are eligible to apply for this program (i.e., DoD, DoS, DHS, etc.).

What to Expect

Students typically complete this program in under one year.

- Class sizes consist of 20 students.
- Courses consist of online discussion boards, group projects, individual essays, and other assignments.
- The program is organized into five educational blocks and all blocks must be completed in one session.

How to Enroll

The program manager will review applications and determine if the student meets the eligibility requirements.

- All students must submit an online application.
- Any student accepted into the program will be placed onto a waitlist.
- An email will be sent to students with an acceptance or rejection determination.

Please Note: Students interested in the master's degree through the Graduate Degree Program must complete all coursework through the Fleet Seminar Program, credit from the online program cannot be transferred.

Eligibility

All applicants applying for this program must:

- Possess a Baccalaureate Degree (i.e., B.S./B.A.), preferably from a regionally accredited institution.
- Be currently serving as an active duty officer, reserve officer, or defense-related federal employee. Contracted personnel are not eligible to apply.

Please Note: O2 officers, international officers, congressional staffers, retired service members, or defense contractors are not eligible to apply for this program.

Active and Reserve Officers

Active and reserve officers in the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard must be in the grade of O3 and above to be eligible. Active and reserve officers in other military services must be in the grade of O4 and above.

Civilian Applicants

Defense-related federal civilians in the grade GS11 and above, are eligible to apply for the Online Program.

Course Format

Classes consist of 20 students and proceed through the material in accordance with the schedule. Students will interface with the professor and each other using online discussion boards, group projects, individual essays, and other assignments.

The NC&S online program is organized into five educational blocks. Students must be committed to completing all blocks during one session.

- Block 1: Operating within the National- and Theater-level Security Arenas
- Block 2: Fundamentals of Strategy
- Block 3: Operational Art
- Block 4: Joint Capabilities
- Block 5: Joint Planning Process

Please Note: This is not a self-paced program; students will progress through the material in accordance with the schedule.

Program Schedule

The Online Program is offered four times per year, February, May, August, and November. Please see the Eligibility and Overview page on the website for an upcoming program schedule.

Pre-requisite

A five-week Foundational Knowledge Course (FKC) will help students become familiar with Blackboard, the Learning Management System, and give them the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to succeed in NC&S.

This pre-requisite is waived if the student has completed a core JPME-I course (Joint Maritime Operations, Strategy & War, or Theater Security Decision Making) through a previous online version, CD-ROM, Fleet Seminar Program (FSP), or NWC-at-Naval Postgraduate School course.

Graduate Credit for Courses

NWC awards graduate credits for the successful completion of courses based on the completion year.

Credits for February 2020 and Later

- Naval Command & Staff, seven (7) credits (*Please see breakdown below*)
 - Block 1: Operating in the National-and Theater-Level Security Arenas, two (2) credits
 - Block 2: Foundations of Strategy, one (1) credit
 - Block 3: Operational Art, one (1) credit
 - Block 4: Joint Capabilities, one (1) credit
 - Block 5: Joint Planning Process, two (2) credits

Credits for October 1997 to May 2020

- Strategy and War, four (4) credits
- Theater Security Decision Making, four (4) credits
- Joint Maritime Operations (34 weeks), four (4) credits

Coursework

Students can submit work before the due date each week and are not required to log in at a specific time. The average workload is 8-10 hours per week for 41 weeks. Please see the Eligibility and Overview page for credit on prior coursework.

Computer Requirements

For minimum and recommended computer and mobile requirements on taking courses via the online program please see the Eligibility and Overview page.

Materials

Some books are mailed to the students but most material is available online; students should refrain from marking books that are provided.

Returning Materials

Books must be returned using the postage pre-paid label provided by the College.

Please Note: Students must return their books to receive credit for the program.

Enrollment

Students must submit an online application for the no-cost program. Once submitted, the program manager will review the application and determine if the student meets the eligibility requirements. An email will be sent to the student with an acceptance or rejection. If accepted, the student is automatically added to the waitlist.

All Students: Waitlist Priority

Students who have completed legacy coursework through CD-ROM, Web-enabled, FSP, or NWC at the Naval Postgraduate School

Unrestricted line U.S. Navy (USN) officers and equivalent U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) officers

Active restricted line USN officers and equivalent USMC and USCG officers

All other new, incoming students (Reservists, Civilians, U.S. Army, or U.S. Air Force)

All Students: Waitlist Priority Cont.

Students who have disenrolled twice from online programs after Sep 1, 2019

Online Electives

NWC, Online Program offers online electives for students in the Graduate Degree Program (GDP). All elective work, including these NWC online electives, must be approved by the GDP Manager. Once approved, students may register for an online elective.

Please Note: Due to high demand, GDP students are given priority for online programs. It is very rare for students not enrolled in GDP to take NWC online electives.

Course Disenrollment and Re-enrollment

Withdrawals may be either voluntary or involuntary. Students are encouraged to withdraw voluntarily when the constraints of time and circumstance prevent course completion.

Disenrollment

Requests for disenrollment can be sent to the Online Program manager and the professor. Voluntary or involuntary disenrollment at any time throughout the program is “with prejudice.”

Students who have voluntarily or involuntarily disenrolled from any prior online program session will only receive one additional attempt to successfully complete the program. A second voluntary or involuntary disenrollment will result in the student being placed at the bottom of the waitlist for enrollment in a future program.

For students desiring to withdraw, please email your professor and OnlineAdmin@usnwc.edu.

Please Note: No credit will be awarded for a partially completed Block.

Credit for Coursework

Students who have successfully completed entire blocks of the program will retain credit for that work.

Re-enrollment

Students will be considered for re-enrollment on a case-by-case basis and can submit a request by email to the program manager stating the reasons for the re-enrollment and previous disenrollment(s).

For students desiring to re-enroll, please email your reasoning to OnlineAdmin@usnwc.edu.

Please Note: This program has no time limits on rejoining and retaining credit; significant changes to the curriculum may result in the student retaking a previously completed block.