JPME Phase I & Master's Degree

The Graduate Degree Program (GDP) allows students who are currently enrolled in or have graduated from the Fleet Seminar Program (FSP) to pursue a Master of Arts degree. In addition to the required FSP core courses, nine semester credit hours of approved electives are required to fulfill the M.A. degree requirements.

Eligibility

- Applicants must have a Baccalaureate Degree (i.e., B.S./B.A.). Active or reserve officers in the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard must be grade O3 or above. Civilian federal government employees must be in the grade of GS11 or above (or equivalent). Selected staff in the federal Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary branches may also be eligible. All applicants must have at least one FSP course completed with no course grade below a B-.

Location & Duration

- Core courses are taught by FSP and are held annually at Naval bases and stations across the United States. Elective coursework will most likely need to be completed at non-NWC institutions as only a very limited number of elective courses are offered each year through the College of Distance Education's Online Program.

Learning Format

- Core courses are conducted at the graduate level and require appropriate initiative, research, writing, and oral commentary from each student. Elective coursework varies between institutions.

Outcome

- Students accepted into GDP from July 2015 forward are awarded a Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies degree upon program completion. Those accepted prior to July 2015 and graduating after June 2015 can choose to be awarded either the M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies or the M.A in Defense and Strategic Studies.

General Program Overview

Elective Courses | Ongoing, Required
Students must complete all nine semester credit hours for elective work under a single Area of Study to meet the degree requirements.

Student Selected Core Curriculum | Academic Years One to Three, Required
Each academic year a student will take core courses, these courses may be completed in any order.

Joint Maritime Operations | One Academic Year, Required
Prepares students on critical and creative problem-solving skills that pertain to decision-making and leadership in the maritime domain.

Strategy & War | One Academic Year, Required
Examines how the overall strategic environment shapes operational choices and outcomes.

Theater Security and Decision Making | One Academic Year, Required
Educates students on effective decision-making and leadership, focusing primarily at the theater strategic level.