

Advanced Strategist Program

The Advanced Strategist Program (ASP) is a specialized track for students skilled in the practice of formulating, developing, and executing strategy at various leadership levels in order to fill key billets in Navy, Joint, and high-level political staffs.

Eligibility

- U.S. Navy resident students are selected and assigned to ASP prior to arrival at U.S. Naval War College (NWC). Sister services may apply for the remaining academic slots for this program.

Location & Duration

- The 13-month program is completed in conjunction with the College of Naval Command and Staff curriculum. Students are taught at NWC in Newport, Rhode Island.

Learning Format

- Core Courses are primarily seminar format but include lectures, a master's thesis, and strategic planning exercises during the summer.

Outcome

- Students in this program are awarded additional credit on top of the master's degree in Defense and Strategic Studies and JPME I credit. U.S. Naval officers will earn Naval Strategist Subspecialty Code (2300p), U.S. Air Force officers will earn Advanced Study Group credit, and U.S. Army officers will earn the 6z Army Strategist skill identifier.

General Program Overview

- Professional Paper, Master's Thesis | Ongoing, Required
Work on an academic master's degree-level thesis guided by a principle academic advisor, along with a military faculty member and the ASP director.
- Perspectives on Modern War | All Trimesters, Required
Students take lessons from their core curriculum and apply them to emerging challenges in the international security environment. Major themes vary by trimester and are connected to the annual symposium within the trimester.
- Advanced Strategist Program Course | All Trimesters, Required
Students will be enrolled in a course pertaining to advanced strategy; including national security, economic considerations, and the limitations of seapower.
- 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.
- 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.
- Leadership in the Profession of Arms | Summer Practicum, Required
This course allows students to recognize their impact on those they lead and enhance their thinking and ethical decision-making for their future leadership roles.
- Summer Capstone | Summer Practicum, Required
The summer program offers students the opportunity to apply their academic and practitioner knowledge.