

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

- Leadership in the Profession of Arms | Once Per Academic Year, 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. It is taken in lieu of a single trimester elective course once per academic year and is assigned depending on a student's schedule.
- 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.
- 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.
- Strategy and War | Fall 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.
- Theater Security Decision Making | Winter Trimester, Required
Educates students on effective decision-making and leadership, focusing primarily at the theater strategic level.
- 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.