

Naval Staff College Diploma

International officers in the Naval Staff College (NSC) complete a robust program of academic core courses and electives, as well as professional development including a Field Studies Program and country presentations. Upon completion they receive a U.S. Naval War College (NWC) Diploma. Selected students will be eligible to earn a Master of Arts degree in Defense and Strategic Studies.

Eligibility

- NSC is open to U.S. and international military officers from participating countries in the O3, O4, and O5 pay grades.

Location & Duration

- The 11-month curriculum for resident students is divided into trimesters and is taught at NWC in Newport, Rhode Island.

Learning Format

- Core Courses are primarily seminar format but include the field studies program, capstone exercises, and comprehensive writing assignments.

Outcome

- Upon completion, international officers receive an NWC Diploma. Selected students will be eligible to earn a Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies degree.

General Program Overview

- Field Studies Program | Ongoing, Required
Provides students with an understanding of U.S. society, institutions, and culture through exposure to various topics.
- Country Presentations | Ongoing, Optional
Each student must deliver an oral and visual presentation describing their country to a large audience of academics, students, and interested guests.
- 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.
- 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.
- Student Selected Elective | All Trimesters, Optional
The elective program, optional but encouraged, offers graduate level courses that provide specialized areas of study. Note: Electives are required each trimester for those international officers pursuing a master's degree.
- Strategy and War | Fall Trimester, Required
Examines how the overall strategic environment shapes operational choices and outcomes.
- 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.