



Fleet Seminar Program 2026-27 Information Sheet

Overview

The Naval War College (NWC) Fleet Seminar Program (FSP) offers joint intermediate level professional military education (JPME-I) through a set of three core courses: Strategy and War (S&W), Theater Security Decision Making (TSDM), and Joint Maritime Operations (JMO). These courses are offered in seminar format at multiple locations in keeping with efforts of the Chief of Naval Personnel to foster a deliberate and flexible learning environment. Each course normally requires one academic year to complete. Courses *do not follow* traditional semesters and run from early September through the following May, with holiday breaks for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's weeks. FSP is the only non-resident program that contributes to the NWC M.A. degree; courses may be completed in any order.

Once a student completes their first FSP course, they can apply for acceptance into the Graduate Degree Program (GDP) and complete required elective coursework (for a total of 30 credits) to earn a Master of Arts degree in Defense and Strategic Studies. More information of the GDP can be found at <https://usnwc.edu/college-of-distance-education/Graduate-Degree-Program>

Locations

Seminars and locations for academic year 2026 – 2027 are planned for the following locations:

California, San Diego:

- CNRSW – S&W (Thurs), TSDM (Tues, Wed)
- MCRD – JMO (Wed, Thurs)

Washington, D.C.:

- Capitol Hill – JMO, S&W, TSDM (all are Monday)
- GAO – JMO (Tues), S&W (Tues, Wed), TSDM (Wed)
- Navy Yard – JMO (Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs), S&W (Tues, Wed, Thurs), TSDM (Tues, Wed, Thurs)
- Pentagon – JMO (Wed), S&W (Thurs), TSDM (Tues) - note: students must already have Pentagon access
- Henderson Hall – TSDM (Wed)
- Center for Naval Analysis – JMO (Mon), S&W (Tues), TSDM (Wed)
- Note: All S&W lectures are on Tuesdays at the Navy Yard

Florida, Jacksonville – JMO (Wed), TSDM (Tues)

Florida, Mayport – S&W (Thurs)

Florida, Pensacola (Whiting Field) – S&W (Tue)

Hawaii, Pearl Harbor – JMO (Thurs), S&W (Wed), TSDM (Tues)

Illinois, Great Lakes – TSDM (Tues)

Louisiana, New Orleans – JMO (Tues)

Maryland, Annapolis – JMO (Thurs), S&W (Tues, Wed), TSDM (Wed)

Maryland, Patuxent River – TSDM (Thurs)

Rhode Island, Newport – JMO (Thurs), S&W (Tues), TSDM (Wed)

Virginia, Dahlgren – JMO (Wed)

Virginia, Norfolk – JMO (Tues, Wed), S&W (Tues, Thurs), TSDM (Wed, Thurs)

Washington, Bangor – TSDM (Wed)

Washington, Everett – S&W (Tues)

Applicants are enrolled in seminars consisting of no more than 18 students. Each academic year is a separate enrollment event and continuing students must submit course requests during subsequent academic years.

Eligibility

Enrollment is open to eligible active and reserve officers in the Sea Services (USN, USMC, and USCG) in the grade of O-3 and above. Active and reserve officers in other military services must be in the grade of O-4 and above to be eligible. Federal civilian employees in the grade of GS-11 and equivalent or above are also eligible. Contracted personnel are not eligible. Through CNO agreement, selected staff members in the federal Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary branches located in Washington, DC are also eligible. All applicants must possess a Baccalaureate Degree (preferably from a regionally accredited institution).

Courses

Seminars meet one evening per week (34 times per year) for three hours, from the first week in September through mid-May, under the direction of a Naval War College adjunct faculty member. Most classes meet from 1730-2030, although a few courses meet from 1800-2100 due to classroom or instructor availability. There are no classes on weekends or during weeks of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years.

From time to time, formal presentations are delivered by resident faculty members from Newport and by visiting professors from colleges and universities around the country. The seminars are conducted at the graduate level and require appropriate initiative, research, writing, and oral commentary on the part of each student.

Students must coordinate and arrange for absences and delays with the faculty member in advance. Student who are absent from four classes will be evaluated for continuation in the course. If they are allowed to continue, students will be disenrolled upon a fifth absence. Students with written assignments 30 days overdue will be disenrolled.

Students are advised that all delinquencies must be resolved prior to the end of the academic year. In no event will an extension be granted beyond 30 days from when an assignment was due. A student unable to complete a course may receive credit for work successfully completed. Students that receive partial assignment credit may rejoin a future academic year at the point they were previously withdrawn from a course as long as they maintain eligibility listed above.

All graduating students are invited to attend the NWC formal graduation and other related events in June in Newport, Rhode Island.

Graduate Hour Credits

The Naval War College Fleet Seminar Program is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) and awards graduate credits, indicated below, for successful completion of the following fleet seminar courses (prior to September 2025):

Joint Maritime Operations - JMO	7 Graduate Semester Hours
Strategy and War - S&W	7 Graduate Semester Hours
Theater Security Decision Making - TSDM	7 Graduate Semester Hours

September 2025 to present :

Joint Maritime Operations - JMO	8 Graduate Semester Hours
Strategy and War - S&W	8 Graduate Semester Hours
Theater Security Decision Making - TSDM	7 Graduate Semester Hours
* -Leadership in the Prof of Arms (TSDM sub-course)	1 Graduate Semester Hour

*required part of TSDM, not an elective

Enrollment Process

The application is online at the NWC FSP web page (link at the end of this paragraph). The application window opens on 1 April and closes on 31 May for classes that begin the week of Labor Day in September each academic year. Review the Fleet Seminar Program overview above to ensure you are eligible for the program.

- 1) **New Students**: Initial application submissions are reviewed to determine student eligibility. Course preferences are part of the initial application. New students will be enrolled in only one course.
- 2) **Continuing Students**: Course requests are used to validate student eligibility and submit course preferences. Continuing students may request dual enrollment based on seat availability.
- 3) Changes to personal information provided after initial application submission may result in additional eligibility review requirements.
- 4) Applications or course preferences submitted after 31 May will result in students losing priority for a course seat.

The course enrollment process is conducted by NWC during June. Enrollment notifications will be sent to students by the end of June or early July for FSP classes which will begin the first full week of September. Students submitting late applications and course requests, and student on wait lists, will remain under consideration for possible enrollment until the end of the add/drop period at the end of the second full week of September.

FSP students will be enrolled in only one course their first year. It normally takes three years to complete all three core courses. Each course requires 8-12 hours of time each week outside the classroom to prepare for class and complete the written requirements. Students can request to enroll in two courses (dual-enroll) their second year, although it is not recommended due to the heavy academic workload that it entails. Students who did not receive a grade of at least a B in their first course will not be considered for dual-enrollment. Placement in a second course also is dependent on seat availability once all eligible students are seated in a course.

*Note: Effective 15 April 2016, a Federal Government Issued PKI token card or a Common Access Card (CAC) is required to login to the Naval War College Student Information System. Currently only active-duty military and Coast Guard personnel and DoD civilian employees with CACs can access the system.

Students should use the appropriate quick-link to submit an application, request a course, or update their personal information at the Fleet Seminar Program website under the Enrollment tab.

<https://usnwc.edu/college-of-distance-education/Fleet-Seminar-Program/>

Materials

The College provides all study materials at no cost to the student (on loan basis). Students will receive information on procedures for receipt of materials when they are notified of their enrollment. Students will receive return shipping labels by mail to return their books.

Students will be billed for replacement of unreturned materials and no student will receive credit for a course until all materials have been returned. Many students wish to purchase their course materials; however, regulations preclude direct purchase of this government property. Most books are available online or at bookstores.

Course Withdrawals

Withdrawal may be either voluntary or involuntary.

- Students are encouraged to withdraw voluntarily when the constraints of time and circumstance preclude course completion. Requests should be by email to the Program Manager in Newport briefly stating the reasons for requesting withdrawal. These reasons for withdrawal are helpful in the review of administrative procedures and course content. Such withdrawals are without prejudice.
- Involuntary withdrawals are initiated by the Naval War College as a result of student failure to meet deadlines or academic standards, fulfill attendance obligations, or (on a case basis) maintain eligibility.
- Prompt return of books and compliance with course deadlines is essential to ensure adequate availability of course materials for other students.

Re-enrollment

- A student who voluntarily withdraws will be given consideration for re-enrollment upon receipt of an email request.
- In those cases of *involuntary* withdrawal, each request will be considered on its own merits. Re-enrollment requests in this case must be submitted by email to the Program Manager, who will forward the request to the Dean, College of Distance Education, U. S. Naval War College. Requests must include an explanation of circumstances involved.
- In either case, credit may be given for satisfactorily completed prior work unless there has been a substantial revision in the interim, or an extensive delay since withdrawal.
- Students receiving credit for completed assignments (e.g. SA1/ SA2..etc) will not need to restart the entire course, rather rejoin at the point of departure, with the same revision guidance as above.

Questions:

Comm: (401) 856-5530

Fax: (401) 841-2457

Email: fsp@usnwc.edu

Note: Enrollment and subsequent administrative forms request certain information from potential students to facilitate enrollment or other processing in connection with program administration. Students are expected to keep the College informed regarding changes in their eligibility status, current address, phone number(s), e-mail address, parent command, and current CO/supervisor contact information.

Points of Contact

For classroom information only, contact the following:

Annapolis, MD, at (410) 293-7628

Dahlgren, VA, at (540) 208-9504

Everett, WA, at (425) 304-3720

Great Lakes, IL, at (847) 688-2622 ext. 207

Jacksonville, FL, at (904) 542-3082

Kitsap/Bangor, WA, at (360) 315-5000

Mayport, FL, at (904) 270-5940 ext. 1108

New Orleans, LA, at (504) 697-5520

Newport, RI, at (401) 856-5554

Norfolk, VA, at (757) 278-6951

Patuxent River, MD, at (301) 757-4111

Pearl Harbor, HI, at (401) 856-5562

Pensacola, FL (Whiting Field), at (850) 623-7792

San Diego, CA:

- CNRSW at (619) 705-5141

- MCRD at (760) 429-4194

Washington, DC. at (202) 433-6218