

Naval Command and Staff Program & JPME Phase I

The Naval Command and Staff (NC&S) online program educates students on the fundamentals of U.S. national security policy, military strategy, and the relationship between them. The program is organized into six courses and all courses must be completed to earn Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Phase I credit.

Eligibility

- Active and reserve officers in the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard must be in the grade of O3 and above. Active and reserve officers in other military services must be in the grade of O4 and above. In addition, defense-related civilian applicants (GS11 and above) are eligible for enrollment. All applicants applying for this program must possess a Baccalaureate Degree.

Location & Duration

- Classes are taught using Blackboard, the Learning Management System, and students can take these classes anywhere using a compatible computer or mobile device. The duration of this program typically lasts 46 weeks.

Learning Format

- Courses are primarily taught using online discussion boards, group projects, individual essays, and other assignments.

Outcome

- Students that complete the Online Program are awarded JPME Phase I credit.

General Program Overview

1: Fundamentals of Strategy | Core Course, Required

Disciplines of history, political science, and international relations, along with military factors from the profession of arms are integrated into a coherent approach that provides students with a conceptual frame of reference to analyze and formulate military strategies to address them.

2: Leadership in the Profession of Arms | Core Course, Required

Designed to develop ethical, self-aware, and strategically minded leaders capable of critical thought and effective decision-making within the national security enterprise. The course emphasizes the integration of character and competence, which are essential to effective leadership in an increasingly complex landscape. LPA is rooted in the understanding that the legitimacy of the profession of arms is derived from public trust, which is sustained by leaders who consistently demonstrate competence, character, and ethical judgment. The course emphasizes introspection, personal growth, self-assessment, and the critical importance of effective leadership in shaping organizational and strategic outcomes.

3: Theater Security Decision Making | Core Course, Required

Develops the intellectual foundation and professional competence necessary for effective operational-level leadership in an era of global volatility, strategic competition, and increasing complexity. Through a progression of analyzing national- and theater-level strategies, the challenges, and opportunities in the international security environment (especially at the combatant command level) to an understanding of the U.S. policy-making processes, the institutions that are charged with developing security policy, and the actors/factors that can influence such policy, students will emerge with the critical thinking skills, analytical depth, strategic insight, and professional judgment necessary to operate effectively in high-stakes decision-making roles across the national security enterprise.

- **4: Operational Art | Core Course, Required**
Provides the student a disciplined, cognitive foundation for solving military problems: Operational Art.
- **5: Joint Capabilities | Core Course, Required**
Students will learn the proper employment of naval and joint capabilities at the operational level of war.
- **6: Joint Planning Process | Core Course, Required**
Students will address the topics and processes necessary for understanding and planning today's military security challenges.

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