

Naval War College Special Program Information for November 2027 Graduates

The Naval War College (NWC) offers an array of special programs integrated with the Core and Elective curriculum and available to students on a volunteer basis. Special programs require a careful interview/selection process for a limited number of openings. This document categorizes these programs into:

- Group Advanced Research Programs (Halsey Alfa, Halsey Bravo, Halsey Charlie)
- Directed Research Projects
- Graduate Certificate Program (Maritime History)

These programs are *optional*. No student should feel pressured to commit to any particular program at the NWC. Any perceived expectations of your professional community should not determine your freedom of choice at the Naval War College—this is *your* learning opportunity. To borrow from Thucydides, your NWC education will be “a possession for all time.” Chart the path that intrigues you and enhances your intellectual journey. This document will aid your decision.

You will receive formal briefings on each special program during Student Orientation. Meanwhile, if you want to learn more about one of these programs feel free to contact the relevant professor(s) at any time. *Doing so places zero obligation on you.* If you would eventually like to interview for one or more programs, interviews commence during Student Orientation.

Group Advanced Research Programs

Group Advanced Research Programs (ARPs) enable a cohort of students to work together throughout the year and examine the tactical, operational, and strategic elements of current and near-future warfighting in key geographic areas. Students must interview for these programs, which are open to intermediate (ILC) and senior (SLC) U.S. students. If selected, students take ARPs in lieu of traditional electives. Also, students selected for Halsey Alfa or Halsey Bravo (not Halsey Charlie) must substitute one of the traditional core courses for a full-time version of the Halsey program. Halsey Alfa and Halsey Bravo Fellows remain with their Halsey program for one additional term full time after graduation.

Halsey Alfa

Halsey Alfa is a collaborative faculty-student group Advanced Research Program (ARP) seeking to derive insights and recommendations for joint operations in increasingly challenging, maritime-relevant, real-world contingencies involving China. The Halsey Alfa student process includes group free-play war games, lectures (including guest speakers), individual and group research efforts, and group seminars. Halsey Alfa is focused on the tactical-operational level of warfighting within a realistic theater strategic framework. Insights and recommendations are provided to a broad range of commands and leaders in the United States Indo-Pacific Command Area of Responsibility, the Navy, and Department of Defense. Halsey Alfa is normally conducted at the SECRET/NOFORN level with weekly TS/SCI intelligence sessions. Navy Students receive AQD 271 upon graduation.

Note: ILC students take a full-time 8-credit version of Halsey Alfa in the spring trimester in lieu of the 8-credit JMO core course. ILC students also take the 2-credit LDPA core course in the spring. SLC students take the full JMO core course in the fall trimester and Halsey Alfa as their 2-credit elective. SLC students will likely take a full-time 8-credit version of Halsey Alfa in the winter trimester in lieu of the 7-credit Strategy and Policy core course; for their 2-credit elective in the winter, they take a tailored elective provided by the Strategy and Policy Department to meet JPME requirements. Halsey SLC students also take a 1-credit asynchronous (online) version of the LDPA course. SLC and ILC students will maintain their Halsey Alfa seminar for the year-long Perspectives on Modern War (PMW) course.

Halsey Alfa Director: [Professor James FitzSimonds](mailto:james.fitzsimonds@usnwc.edu)
james.fitzsimonds@usnwc.edu; 401-856-6046 (W)
Halsey Alfa Associate Director: [Professor Craig Koerner](mailto:koerner@usnwc.edu)
koerner@usnwc.edu; 401-856-6048 (W)
Halsey Alfa Associate Director: [Professor Paul Schmitt](mailto:paul.schmitt@usnwc.edu)
paul.schmitt@usnwc.edu; 401-856-6054 (W)
Halsey Alfa Military Faculty: [CDR Adam Pace](mailto:adam.pace@usnwc.edu)
adam.pace@usnwc.edu; 401-856-6049 (W)

Halsey Bravo

Halsey Bravo is a collaborative faculty-student group Advanced Research Program (ARP) seeking to derive insights and recommendations for joint operations in increasingly challenging, maritime-relevant, real-world contingencies in the Middle East. The Halsey Bravo student process includes group free-play war games, lectures (including guest-speakers), individual and group research efforts, and group seminars. Halsey Bravo is focused on the tactical-operational level of warfighting within a realistic theater strategic framework and provides insights and recommendations to a broad range of commands and leaders in the United States Central Command Area of Responsibility, the Navy, and Department of Defense. Halsey Bravo is normally conducted at the SECRET/NOFORN level with weekly TS/SCI intelligence sessions. Navy Students receive AQD 272 upon graduation.

Note: ILC students take a full-time 8-credit version of Halsey Bravo in the spring trimester in lieu of the 8-credit JMO core course. ILC students also take the 2-credit LDPA core course in the spring. SLC students take the full JMO core course in the fall trimester and Halsey Bravo as a 2-credit elective. SLC students will take a full-time 8-credit version of Halsey Bravo in the winter trimester in lieu of the 7-credit Strategy and Policy core course; for their 2-credit elective in the winter, they take a tailored elective provided by the Strategy and Policy Department to meet JPME requirements. Halsey SLC students also take a 1-credit asynchronous (online) version of the LDPA course. SLC and ILC students will maintain their Halsey Bravo seminar for the year-long Perspectives on Modern War (PMW) course.

Halsey Bravo Director: [Professor Bill Murray](mailto:william.murray@usnwc.edu)
william.murray@usnwc.edu; 401-856-6057 (W)
Halsey Bravo Associate Director: [Professor Steve Fuller](mailto:stephen.fuller@usnwc.edu)
stephen.fuller@usnwc.edu; 401-856-6051 (W)
Halsey Bravo Research Analyst: Bill Adler
William.adler.ctr@usnwc.edu; 401-856-6008 (W)

Halsey Charlie

Halsey Charlie, formally known as the Holloway Group, is an elective-based program that students take for three trimesters under the aegis of the NWC's Russia Maritime Studies Institute (RMSI). Working closely with faculty, joint U.S. students conduct wargaming, data collection, research, and analysis on Russian military challenges. Wargame scenarios involve a variety of access-denial challenges and joint-maritime high-intensity conflict at the operational and tactical levels of war. Students derive strategic insights from tactical/operational warfighting and provide recommendations directly to leadership of U.S. Naval Forces Europe, multiple numbered fleets, U.S. European Command (USEUCOM), Department of the Navy, and Department of Defense. Halsey Charlie is normally conducted at the SECRET/NOFORN level with optional, weekly TS/SCI intelligence sessions. Note: Halsey Charlie students do not take the 2-credit LDPA core course in the fall, winter, or spring; instead, they take a 1-credit asynchronous (online) version of the LDPA course.

Halsey Charlie Director: [CAPT Michael Holland](mailto:Michael.Holland1@usnwc.edu), Michael.Holland1@usnwc.edu, 401-856-6041

Halsey Charlie Technical Director: [Dr. Rick Moss](mailto:richard.moss@usnwc.edu), richard.moss@usnwc.edu, 401-856-6037

Halsey Charlie Associate Director: Professor Dan Leonard, daniel.leonard@usnwc.edu, 401-856-6042

Halsey Charlie Research Analyst: Steve Ilteris, Stephen.ilteris1.ctr@usnwc.edu, 401-856-6045

Directed Research Projects

A student may engage in a "Directed Research Project" which permits scholarly research on a focused subject under the direction of a NWC professor with relevant expertise. These opportunities are limited to academically oriented students with significant writing and research abilities and with the goal of formal publication. A DRP may be conducted in lieu of a 2-credit elective for one or—rarely—a maximum of two trimesters. Interested students must contact the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for consideration. It is recommended a Directed Research Project not be pursued in a student's first trimester to permit time to informally develop a research agenda and connect with relevant NWC experts.

Primary POC: Associate Dean of Academic Affairs: Dr. Tim Schultz, timothy.schultz@usnwc.edu

Graduate Certificate Program

The NWC offers a Graduate Certificate in Maritime History (GCMH) program available to November graduates. This program invites a limited number of highly motivated and academically oriented students from the intermediate or senior class. Successful students are awarded a Graduate Certificate in addition to the NWC M.A. degree.

The Graduate Certificate in Maritime History (GCMH) is a specialized track for students seeking to deepen their expertise in maritime and naval history. Over the course of the year, students will write an article-length academic paper on a topic in naval history of relevance to stakeholders in OPNAV and the Secretariat's office. To choose their topic and develop their research, students work closely with a faculty supervisor from the Hattendorf Historical Center (HHC) or other Naval War College

departments. Paper topics and research may draw from the unique resources of the Naval Historical Collection (the Naval War College's archives). Students are encouraged to submit shorter versions of their papers to the Chief of Naval Operations Naval History Essay Contest. Their research may also serve as the basis for applications to complete additional graduate studies with other academic institutions.

Students are required to take the “War at Sea in the Age of Sail” elective in the fall trimester, “War at Sea in the Age of Steam” in the winter trimester, and “The Influence of History on Sea Power Today” in the spring trimester. They must also take the LDPA course in one of their three trimesters. Selection is limited to a small number of highly motivated and academically oriented students. For more information contact the GCMH directors at gcmh@usnwc.edu. The GCMH directors are Dr. Evan Wilson (HHC) and Dr. Ryan Wadle (HHC).

A NOTE FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS:

For information on the Electives Program in general, see <https://usnwc.edu/college-of-naval-warfare/Electives> or <https://usnwc.edu/college-of-naval-command-and-staff/Electives>. Please inform Dr. Schultz, timothy.schultz@usnwc.edu, if there are any additional concepts or courses you would like to see represented in the NWC Electives program—your inputs are an important factor in shaping the future curriculum.