



Dear Student:

Congratulations on your selection to the Marine Corps War College (MCWAR)! Selection to a resident top-level school is a distinct privilege achieved by a select few who have demonstrated both superb past performance and superior future potential. Your classmates will include representatives from all branches of the US armed forces, various US government agencies, and five foreign militaries. You will be guided in your education by a team of military and civilian professors, each an expert in their field of study.

The professional education you experience at MCWAR is a significant investment toward your future. You can expect to be challenged by our rigorous curriculum that combines a graduate program in Strategic Studies with Joint Professional Military Education (JPME) Level II requirements. As such, the demands of the course are significant and require substantial effort from you.

In addition to classroom work and local field studies, the MCWAR curriculum includes a robust travel program to include:

- Constitution Field Study (Philadelphia, PA)
- The Pentagon site visit
- US State Department site visit
- US Congress site visit
- National Security Council site visits
- Gettysburg Battle Staff Ride
- OCONUS field study for US students
- CONUS field study for international students

MCWAR's mission is to educate selected military and civilian professionals in order to develop strategic leaders, critical and creative thinkers, military strategists, and joint warfighters who are prepared to meet the challenges of a complex and dynamic security environment. The following are the primary program outcomes:

1. Serve as critical and creative thinkers, able to frame ambiguity, evaluate information and arguments, ask the right questions, challenge assumptions, and find creative solutions to the challenges of a complex and dynamic security environment.
2. Serve as military strategists, able to apply the framework of ends, ways, means, and risk; evaluate the integration of all instruments of national power; and evaluate the utility (and limitations) of employing force or the threat of force in the pursuit of political objectives.

3. Serve as joint warfighters, able to evaluate the changing character and enduring nature of war; and apply the art and science of planning and conducting campaigns and major operations in a joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational environment.
4. Serve as strategic leaders, or advisors at the four-star officer and Cabinet-level, able to evaluate the challenges of leading large organizations and building trust in an environment of change and uncertainty, who demonstrate the essential attributes and ethical grounding necessary to succeed in senior leadership positions within their service or agency.

You will be supported by the faculty and staff who will:

- Challenge you intellectually
- Assist you in how to think, not what to think
- Provide you meaningful evaluation and feedback

All MCWAR students will take a writing and critical thinking diagnostic shortly after checking-in. This diagnostic will be based upon a relevant book, which will be decided upon by the faculty and promulgated separately. Whatever the book, it will be emailed to you but you may purchase your own copy if you want to get a head start. You will also take a short JPME pre-test to evaluate the overall knowledge level of the class prior to beginning JPME II coursework.

It is important to take care of personal matters and get settled as quickly as possible upon arrival in Quantico so that you are ready to hit the deck running. Throughout the academic year, you will need your entire inventory of uniforms or appropriate civilian business attire. There are some occasions when all students will be expected to be in business attire.

MCWAR uses an .edu domain along with Microsoft Office 365, which is where you will do your work for the academic year. During your onboarding you will receive a .edu email account. There is a "bring your own device" policy at Marine Corps University and you will need a device equipped with modern versions of the Microsoft Office 365 suite of applications including Teams. There are various inexpensive Office 365 purchase options available to students and military. We highly recommend using a laptop or a large tablet. Phones and smaller tablets will not adequately support the course material. If you are unable to provide a compatible device, we have a limited number of government-owned laptops that may be loaned out. Please notify us in advance if this is the case.

You will receive more detailed information regarding our curriculum and the academic calendar during your formal in-processing. In the meantime, if you need additional information or assistance, contact us at (703) 432-4545/4637 (DSN: 378-4545/4637) or via email at mcwar@usmcu.edu. Your point of contact is Ms. Carol-Anne Parker, MCWAR's Program Manager.

Semper Fidelis and Welcome Aboard,



Colonel Brian P. Sharp, USMC
Director, Marine Corps War College