

General Requirements

Eligibility prerequisites for the College are those regulations and requirements established by the military services to select students to attend a senior-level professional military education institution. Specific admissions prerequisites for the Marine Corps War College are as follows:

- Grade: O-5/O-6 (LtCol/Col, CDR/CAPT) for military officers; GS/GM-14/15 for Federal Government civilian employees.
- Security Clearance: Possess a Top Secret/Special Compartmentalized Information (TS/SCI) clearance that will not expire during the academic year.
- Passport: Possess an official business or diplomatic passport that will not expire during the academic year.
- Professional experience that will allow the student to interact in interagency discussions.
- Suitability for future service and increased responsibility. The College expects that sponsoring agencies will select students who have demonstrated leadership, skill, and resourcefulness in difficult assignments, and have demonstrated sound performance in an academic environment.
- Marine Corps officers must meet O-4 PME requirements as identified in the Marine Corps PME Order (MCO P1553.4A).

Academic Requirements

Instruction at the College is at the graduate-level using rigorous, interactive, adult learning techniques based on an inquiry-driven educational philosophy. Inherent is the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. An active conference/seminar based learning environment is intentionally structured to promote intellectual growth and to allow for varied input during student dialog and discussion. The faculty-led small group interactions are the strength of the Marine Corps War College educational experience. Students are required to synthesize large amounts of information, present solutions to complex problems, and participate actively in graduate-level educational forums. Students can also expect to directly interact with national and international leaders. Specific academic requirements are as follows:

- A regionally accredited undergraduate degree (United States bachelor's degree or its equivalent).
- Graduate-level capabilities to read, comprehend, speak, and write in English*
- Upon successful completion of the curriculum, graduates will be awarded a Master of Strategic Studies degree.
- *Up to 50% of a course grade is determined by a student's seminar participation, which includes small group discussion, debate, and oral briefings.