

## Special Programs extend beyond core curriculum, advance strategic ideas

By Curt Keester 04 September 2018



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The Special Programs of the Army War College offer students an opportunity to personalize their education and explore areas of interest significant to national security, policymaking, strategic thinking and strategic leadership. Special Programs extend beyond the core curriculum and enhance the academic advancement of strategic ideas.

War College faculty will present their Special Programs to students in Bliss Hall Wednesday Sept. 5. These programs offer an alternative means to accumulate some, or all, of the eight elective credits required to graduate the War College's program in Strategic Studies.

"Hopefully their technical and conceptual skills are enhanced as a result of a Special Program," said Dr. Bill Pierce, Director, Advanced Strategic Art Program. "They either

know more about processes they will encounter when they go back out to the field upon graduation, or they refine their conceptual skills by being in a seminar with people who are interested in the very same subject... From my observation of the Special Programs we have here at the school, they do a very good job of that. People leave here and are well prepared to serve in whatever capacity the nation asks of them.”

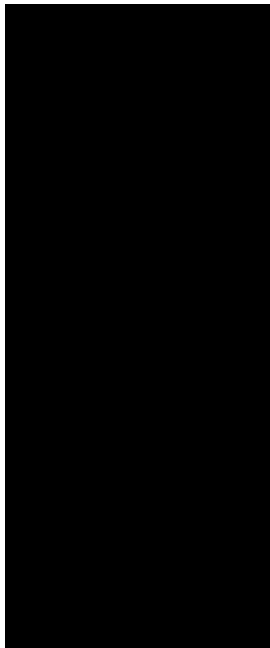
Traditional electives run March 11 - May 29, 2019. However, students in a Special Programs, Integrated Research Programs or Directed Study could begin their program as early as September. Before selecting into a Special Program, students should consider all alternatives, and understand the implications.

“This is a year about choices for the students,” said Pierce. “For most of the year we’re dealing with core courses, and these topics are mandated.... The Special Programs give them choices above and beyond the core courses they must take and focus on their interests, or potentially their future assignments.”

Below is a brief introduction to the Special Programs.

### **Advanced Defense Management**

Advanced Defense Management provides U.S. students a better understanding of the significant processes of force management that drive U.S. military programs and policy decisions. This program is for those who may serve in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff or service staffs.



### **Advanced Regional Studies Program**

Advanced Regional Studies expands on the core Regional Studies Program and provides students with a greater appreciation and understanding of how foreign

countries, regions and organizations define their values and interests through a deeper focused study of single countries and face-to-face interactions with foreign officials and citizens.

### **Advanced Strategic Art Program**

The Advanced Strategic Art Program offers selected U.S. students a focused study of the policy-strategy interface, and it integrates history, theory, strategy, concepts and doctrine to provide a rich professional perspective that prepares students to serve as strategic advisors upon graduation.



### **Carlisle Scholars Program**

Students in the Carlisle Scholars Program form a single seminar and complete approximately 10 weeks of intense course work. They then shift focus to research, writing, and advising senior leaders through a combination of individual, team, and faculty-coordinated work. The aim is competitive analysis of strategic challenges, and contribution to broad strategic dialogue among national security leaders and stakeholders about problems and opportunities of national security.

### **Commandant's Reading Program**

The Commandant's Reading Program expands students' knowledge and understanding of senior leadership through the application of strategic thinking skills, and dialogue and discussion with award-winning authors.

### **Eisenhower Speakers College Program**

Students of the Eisenhower Speakers College Program visit cities around the nation

and give presentations on topics of their choice with strategic importance. They aim to connect with audiences who have an interest in national security, but may have little contact with the military.

### **Futures Seminar**

What kind of Army does the nation need in 2035 and beyond? The Futures Seminar explores this question through an in-depth examination of the future force. Students will participate in Unified Quest 2018, the Army's Deep Future Wargame series, and they will complete an Integrated Research Project - "The Concepts and Considerations in Developing the S-o-S Enhanced Small Unit." The IRP fulfills the Strategy Research Project requirement.

### **Great Books**

Great Books meets every three to four weeks. Students read and discuss texts that include Homer's "The Iliad," Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus and King Lear," and Victor Serge, "Memoirs of a Revolutionary." The course is open to all resident students and spouses, if room is available.

### **Joint Land, Air, and Sea Strategic Exercise**

Joint Land, Air, and Sea Strategic Exercise prepares students to participate in a strategic level crisis response exercise, conducted in a war gaming environment and across all of the Senior Level Colleges. Set ten years in the future, students roleplay key leadership roles in Geographic Combatant Commands and policy-making interagency organizations.

### **Joint Warfighting Advanced Studies Program**

The Joint Warfighting Advanced Studies Program is an intensive elective focused on understanding the challenges facing contemporary commanders. The program focuses on the study of senior joint and combined command, strategic 'hotspots' and the operational design, organization, and execution of theater level campaigns across the spectrum of warfare.





### **National Security Policy Program**

The National Security Policy Program immerses students in the study of policymaking and planning at the national and theater levels. The program incorporates case study analysis, engagement with policy practitioners, policy-based exercises and staff rides to relevant agencies to prepare students for critical policy planner positions in the Washington-based interagency community, with combatant command staffs, and in U.S. billets in international organizations such as NATO and the United Nations.

### **Public Speaking for Strategic Leaders**

Public Speaking for Strategic Leaders strives to enhance students' ability to speak publicly on strategic national security issues, and improves their ability to think critically, evaluate ideas, and locate and organize supporting evidence. Students will enhance their public speaking skills through systematic feedback in a supportive, experiential learning environment.

### **Senior Leader Communications**

Communication tops the chart for senior leaders' skills and attributes for the leader – planner – advisor – roles ahead. Beyond the ability to communicate clearly, succinctly, and confidently with internal, like-minded audiences, senior leaders can expect nonmilitary audiences ranging from political leaders to Congressional Members to media and the public to which the military is accountable. SLC offers experiential education in audience-centric, values-based communication of complex ideas, using comms theory, planning models, “repetitions,” and feedback. SLC meets Thursdays at 0700 concurrent with the core curriculum.