

Joint Staff accredits Joint Studies Program at Army War College for JPME-II

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Maj. Gen. John Kem, Commandant, congratulates Air Force Lt. Col. John A. Lesho III, who completed the Joint Studies Program and earned Joint Professional Military Education - level II credit, at the USAWC graduation ceremony, July 27, 2018 at Carlisle



Marine Lt. Col. Brian T. McGonagle graduates from the Army War College's Joint Studies Program with a master's degree in Strategic Studies and JPME-II credit. The Joint Studies Program for year groups 2017, 2018, 2019 has been accredited by the Joint



Army Col. Cory F. Henry walks the stage at graduation with his Master's of Strategic Studies, July 27, 2018. This week, the Joint Staff completed a review of the Joint Studies Program and finalized JPME-II credit for Henry and his sister-service col

The Joint Studies Program has been accredited by the Joint Staff for JMPE-II -- good news for the past graduates who are now authorized to adjust their personnel files for Joint Professional Military Education-II level certification. Accreditation is granted for graduates of the JSP Class of 2017, 2018 and 2019.

The U.S. Army War College Joint Studies Program is conditionally accredited, according to an August 14, 2018 memo from the Joint Staff; "The JSP is authorized to grant Joint professional Military Education Phase II credit to graduates through 30 September 2021." The memo delivered the observations and recommendations of the Joint Staff accreditation review, begun with a staff assistance visit in 2016 and concluded in July, during

the 2017 class of 2019 resident phase.

“JPME-II accreditation for the Joint Studies Program affirms the value of USAWC efforts to develop and adapt new educational methodologies that achieve desired learning outcomes,” said USAWC Provost Dr. Jim Breckenridge. “Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps officers who pursue senior service education through our Distance Education Program can now be eligible for level-II Joint Professional Military Education credit when selected for the Joint Studies Program.”

“The recent accreditation of the Joint Studies Program for JPME II has been a long road for the department and the USAWC, taking nine years to accomplish,” said Dr. Clay Chun, chair of the Department of Distance Education. “Our outstanding team of faculty, staff, and students have demonstrated their expertise and commitment to joint education that will benefit the Joint Force by providing another source to provide joint education to our senior level students.”

The College will comply this year with the Joint accrediting body’s recommendations for 2020 and 2021, to create a JSP student body mix with a proportionate mix of non-host military department officer students and a joint faculty mix, at the calendar year 2019 start of JSP for academic 2021, rather than starting JSP composition at the mid-program first resident phase at Carlisle.

The USAWC Joint Studies Program is a two-year course of instruction nested in the USAWC Distance Education Program. The Army War College has, until now, graduated Distance Education students with JPME-I credit, because the Army-predominate composition of the Distance Education student body does not meet the joint proportionality required by law for JPME-II credit. The Joint Studies Program, initiated for the Class of 2017, enables several seminars of students and faculty in compliance with the JPME-II requirements.

“JPME II allows our students a great opportunity to enhance and further their education and understanding of actions and decision-making at the strategic level,” said Chun. “Now, a student can receive an accredited JPME II Senior Service College education along with a master’s degree and USAWC diploma all through a blended online and resident curriculum.

“This is a first in DOD history. We hope that our model will allow other institutions offering non-traditional educational programs to also offer JPME II for their students. Our next challenge will to expand JSP by recruiting qualified students from the Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps to allow

more students to receive JPME II.”

In 2017, the A1 of the US Air Force agreed to modify the service’s policy regarding Distance Education, said Dr. David Dworak, USAWC Deputy Provost. Air Force officers eligible to enroll in the Joint Studies program now receive Senior Development Education credit upon graduation without first completing the Air War College. The Army War College expects to increase the number of JSP seminars as more Air Force officers enroll in

Background

Title 10 of US Code, Section 2155, requires JPME-II-granting Senior Service Colleges, like the Army War College, to have no more than 60 percent of military students from the host military department. The remaining 40 percent may include civilians, international officers, and officers from the other military departments – and these will be proportionally represented.

“This [JMPE-II accreditation] is especially noteworthy in that the JSP is using hybrid teaching methods which may lead to an expansion of education opportunities,” wrote USMC Lt. Gen. Daniel J. O’Donohue, director for Joint Force Development in communicating the decision.

“The blended format of JSP is fundamentally sound and is a solid approach to achieving the higher-order cognitive and affective outcomes required for a JMPE-II program USAWC has done an admirable job of leveraging instructional technology in a blended program to best serve the students and achieve the desired learning outcomes and should recognize this achievement as a strength,” detailed the Joint Staff study of JSP about the blending of distance education delivery with two resident phases at Carlisle. The study concluded that the additional online collaborative activity with a joint student body – forums, threaded discussions, practical exercises -- in the first year of study would better align the USAWC Joint Studies Program standards of the 40-week JPME II blended course at the Joint and Combined Warfighting School-Hybrid program.

The study team addressed these Joint Standards:

- Develop joint awareness, perspective, and attitudes
- Employ predominately active and highly effective instructional methods
- Assess student achievement
- Assess program effectiveness
- Conduct quality faculty recruitment: selection, assignment and performance assessment program
- Conduct faculty development programs for improving instructional skills and increasing subject matter mastery

- Provide institutional resources to support the educational process.

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