Master of Defense and Strategic Studies Online

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The Master of Defense and Strategic Studies is designed to provide an in-depth, critical examination of the major defense and security challenges facing the United States now and in the future. Particular attention will be placed on the development of strategy, both in theory and practice, to address defense-related problems. Offered in a distance-learning/online format, this will be a distinctive degree tailored to improving the competence of military and civilian personnel engaged in strategic planning, the inter-agency process, military operations, diplomacy, budgeting, legislative affairs, defense program management, research and development, and a myriad of other staff activities and specialties.

NOTE: THIS PROGRAM IS OFFERED ONLY IN THE DISTANCE LEARNING/ONLINE FORMAT.

Admissions Requirements for the Master's degree

1. Completion and submission of a graduate admissions application.
2. Submission of official transcripts in accordance with the requirements of the Graduate School.
3. A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
4. Demonstration of academic achievement and potential as indicated by the results of the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). This requirement is waived if you already possess an accredited graduate degree.
5. A brief statement of purpose (1-2 pages) that addresses educational and career goals and reasons for pursuing the degree.
6. Three letters of recommendation from individuals that can evaluate the ability to succeed in a rigorous graduate program, such as former instructors. Letters of recommendation from employers or work supervisors are also acceptable. Please contact the DSS Director for any questions regarding letters of recommendation.
7. Note: Admission packages are evaluated utilizing all of the requirements listed above, there are no "minimum scores" required for the test.

Degree Requirements: Master of Defense and Strategic Studies - 36 semester hours

The online program consists of twelve (12) required courses (36 semester hours), completed over a period of approximately one year. Students are strongly advised to take two courses at a time, each with duration of seven weeks. There are six courses focused on strategy, conflict, and security in the modern world, complemented by five courses outlining the strategic relevance and challenges of specific world regions such as the Middle East and Asia. This sequence leads to a final seminar or finishing course focused on the likely character of future warfare. Educational goals include students gaining desired skills such as the ability to synthesize large amounts of information and credibly and persuasively present a concise analysis both verbally and written form. The curriculum fosters greater cross-cultural competence and an understanding of related U.S. strategic interest and capabilities.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>DSS 5300</td>
<td>U.S. National Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSS 5301</td>
<td>Strategic Theory &amp; Modern War</td>
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<td>DSS 5302</td>
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DSS 5303  Low Intensity Conflict  3  
DSS 5304  Information Operations  3  
DSS 5305  Cyber Warfare  3  
DSS 5310  Strategic Survey - Americas  3  
DSS 5311  Strategic Survey of Africa  3  
DSS 5312  Strategic Survey of Europe  3  
DSS 5313  Strategic Survey-Middle East  3  
DSS 5314  Strategic Survey of Asia  3  
DSS 5320  Future Warfare  3  

**Academic Standards**

Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better in order to earn the Master's degree. Students with a semester GPA below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation. Students will have only nine semester hours (three courses) to return to "good" academic standing with a GPA of 3.0 or better. Those students failing to return to good academic standing after nine semester hours may be dismissed from the program.

**Degree Plan**

Required Credits: 36

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