

# Core Academic Commitments and Values

The Naval Academy is a premier undergraduate educational institution with a program combining academics, character development and professional military studies essential to developing midshipmen to become leaders prepared to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship and government.

The midshipmen are the centerpiece of the Naval Academy enterprise. They are talented young men and women representing all 50 states and the US territories. Through the Academy's unique, immersive 4-year experience, the midshipmen develop morally, mentally and physically.

## Our Commitments

Faculty and staff, both officer and civilian alike, are positive **role models and mentors** committed to preparing young men and women to become professional officers and leaders of Sailors and Marines. This is accomplished by modeling leadership behavior and by demonstrating a commitment to:

- ❖ each midshipman's moral, mental and physical development;
- ❖ the Navy core values and traditions including:
  - an environment that fosters dignity and mutual respect, and
  - an expectation of military courtesies honored both in and outside the classroom;
- ❖ academic excellence through:
  - frequent face-to-face faculty/student interactions, and
  - engaged pedagogies and active learning practices; and
- ❖ achieving excellence by leveraging the distinct strengths and varied backgrounds of our faculty, staff, coaches and midshipmen.

## Our Values

As full-time professional educators, USNA faculty members directly foster midshipman development primarily through **excellence in teaching** including:

- ❖ the conviction to maintain an academically rigorous, positive and supportive learning environment;
- ❖ small class sizes allowing for:
  - frequent one-on-one interaction with midshipmen including mentoring and extra instruction, and
  - an active/collaborative learning environment; and
- ❖ development of leadership and character through:
  - an environment that fosters dignity and mutual respect, and
  - ongoing education and reinforcement of the Midshipman Honor Concept.

As role models USNA faculty embrace their responsibility to **advise and mentor** midshipmen to reach their goals by:

- ❖ fostering a collaborative relationship among midshipmen, faculty, company officers and coaches;
- ❖ guiding midshipmen to make well-informed and purposeful educational plans and choices;
- ❖ helping midshipmen balance academic and non-academic demands within the framework of a 4-year immersive experience; and
- ❖ strengthening midshipmen's commitment to their chosen profession.

As **teacher-scholars and researchers**, USNA faculty value critical and creative thinking and academic freedom as essential to teaching, learning and research crucial for:

- ❖ advancing knowledge through research and scholarship that contributes to academic fields, the Naval Service, and larger society,
  - including peer-reviewed conference presentations and publications;
- ❖ involving midshipmen in student-faculty research that fosters life-long learning habits;
- ❖ developing forward-thinking course content; and
- ❖ challenging assumptions and developing critical thinking in academic disciplines.

## Our Program

The **curriculum** of the Naval Academy serves the current and future needs of the Navy and Marine Corps by:

- ❖ developing the intellectual foundations and professional competencies vital to leaders in the Naval Service through a balance of engineering and the liberal arts;
- ❖ requiring courses for all midshipmen in:
  - humanities and social sciences,
  - mathematics and physical science,
  - engineering, and
  - leadership and seamanship;
- ❖ producing officers who meet the needs of a modern technological Naval Service operating in a global environment;
- ❖ ensuring that midshipmen specializing in any major have the potential to serve in any warfare specialty; and
- ❖ preparing midshipmen for additional education and training within their chosen warfare communities, or in graduate school.

Upon commissioning midshipmen are awarded a **Bachelor of Science** degree in disciplines that include engineering, natural and social sciences, mathematics and computing sciences, humanities and foreign languages.

## Our Faculty

The education and development of midshipmen is the responsibility of **professional educators and experienced naval officers**.

The faculty are approximately 50% military and 50% civilian full-time educators wholly dedicated to the Naval Academy mission. Our faculty are:

- ❖ leaders in their disciplinary/professional fields;
- ❖ committed to undergraduate teaching and mentoring of midshipmen;
- ❖ civilians with doctoral degrees, who provide program continuity and sustain active research programs throughout their career;
- ❖ permanent military officers who bring significant naval leadership experiences to the classroom, often have doctoral degrees and who also maintain active research programs; and
- ❖ rotational military officers who bring recent operational experiences into the classroom, and who have master's degrees.

## Our Facilities

Midshipman education is supported by **world-class teaching and learning facilities**, including:

- ❖ technology-enhanced classrooms that allow for the integration of technology with innovative teaching practices that emphasize active learning;
- ❖ state-of-the-art project based learning laboratories supervised by technicians who facilitate hands-on educational experiences;
- ❖ Nimitz Library, where study space, information access, and research support is provided by professional librarians who offer comprehensive research, reference, and content area assistance to midshipmen and faculty; and
- ❖ the Center for Academic Excellence, which encompasses a broad range of programs including subject-specific tutoring, writing, public speaking, time-management and study skills, supported by professional tutors and instructors with advanced degrees.



## From Knowledge, Sea Power: Academics in Service of our Mission

*To develop Midshipmen morally, mentally and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor and loyalty in order to graduate leaders who are dedicated to a career of naval service and have potential for future development in mind and character to assume the highest responsibilities of command, citizenship and government*

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