



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
589 MCNAIR ROAD
ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21402-1300

PROVOSTINST 1531.10A
VPAA
12 Jun 2026

PROVOST INSTRUCTION 1531.10A

From: Provost, U.S. Naval Academy

Subj: HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE ELECTIVES

1. Purpose. To ensure breadth in the education of all midshipmen, two humanities-social science courses outside a midshipman's major are required for graduation. These courses must satisfy the requirements outlined below and may be elected from a wide collection of offerings from the following departments: Economics, English, History, Political Science, Languages and Cultures, and Leadership, Ethics and Law.
2. Cancellation. ACDEANINST 1531.10. This instruction is a complete revision and should be read in its entirety.
3. Scope and Applicability. This instruction applies to midshipmen, faculty, and staff.
4. Requirements and Exceptions
 - a. Each of the two courses must be at least 3 credit hours. Courses of fewer credits cannot be "added" together to achieve the 3 credits.
 - b. At least one of the courses must be at the 300-level or higher and the other at the 200-level or higher.
 - c. Humanities-social science course requirements may not be prescribed by a midshipman's major nor chosen from courses that may count toward requirements within the major.
 - d. Certain courses offered by the departments listed above might not qualify as a humanities-social science elective. For example, FE220 (Accounting) may not count for either humanities-social science requirement, and this restriction is noted in the course description. Additionally, courses offered by the Leadership, Ethics and Law Department must be explicitly designated as acceptable for humanities-social science credit.
 - e. If a midshipman is placed into HE101 (Practical Writing for Naval Officers) as a plebe, then this course may count for the lower-level humanities-social science requirement.

f. Starting with the Class of 2030, a midshipman pursuing a major that does not have a language requirement may use a 200-level language course to count for either the lower-level or the upper-level humanities-social science requirement as an exception to the policy in 4b. The course must be taken at the U.S. Naval Academy or at an approved program abroad. A 100-level language course will no longer fulfill either of the humanities-social science requirements.

5. Records Management

a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned per the records disposition schedules located on the DON Assistant for Administration, Directives and Records Management Division portal page at <https://www.secnav.navy.mil/doni/Records%20Management%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact your local records custodian or the USNA Records Manager.

6. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.71A, the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs will review this instruction annually on the anniversary of the issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or canceled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5214.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need for cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.

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Releasability and distribution:

This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically via the Provost Instructions internet website: <https://www.usna.edu/Academics/Provost/Rules-Regulations/Instructions.php>