

# United States Naval Academy Core Learning Outcomes

## Background

The United States Naval Academy is a distinctive institution with a unique clarity of purpose expressed in 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.

## Core Curriculum Preamble

The Naval Academy program combines character development, an undergraduate education, professional training, and physical challenges to develop midshipmen in accordance with our mission and to instill officers with the values essential to a career of leadership in the Naval Service. Every midshipman's academic program begins with the core curriculum requiring courses in mathematics, science, engineering, humanities, and leadership rooted in the behavioral sciences. The core curriculum is the intellectual foundation for midshipmen. Through this foundation, midshipmen develop the knowledge and abilities to:

- apply leadership skills;
- reason morally and ethically;
- apply principles of naval science and the profession of arms
- solve technical problems;
- communicate effectively;
- critically reason;
- understand American heritage;
- interpret past and current world events; and
- demonstrate intellectual curiosity.

The academic interdisciplinary core consists of an integrated program of studies that prepares midshipmen to pursue a major, receive post-graduate technical training, serve in any warfare specialty, and pursue a career serving their country as professional officers in the Naval Service.

(February 2015)

## Learning Outcomes

The Naval Academy's interdisciplinary core curriculum exists to develop technically competent midshipmen who can:

- 1) Apply leadership skills: use contemporary leadership theories to support and motivate diverse team members in the accomplishment of objectives.
- 2) Reason morally/ethically: recognize moral dilemmas and use ethical frameworks and principles to generate solutions that embody the highest moral standards.
- 3) Apply principles of naval science and the profession of arms: Operate naval technology, demonstrate navigation skills, and generate solutions to given warfare scenarios.
- 4) Solve technical problems: apply fundamental principles from science, engineering, and mathematics to solve technical problems in both standard operating and unfamiliar contexts.
- 5) Communicate effectively: develop, organize, and communicate information and ideas through written, oral, and visual media.
- 6) Critically reason: sufficiently obtain, critically analyze, appropriately interpret, and use quantitative data and qualitative information to construct creative solutions to complex problems.
- 7) Understand American heritage: articulate core American values and diverse experiences with an awareness of multiple cultural contexts.
- 8) Interpret past and current world events: interpret past and current world events through an awareness of different cultures.
- 9) Demonstrate intellectual curiosity: apply self-directed learning strategies to improve knowledge, skills, and abilities beyond requirements.

The knowledge, skills, and abilities associated with these learning outcomes are emphasized within and across the courses that make up the USNA core curriculum. These outcomes are also developed and practiced within majors, training evolutions, and in both formal and informal activities that take place across a midshipman's educational experience.

(February 2015)

---

### Works Consulted:

SECNAV Instruction 1531.2C United States Naval Academy Curriculum and Admissions Policy  
CLOTF Draft Core Outcomes: <http://www.usna.edu/Academics/Academic-Dean/Assessment/index.php>  
FSAC/FSCC CLOTF Documents (Available within Faculty Senate Minutes 17SEP14)

CLOTF Focus Group Document (Available within Faculty Senate Minutes 17SEP14)

USNA Seven Attributes: <http://www.usna.edu/StrategicPlan/graduates.php>

MSCHE: Characteristics of Excellence (<http://www.msche.org/publications/CHX06060320124919.pdf>)

LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes: [http://www.aacu.org/leap/documents/EssentialOutcomes\\_Chart.pdf](http://www.aacu.org/leap/documents/EssentialOutcomes_Chart.pdf)

LEAP Rubrics: [http://www.aacu.org/value/rubrics/index\\_p.cfm](http://www.aacu.org/value/rubrics/index_p.cfm)

Lumina Foundation: Degree Qualifications Profile

## Map of Core Learning Outcomes to

--USNA Attributes

--Middle States General Education Outcomes

--AAC&U Essential Learning Outcomes (Definitions/Rubrics)

Core Learning Outcomes		Alignment		
The Naval Academy's interdisciplinary core curriculum exists to develop technically competent midshipmen who can:		Seven Attributes	MSCHE Learning Goals/ Outcomes	AAC&U Essential Learning Outcomes Resources
1) Apply leadership skills	Use contemporary leadership theories to support and motivate diverse team members in the accomplishment of objectives.	Selfless/ Inspirational/ Professional	Diverse Perspectives	Civic knowledge and team work
2) Reason morally and ethically	Recognize moral dilemmas and use ethical frameworks and principles to generate solutions that embody the highest moral standards.	Selfless/ Professional	Values & Ethics	Ethical reasoning
3) Apply principles of naval science and the profession of arms	Operate naval technology, demonstrate navigation skills, and generate solutions to given warfare scenarios.	Proficient	Technological Competence	Integrative learning
4) Solve technical problems	Apply fundamental principles from science, engineering, and mathematics to solve technical problems in both standard operating and unfamiliar contexts.	Proficient	Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning and Technological Competence	Knowledge of the physical world (no rubric for this, because it is very course/discipline specific)
5) Communicate effectively	Develop, organize, and communicate information and ideas through written, oral, and visual media.	Articulate	Oral and Written Communication	Written communication and Oral communication
6) Critically reason	Sufficiently obtain, critically analyze, appropriately interpret, and use quantitative data and qualitative information to construct creative solutions to complex problems.	Innovative	Information literacy and Critical Analysis and Reasoning	Critical thinking, creative thinking, inquiry and analysis, and information literacy
7) Understand American heritage	Articulate core American values and diverse experiences with an awareness of multiple cultural contexts.	Proficient/ Adaptable	Diverse Perspectives and Values & Ethics	Knowledge of human cultures (no rubric)

8) Interpret past and current world events	Interpret past and current world events through an awareness of different cultures.	Adaptable	Diverse Perspectives and Cultural & Global Awareness	Intercultural knowledge
9) Demonstrate intellectual curiosity	Apply self-directed learning strategies to improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities beyond requirements.	Proficient		Foundations and skills for lifelong learning.

The knowledge, skills, and abilities associated with these learning outcomes are emphasized within and across the courses that make up the USNA core curriculum. These outcomes are also developed and practiced within majors, training evolutions, and in both formal and informal activities that take place across a midshipman's educational experience.