



# Political Science Department Midshipmen Handbook



Updated Spring 2021



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## Resources & Reference Documents

[Political Science Website](#)

[ACDEANINST 1531.39: Academic Advising & Mentoring](#)

[ACDEANINST 1531.57Z: Plebe Academic Handbook](#)

[ACDEANINST 1531.59C: Majors, Course Enrollment, and Changes](#)

[Political Science Matrix \(also available on MIDS\)](#)

[Political Science Honors Matrix \(also available on MIDS\)](#)

[Political Science Course Listings \(also available on MIDS\)](#)

## Background

The Political Science Department is comprised of midshipmen, faculty, and staff who actively contribute to meeting the Naval Academy's mission "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." To further that mission, the department seeks to imbue approximately 350 Political Science majors with knowledge of political processes, institutions, and behaviors.

The department has an absolutely outstanding faculty of civilian and military professors and instructors. Tenured professors of Political Science hail from top notch Ph.D. programs and set an exceptionally high bar for scholarship, teaching, and service. Their tenure is complemented by rotational military faculty who, along with a requisite graduate degree, bring recent operational and leadership experiences to the Political Science passageway. The department also hosts several distinguished chairs and distinguished visiting professors - endowed teaching positions that infuse the classroom with experienced practitioners and scholars.

Outside the classroom, you will also find additional opportunities to expand your education through more than 25 summer internship programs sponsored by the department, potentially working with a variety of agencies in the Washington D.C. area and abroad in the United Kingdom. As well, you may have the opportunity to travel abroad with one of the many faculty-led regional expertise and cultural programs. Finally, after graduation, you can continue your studies through the Voluntary, Immediate, and UK Graduate Education Programs.

As a Political Science major, you will join the ranks of our department's former majors, including leaders like General John Allen, USMC, who served as a military instructor in the department and later went on to be the Commander, US Central Command, and Rear Admiral Bill Byrne, USN, a former Naval Academy commandant who went on to serve as Commander, Carrier Strike Group 11. Additional notable former Political Science majors serve as leaders in government and the private sector, including leaders like Ambassador Paul Wohlers (U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia), and Senator Todd Young (Senator from Indiana). However, you need look no further than our current faculty and recent graduates to see successful Political Science majors serving as officers in every warfare community. Check out our "Alumni at the Helm" boards in the PoliSci hallway to see graduates from our Department currently serving in all levels of "command, citizenship, and government."

## Getting Started

This handbook is designed as a resource for Political Science majors with questions regarding the matrix, course preregistration and registration, common academic challenges, and various academic opportunities. This is not intended as a standalone guide, but rather a quick reference to be utilized in conjunction with the aforementioned references.

This guide seeks to answer many common questions; however, please remember that your primary resource should always be the appropriate reference (ACDEANNOTE, SUPENOTE, etc.). Your academic adviser is always available to assist you as well.

### Midshipmen Information System (MIDS)

The central module for academics is MIDS. Familiarization with MIDS is helpful in planning your academic career at USNA. Common MIDS queries are included below for reference.

- Academic information: MIDS > Midshipmen > Midshipmen - Query Academic Information
- Course offerings: MIDS > Academics > Offered Courses and Sections - Query
- Matrix: MIDS > Midshipmen > Matrices - Query Current Midshipmen
- Midshipmen schedules: MIDS > Academics > Schedules - Query Midshipmen
- Preregistration: MIDS > Academics > Preregistration - Query by Midn, Major, or Adviser
- Summer school course availability: MIDS > Midshipmen > Summer School - Query Totals

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I have to meet with my adviser each semester?

*Yes, you should meet with your adviser at least once per semester before preregistering for the following semester's classes. It is recommended that you research course offerings prior to meeting with your adviser so that you are prepared for the meeting. Reference the Preregistration and Registration sections of this document for more information. Advisers must approve of all course selections prior to you entering them into MIDS.*

2. I am having difficulty contacting my adviser to discuss preregistration - what should I do?

*Continue trying to establish contact with your adviser. If you do not receive a response in a reasonable amount of time, meet with another professor or a senior academic adviser (see page 28). Prior to the meeting, you should review your matrix and courses desired.*

3. I have a specific question that my adviser cannot answer. Whom do I contact?

*For information on special programs (i.e. study abroad, summer school, VGEP, etc.), reach out to the appropriate point of contact (e.g. graduate education coordinator) to discuss. Many of the POCs are covered in this reference guide, and others are available on the USNA program website found by searching on the intranet. You may also contact the senior academic advisers (see page 5).*

4. What other academic resources are available for information on specific academic programs?

*For additional information, consult the program websites.*

- [Academic Advising Website](#)
- [Political Science Department Website](#)
- [Graduate Education Website](#)
- [International Programs Website](#)

5. Does choice of major preclude me from a specific service assignment?

*No, you are not limited by your major selection from entering any community, as long as the community entrance requirements are met. Political Science majors have been successful in every community, from nuclear to aviation to special warfare.*

6. How important are grades at USNA?

*Your academic performance has several important implications. Higher grades and class standing are important to:*

- *Privileges and selection for leadership positions at USNA.*
- *Priority for summer training preferences.*
- *Receive desired service assignment.*
- *Selection for programs like LSAP, LREC, Study Abroad, Honors Program, VGEP, or one of several graduate school scholarships available upon graduation.*
- *Academics factor heavily into Overall Order of Merit, which subsequently translates into lineal number in the fleet. This lineal number directly impacts promotion timing as an officer.*
- *Future graduate school opportunities will be impacted by grades at USNA.*

*Conversely, poor academic performance reduces chances for receiving desired service selection and may result in remedial action, reduced privileges, or potential separation from the USNA.*

7. Who are the important academic advising contacts that I can ask for further information?

Political Science Senior Academic Advisers (SAAs) by Class:

*Class of 2022 - CDR Dave Richardson: [drichar@usna.edu](mailto:drichar@usna.edu) x3-6851*

*Class of 2023 - LCDR Jessica Cleary: [cleary@usna.edu](mailto:cleary@usna.edu) x3-6858*

*Class of 2024 - LCDR Jessica Cleary: [cleary@usna.edu](mailto:cleary@usna.edu) x3-6858*

8. What are some important locations to know for academic assistance?

Registrar's Office: *NI-229F*

Study Abroad Office: *LE-201*

Academic Dean: *NI-166*

Writing Center: *NI-103*

Center of Academic Excellence: *Mitscher 265*

Math Lab: *CH-130*

Chemistry Resource Room: *MI-100*

# Understanding the Political Science Matrix

You **MUST** be on track with your matrix (as indicated in the #Courses box). The registrar may preregister you for core courses (i.e. NL400, NN310, NL310) to ensure you remain on-track with your matrix and allow adequate course planning for departments. You are not permitted to be a course behind in your matrix, regardless of plans for summer classes or a lighter academic load the following year. If there are extenuating circumstances (i.e. major change, health issue, etc.), please discuss with your academic adviser, as the Academic Provost’s permission is required to fall behind in your matrix.

While the minimum permissible academic workload is 15 credit hours, it is generally not advisable to take an academic load above 23 hours. Adviser permission is required to take more than the credit hours workload established by the matrix and Academic Provost permission is required to take more than the 23 hour maximum. It may be granted if there are special circumstances (i.e. high QPR, double major, VGEP, study abroad), but excessive workloads must be judiciously permitted and take into account both justification and academic aptitude.

An example matrix for the Political Science major is below. Courses should be taken in the order listed, but the arrows represent courses that can be taken in either fall or spring semester.

	3/C Fall	3/C Spring		2/C Fall	2/C Spring		1/C Fall	1/C Spring
<b>Core</b>	NN210 2-1-2 Basic Navigation			NN310 2-1-2 Advanced Navigation	NL310 3-0-3 Leadership: Theory and Application		NL400 2-0-2 Law for the Junior Officer	NL43X 2-1-2 Junior Officer Practicum
	SP211 3-2-4 General Physics I	SP212 3-2-4 General Physics II						
	SM223 4-0-4 Calc III w/ Optimization	SM219 3-0-3 Probability and Statistics		EC310 2-2-3 Cyber Security II	EE301 3-2-4 Electrical Fundamentals Applications		EW300 3-0-3 Naval Weapons Systems	
	NE203 3-0-3 Ethics and Moral Reasoning				EM300 3-2-4 Principles of Propulsion		EW370 0-2-1 Control Systems Laboratory	EA/N4XY 3-2-4
<b>Division</b>		HH2XY 3-0-3 History in the Pre-Modern World		HH216 3-0-3 The West in the Modern World			HUM/SS Elective 1 3-0-3	HUM/SS Elective 2 3-0-3
	FL101 3-0-3 Basic Language I	FL102 3-0-3 Basic Language II		FL201 3-0-3 Intermediate Language I	FL202 3-0-3 Intermediate Language II		Free Elective 3-0-3	
<b>Major</b>	FP210 3-0-3 International Relations	FP230 3-0-3 Comparative Politics		FP220 3-0-3 Political Science Research Methods	Major Elective 3 3-0-3		Major Elective 4 3-0-3	FP471X 3-0-3 Capstone Seminar
		Major Elective 1 3-0-3		Major Elective 2 3-0-3			Major Elective 5 3-0-3	Major Elective 6 3-0-3
	19	19		17	17		18	15

The matrix is aligned by class year and should be read vertically per semester. The number of credits required per semester is listed at the bottom of each column. For example, the first column lists all courses that you would take during the fall semester of your 3/C year, for a total of 19 credit hours. However, there are several major courses that can be taken either semester. For instance, FP210 and FP230, FP220 and an Elective, are interchangeable as denoted by the arrow.

The core requirements (yellow) are those that are mandatory for all midshipmen, the division block (grey) denotes required HUM/SS courses, and the major block (blue) denotes required courses to graduate with a Political Science degree.

You must have at least a 2.0 Major QPR (MQPR) and at least a 2.0 Cumulative QPR (CQPR) to graduate with a Political Science degree. A < 2.0 MQPR with a > 2.0 CQPR will earn a General Studies degree.

#### **Specific Notes on the Political Science Matrix**

- EW300 and EW370 are co-requisites (must be taken simultaneously). The co-requisite requirement stems from the need to integrate the weapons and control systems topics to enhance student comprehension.
  
- The vast majority of Political Science majors should take SM219 (Introductory Statistics) as their fourth math course. The only exceptions are if:
  - You have completed the math sequence before declaring as Political Science majors, as you will have usually taken SM212 (Differential Equations) before selecting the FPS major.
  - You are attempting a double major with Economics or Quantitative Economics, as you have different requirements for their Methods sequence. (SE331/445)
  
- SM230 (Probability with Naval Applications) fulfills the SM219 requirement but is not recommended, as it does not have the statistical content that we are now assuming for FP220 (Methods). You may be removed from SM230 if you do not have an approved reason to take it in lieu of FP220.
  
- You must take SM219 (or an approved alternate) before FP220 (Methods), as the course will build upon the statistical content learned. FP220 is listed as a Fall 2/C course, but the available sections will be split between fall and spring semesters.
  
- EA/N4XY may be fulfilled by either EA400, EN400, or EN401. You may choose to correspond the class to your service selection, but it is not required.

## Scheduling

Following the Political Science matrix in the listed order is important to completing the major on time. The academic departments begin planning course and section availability based on the expected enrollment of students from each major, and delaying or preempting a course throws off departmental planning. For this reason, you are not allowed to put off “hard” courses in order to suit your own scheduling preferences.

Academic load has priority over your sport teams, extracurricular activities, leadership billets, outside commitments, etc. If you desire to take courses out of the order listed in the matrix, consult with your academic adviser.

If you desire to get ahead in your matrix in order to facilitate opportunities like study abroad, graduate study, double majoring, Brigade leadership positions, etc., consider voluntary summer school. If you have any questions about getting ahead in the Political Science matrix, discuss with your academic adviser to develop a realistic plan of attack.

**Academic Dean permission is required to fall even one class behind the matrix, so it should be avoided unless there is a special circumstance such as a major illness or change of major. Why is this the case?**

**If a midshipman is one course behind the matrix and then fails a class, he or she becomes immediately two courses behind the matrix.**

**Becoming two courses behind in a matrix is cause for automatic separation from the Naval Academy with the right to appeal at an Academic Board!**

## Preregistration

Preregistration is a requirement, not a preference, as it allows for academic planning. It is essential to allocating faculty and resources while allowing for thoughtful planning of your academic career. Prior to the preregistration module opening on MIDS (late September during fall semester/late January during spring semester), you **MUST** meet with your academic adviser.

You should prepare for the meeting with your Academic Adviser by following the steps below:

1. Go to MIDS and review your matrix.
2. Determine which classes are required for the next semester. Courses should be taken in accordance with the matrix, with a minimum acceptable course load of 15 credit hours.
3. In MIDS, go to the Offered Courses module, enter the correct semester, and type in the department code followed by “%” to see all courses offered by that department (for example, “FP%” displays all Political Science courses offered, “HH%” displays History courses, “HE%” displays English courses, etc.).
4. Review the Political Science course offerings and consider your academic goals. For instance, think about whether you want to focus on a specific region (perhaps paired with a language), international relations, American government, national security, etc.
5. Make a list of top 5 elective choices. (If you need to take an elective from another department, look in MIDS to see which courses will be offered.)
6. You must meet with your academic adviser about preregistration choices or you will not be authorized to preregister when the module opens.

At your advising meeting, you should discuss the courses and how they fit into your overall desired course of study. While Political Science no longer has a concentration requirement (i.e. International Relations, Comparative Politics, or American Government), you will benefit from a structured, thoughtful approach to coursework.

Once your adviser has approved your course selections, you may then complete the preregistration module on MIDS by running MIDS > Midshipmen > Courses - Preregister. The module opens by class and courses are filled on a **first come, first served basis**.

You may register **ONLY** for classes discussed with your adviser. You cannot register for extra classes with the intention of dropping some later or generating a better schedule. This is simply not acceptable and may result in the loss of registration preferences, conduct action, and/or an honor offense. Extra preregistering can prevent others from getting courses they need and disrupts departmental planning.

You must take a minimum of 15 credit hours. The EW300 corequisite, EW370, is the only 1 credit course that counts to meet the 15 hour minimum; other 1 credit courses such as MGSP, NAFAC, UKISP, etc. do not fulfill the minimum requirement.

You should complete preregistration sooner rather than later. The earlier you preregister, the better the odds are of getting your desired courses. Seats fill up quickly for the most sought after courses!

You must personally preregister before the deadline; advisers cannot do this for you. Failure to preregister puts you on a delinquent list that precludes you from being able to enter section time/professor preferences during registration. You will also be subject to conduct action.

You should only be preregistered for courses which you will actually take - you are not allowed to over-enroll to optimize your schedule.

## Pre-Requisites for Key Courses\*

<u>Course</u>	<u>Pre-Requisites</u>
SP211	Chemistry II (SC112 or SC151); Co-req: Calculus III (SM221 or SM223 or SM251)
SM212	Calculus III (SM221 or SM223).
HH2XY	None.
HH216	None.
NE203	3/C standing
NN210	NS101 (3/C standing).
EN400	SM122 or SM162
EC310	Cyber 1 (SY110) and Physics II (SP212 or SP222),
EM300	Physics I (SP211 or SP221).
EW300/EW370	Calculus II (SM122 or SM162); Chemistry II (SC112 or SC151); and Physics II (SP212 or SP222).
EE301	Physics II (SP212 or SP222).
SM2XY	Calculus III (SM221 or SM223).
NL310	2/C standing.
NL400	1/C standing or permission of department chair.
NN210	NS101 (3/C standing)
NN310	NN210 (2/C standing).
NS43X	1/C standing
EW300/EW370	Physics II (SP212 or SP222), DE (SM212 or SM222); and Elec Eng I (EE221 or EE331).
EA400	SM122 or SM162.
EN400	2/C standing
EN401	1/C standing

*\* Department Chair approval required for any exceptions. Talk to the Senior Academic Advisor with any questions. Changes to pre-reqs do occur every few years.*

# Registration

Academic registration for the following semester will occur during the latter portion of the semester (November/April). Registration enables you to request specific course schedules and sections. Prior to registration, you should run MIDS > Course - Query Preregistration to verify that your list of courses is correct and that there are no hard conflicts. Errors must be fixed prior to the opening of registration.

You must meet with your adviser (in person or via email) to authorize registration. There should be no deviations from preregistration unless there are special circumstances (i.e. course cancellation, study abroad, VGEP, Honors, etc.).

Before your classes can be confirmed for registration, the following steps should be taken in order to avoid any potential problems:

1. Review preregistration in MIDS and ensure you are only preregistered for courses you will take the next semester. (Not entering a section for a course DOES NOT exclude it from the scheduling process.)
2. The system will attempt to schedule all preregistered courses; extra courses in your preregistration will impact your schedule. If you need to remove (or add) a course, email your academic adviser to request the change.
3. Please remember you must register for a minimum of 15 credit hours each semester and that you are not allowed to fall behind your matrix requirements. Being 2 or more courses behind your matrix **automatically** subjects you to separation from the Naval Academy.
4. Check the potential schedules module in MIDS to ensure you do not have any hard conflicts that will prevent generating a schedule. If you have a conflict, work with your academic adviser immediately to identify a solution.
5. The MIDS registration module opens at 0700 on the designated date, by class year. At the designated time, you may begin entering section preferences and course ranks in MIDS. Upon entering preferences, you must save the entries BEFORE clicking the 'Submit for scheduling' button. Clicking the 'Submit for scheduling' button without saving will instead submit blank sections for scheduling. Prior to submitting requests for scheduling, you may leave the module and return later to revise the entries.

After preferences are submitted, you may no longer make revisions and must request a MIDREC through your adviser.

You may register **ONLY** for classes discussed with your adviser. You cannot register for extra classes with the intention of dropping some later or generating a better schedule. This is simply not acceptable and may result in the loss of registration preferences, conduct action, and/or an honor offense. Extra preregistering can prevent others from getting courses they need and disrupts departmental planning.

## Registration - Course Scheduling Software

The first set of schedules will be generated for those who submit their registration requests prior to the first course scheduling software run, 24 hours after the module opens (1000 the next day). For the best chance at having preferences met, you should aim to submit choices prior to this software run. The second scheduling run will then occur at 1600, and the final scheduling will run at 0800 when the module closes. If you do not submit your preferences by the deadline, or if you were blocked from registration by failing to preregister, your schedule will be generated automatically (without preferences) before the first run of schedules for the next class year.

Please be aware that after your schedule is created, it may change as the Scheduling Office attempts to resolve scheduling conflicts and balance section enrollment. You should always double-check your schedule the night before classes start. There is a saying in the Registrar's Office: No one has a schedule until everyone has a schedule.

## Section Changes

Section changes are restricted and require approval of the Chair of the department offering the course and the Academic Scheduler. Changes of section for convenience or to select, or avoid, a particular instructor are not allowed. Requests will **only** be considered, but not guaranteed, if you are placed in a section with an instructor whom you had previously.

To place a section change request, complete a [Section Change Request form](#) and obtain the approval of the Chair of the department offering the course.

More registration information is available at the [Academic Scheduling website](#).

## Resolving Hard Scheduling Conflicts

On occasion, you may experience a hard scheduling conflict, meaning the software cannot generate a schedule due to conflicts in when certain courses meet. Conflicts must be resolved before registration opens to ensure you can enter preferences for sections in the registration module.

To generate potential schedules from your list of preregistered classes, go to MIDS > Midshipmen > Schedules - Query Potential Mid Schedules. Note that this is a planning module only and that changes here do NOT affect actual preregistration or registration.

If a schedule or schedules are generated, there is NO CONFLICT you will be able to enter the Registration Module when it opens. If MIDS does not generate potential schedules, contact your academic adviser, as you will need to resolve your hard scheduling conflict.

You can also click on the BACK ARROW and reexamine the courses. There are 5 boxes on the screen. You can only make changes in the upper left hand box, upper center box and the box on the right. The changes you will make will appear in the bottom left hand box and bottom center box. *It is important to remember to hold down the Ctrl key when clicking on the courses to change anything in the boxes.* If you find a potential solution to the hard conflict, you must discuss it with your adviser, who will submit the course change request on your behalf.

### Scheduling Conflict Points of Contact

1. Mrs. DeDe Duncan-White adds NAAA blockers in the system prior to registration (there are other non-NAAA blockers); not every athlete/sport is authorized to get a blocker. No advisers should add blockers.
2. Dr. Davis drops blockers if they create a hard conflict prior to sending out the email with the list of those with hard conflicts.
3. If an Academic Adviser sees a hard conflict prior to registration, he or she can email Mrs. Duncan-White and she will modify or remove the blocker in the event a course meeting time changed.
4. If a midshipman is attempting to get the schedule he or she wants, advisers can email Mrs. Duncan-White to remove the blocker. However, *the blocker will not be added back if the midshipman does not receive the schedule he or she wants.*

## **Adding and Dropping Courses**

In special circumstances, it may be necessary to add or drop a course once the semester has commenced. These situations require the close consultation of your adviser and must be carefully considered. Your adviser will submit the request on your behalf. Keep in mind - a course may NOT be dropped due to convenience (i.e. meets Friday 6th periods).

The course addition deadline is usually the first day of the third week of classes. While courses may be added up to these dates, it is advisable to make a change as soon as possible to minimize the material missed.

The course drop deadline is usually just after the 12-week grading period. You must be judicious about dropping a course, as this may place you behind in your matrix (requires AcDean approval). Normally this is only granted for special circumstances such as significant illness or injury. Remember that you must take a minimum of 15 credit hours unless special circumstances warrant consideration and AcDean approval is granted.

## MAPRS and Academic Challenges

Professors are required to submit Midshipman Academic Performance Reports (MAPRs) when you receive a D or F in a course. If you receive a MAPR, contact your academic adviser as soon as possible in order for them to help you develop a remediation plan.

Think about the following when developing your academic strategy.

1. What is your plan to get assistance in the courses that are challenging you?
2. Are you enrolled in supplementary assistance courses or attending programs like the math lab, visiting the Chemistry Resource Room (Michelson 100); or using the Writing Center (Nimitz 103)? What is your EI schedule with your professor?
3. How and where are you studying? Are you maximizing resources like MGSP? Are you asking your peers and upper class for assistance?
4. Is there anything going on that you should let someone know about distracts from your studies?

Keep in mind that bad grades do not mean that you are not smart or talented, but rather you are not fulfilling your potential and need to change your strategy. Continue working hard, get assistance when needed, maintain a positive attitude, and remember that those around you are all committed to your success.

# Political Science Honors Program

The honors program is an opportunity to carry out a major research project under the direct supervision of a faculty member. As an honors candidate, you will be responsible to your faculty adviser who guides the design, research, and analysis of the subject of interest. The honors program offers an opportunity for you to shape your own educational experience.

## Honors Program Requirements:

- Maintain a minimum CQPR of 3.0 in all academic courses taken for credit at USNA.
- Maintain a minimum major CQPR of 3.5 in all courses. When a midshipman completes a course in excess of that required in the matrix for that major and the course is interchangeable with another that appears in the matrix, the course that yields the higher major CQPR will be used. Core courses in the discipline (in this case FP130) will not be included in this computation.
- No grade of “D” or “F” on the official transcript in any academic or professional course is permitted unless an equivalent or a more rigorous course is subsequently taken and a grade higher than “D” is earned.
- Midshipmen cannot simultaneously be an honors student and a VGEP/SSA student.

If you meet the academic requirements of the honors program, you will be invited to attend an information session with the Honors Program Director after six-week grades are posted in the fall of the 2/C year. If you are interested, you may then apply for admission into the program. The research schedule consists of three courses, taken spring semester of 2/C year and both semesters of 1/C year. This sequence is 9 credits, consisting of FP500 Honors Advanced Research Design (2 credits), FP505 Honors Senior Seminar (3 credits), and FP510 Honors Senior Thesis (4 credits).

Upon acceptance into the program, you may only voluntarily disenroll at the end of a semester. Failure to meet program requirements may warrant a dis-enrollment by the Department Chair. Midshipmen who cannot maintain the high standards required of an honors major will revert to the regular major matrix.

For more information, consult [Academic Dean Instruction 5420.4D: Honors Programs and Political Science Department Instruction 1: Political Science Honors Program](#).

The matrix for the Political Science honors matrix is above. Please note for a midshipman who dis-enrolls from the honors program: FP500 will NOT fulfill a matrix requirement in the regular Political Science matrix, so any midshipman who leaves the honors program must plan to stay on track with his or her matrix knowing that FP500 only counts toward graduation for midshipmen in the honors program.

	3/C Fall	3/C Spring		2/C Fall	2/C Spring		1/C Fall	1/C Spring
Core	NN210 2-1-2 Basic Navigation			NL310 3-0-3 Leadership: Theory and Application	NN310 2-1-2 Advanced Navigation		NL400 2-0-2 Law for the Junior Officer	NL43X 2-1-2 Junior Officer Practicum
	SP211 3-2-4 General Physics I	SP212 3-2-4 General Physics II						
	SM223 4-0-4 Calc III w/ Optimization	SM219 3-0-3 Probability and Statistics		EE301 3-2-4 Electrical Fundamentals Applications	EC310 2-2-3 Cyber Security II		EA/N4XY 0-2-1	EW300 3-0-3 Naval Weapons Systems
	NE203 3-0-3 Ethics and Moral Reasoning				EM300 3-2-4 Principles of Propulsion			EW370 0-2-1 Control Systems Laboratory
Division		HH2XY 3-0-3 History in the Pre-Modern World		HH216 3-0-3 The West in the Modern World			HUM/SS Elective 2 3-0-3	Free Elective 3-0-3
	FL101 3-0-3 Basic Language I	FL102 3-0-3 Basic Language II		FL201 3-0-3 Intermediate Language I	FL202 3-0-3 Intermediate Language II			
				HUM/SS Elective 1 3-0-3				
Major	FP210 3-0-3 International Relations	FP230 3-0-3 Comparative Politics		Major Elective 2 3-0-3	FP500 2-0-2 Honors Advanced Research Design		FP505 3-0-3 Honors Senior Seminar	FP510 3-2-4 Honors Senior Thesis
		Major Elective 1 3-0-3			FP220 3-0-3 Political Science Research Methods		Major Elective 3 3-0-3	Major Elective 5 3-0-3
							Major Elective 4 3-0-3	
	19	19		19	17		18	16

Examples of past Political Science Honors Projects include, but are not limited to:

- Culture Matters: Analyzing the Pashtun Culture in Relation to Drone Strikes
- The NATO Alliance and Collective Defense: Why Don't the Countries of NATO Invest More into Collective Defense?
- External Influence in Constitution Drafting and Its Impact on Public Participation

- Analyzing the Effects of Freedom and Medical Capacity on Infectious Disease Outbreak Response
- Financial Constituencies in the 2018 Senate Midterm Elections
- The Politics of Ethnic Integration: Analyzing the Impact of Education Policy on School Segregation in England
- Sources of Funding as a Sign of Viability During Civil War: A Case Study of Three Colombian Rebel Groups
- Integrating Colombia's Displaced with Microfinance
- Assessing the Domestic Impact of Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons Program
- Gripping the Party's Gun: Chinese Civil-Military Relations in the Context of Modern Sino-American Crisis Management
- Analyzing the Impact of Information and Communication Technology on Democratization and Authoritarian Rule in Sub-Saharan Africa

## Double Major Requirements

To be given credit for a second major, you must complete all required major and division courses in the second major. In the major course category of the second major, at least five of the courses, totaling a minimum of 15 semester hours credit, must be courses that were not used for credit toward the first major. At least four of these five courses must be at the 300 level or above. The completion of a second major does not constitute eligibility for a second degree, but both majors will be noted on official transcripts.

As a double major, you will be assigned both a primary and secondary major adviser. The primary adviser will be responsible for ensuring all graduation requirements are met; the secondary adviser, assigned from the second major, is responsible for ensuring all coursework in the second major is complete in order to be awarded the double major.

If you are considering a double major, use MIDS to look at possible matrices by navigating to MIDS > Midshipmen > Matrices - Query Current Midshipmen. Enter TEMP MAJOR CHANGE in the Group menu and choose the secondary major code in the Major for Temporary Change menu.

### Political Science/Quantitative Economics Double Major

Double majors must complete the 14 course Quantitative Economics major, the 10 course Political Science major, and take 4 semesters of a language. As such, double majoring is generally only possible if you have significant validations.

- SE331 and SE445 jointly count for the FP220 requirement in the Political Science matrix.
- If you complete the 200-level language sequence for Chinese, Russian, Arabic, or Japanese as part of the FPS requirements, those courses would also fulfill two major electives in the FEQ matrix. This is not true for French, German, or Spanish, which must be 300-level or higher.
- Three Quantitative Economics major courses could count as HUM/SS free electives in the Political Science matrix: FEQ EL 1, 2, and 3 are still HUM/SS courses and so will count as HUM/SS electives.

For more information, consult [Academic Dean Instruction 1531.59B](#): Majors, Course Enrollment, and Changes.

## Language Minor Requirements

All Political Science majors are required to take or validate four semesters of the same chosen language. Many midshipmen within the Political Science major choose to take additional language courses above those required in order to attain a minor. The language minor requirements were streamlined in the summer of 2019 and can be found below and at:

<https://intranet.usna.edu/LanguagesAndCultures/Academics/Language-Minors.php>

Requirements for the language minor:

- Complete a minimum of six courses (18 credit hours) in any one language, to be taken in sequence.
- An average grade of B (3.0 GPA) or better must be earned in all courses in the language of specialization, unless permission is otherwise granted by the chair of Languages and Cultures.
- Language validations prior to starting sequenced courses can alleviate a maximum of two courses (six credit hours) toward the minor. Validations in excess of six credit hours may fulfill graduation requirements but will not count toward the minor.
- Language immersion programs (such as Language Study Abroad Programs (LSAP) or STEM language-intensive summer programs) vetted by professors in the Languages and Cultures Department, semester study abroad, or CLS (Critical Language Scholarship program) may alleviate no more than two additional courses (six credit hours).
- In all cases, a minimum of two language courses (six credit hours) must be taken in residence at USNA, with a 3.0 GPA.
- Midshipmen who meet these requirements receive the minor automatically; there is no application procedure or designated adviser.

Midshipmen meeting the following requirements are eligible to receive an **Additional Qualification Designation (AQD)** in the Asia-Pacific Specialty.

Naval Academy graduates who have successfully completed the Chinese or Japanese language minors, are entering the Navy, and who:

- a. Successfully complete a semester abroad program in the Asia Pacific region and complete at least two major electives focused on the Asia-Pacific region, **or**
- b. Successfully complete at least four major electives focused on the Asia-Pacific region.

Reference: 7DEC15 Memorandum from Mr. Disher to the AcProvost

## Semester Study Abroad Program

Semester Study Abroad (SSA) Programs are available for all languages taught at the Naval Academy - Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish. Midshipmen in their 2/C year or first semester of their 1/C year are eligible to participate in a SSA. Possible available locations for SSA include Chile, China, France, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Oman, Portugal, Qatar, Singapore, Spain, and Taiwan.

### Semester Study Abroad Requirements:

- Demonstrate superior Aptitude (grade of B or better for previous semester).
- Maintain an excellent conduct record (grade of B or better for previous semester).
- Maintain superior athletic performance (grade of C or better on PE from previous semester and 80 or better on the PRT).
- Maintain a minimum CQPR of at least 2.7 and SQPR above a 2.5.
- Receive a favorable endorsement by Chain of Command and academic department.
- Be able to obtain at least nine credits of validation and approval of departmental SAA.
- Demonstrate foreign language ability (as determined by Language Studies Department).

In order to best prepare for the study abroad application process, you should aim to validate and/or overload courses to create availability in their matrix. You can rarely validate a full semester of USNA course credits while abroad. If interested, discuss SSA with your adviser.

Preference will be given to those who have not previously participated in a USNA-sponsored overseas program abroad. Exceptions may be granted if you have been selected for a semester study abroad program in the same language.

You will take three 1 credit Semester Abroad Intercultural Seminars as part of the study abroad requirements: FL471A Pre-depart, FL471B In Country, and FL471C Re-entry. Together these count as a HUM/SS elective or a Free elective. Effective AY18 and beyond, SSA course grades of 2 Ds or one F will result in a FL471B grade of an F; as such, the three 1-credit series would NOT count for a HUM/SS or Free Elective requirement. This will also be factored into OOM calculations.

Keep in mind that you will take a full time load (minimum 15 credits) in your respective host institutions. The goal should be that all credits transfer as validations, but at a minimum, at least 9 credits must transfer. Effective AY18 and beyond, **validation requires at least a grade of C**, but you should aim for academic excellence - as standards do not change while abroad.

For more information, consult [Academic Dean Instruction 5700.2G](#): Semester Study Abroad Program Guidelines, the International Programs Office website, or Dr. Mike Williams.

## Voluntary Graduate Education Program (VGEP)

VGEP is a one-year masters program at civilian universities in the area, where midshipmen begin their graduate studies during the second semester of their 1/C year. There are up to 20 participants selected per class. The program may or may not be funded up to \$11,000 per scholar, depending on the USNA budget, and the remaining tuition must be paid by the scholar.

### VGEP Requirements:

- Maintain a minimum CQPR of at least 3.2 to apply. Competitive applicants typically have a CQPR around 3.6 or above.
- Work ahead by a minimum of 15 credit hours from the matrix in order to start graduate school in spring semester of 1/C year. The Graduate Education Committee strongly prefers the practicum course (NS43X) be the only remaining academic requirement. This may be accomplished through validations, voluntary summer school, or over-loading.
- Complete the application through Google Forms in spring semester of 2/C year.
- Midshipman must be a Navy-select. USMC selectees are not eligible.
- Selected scholars must apply for Navy subspecialty code before commencing studies.

In addition to the eligibility requirements of VGEP, applications for the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University will be reviewed by the Political Science Department for demonstrative evidence of substantive interest in security studies and potential for success.

An *excellent* candidate for the Security Studies Program will:

- Have completed one or more national security related courses, such as FP421 National Security Policy, FP314 American Foreign Policy, FP407 Intelligence and National Security, or FP460 Special Topics in National Security.
- Have well-developed research and writing skills, as evidenced by upper-level social science course work.

A *good* candidate for the Security Studies Program will:

- Have completed FP210 Introduction to International Relations and have shown interest in international relations through participation in NAFAC, ALLIES, or similar ECAs, or through participation in a national security related summer internship.
- Have strong experience in research and writing, as evidenced by course work.

A *poor* candidate for the Security Studies Program will:

- Have taken no course work in international affairs, or security studies.
- Have little experience in research and writing in the social sciences.

For more information, consult [USNA Instruction 1560.3G](#): Voluntary Graduate Education Program *or* contact the department graduate education coordinator, Professor Stephen Wrage.

## Academic Deficiencies and Resources

If your CQPR is below 2.0 at the completion of a semester, probation for the following semester is automatically imposed. You will also be placed on automatic probation for the semester following two consecutive semesters in which your semester QPR is below 2.0, even if your CQPR is above 2.0.

[USNAINST 5420.24G](#) accordingly states that your record is academically deficient and will be reviewed by the Academic Board if you:

- Have a semester QPR below 1.50.
- Fail two or more courses in one semester.
- Fail any course after two or more prior course failures.
- Fail to earn a 2.00 in summer school whether attended voluntarily or not.
- Fail to remove probation.
- Fail to fulfill any condition as prescribed by the Academic Board as the result of a previous deficiency.
- Fail to successfully complete all requirements for graduation by the end of that semester in which you are scheduled to graduate.
- Fall two or more courses behind the number of courses required by the end of a given semester according to that major's program matrix.
- Fail to achieve the required standards in prescribed summer training.
- Are deficient in physical education at the end of a semester or receive failing grades in conduct and military aptitude.
- Fail a remedial course such as HE101, SM005 or HE344 (when directed to meet a writing deficiency).

Midshipmen whose records are deficient at the end of an academic term are separated from the Naval Academy unless retained by the Academic Board following an appeal. Midshipmen retained by the Academic Board will be subject to an Academic LOI (Letter of Instruction), detailing their required steps to correct their academic deficiency. This may include, but is not limited to, required EI with professors, required enrollment in supplementary classes, academic tracking within your company, and loss of weekend eligibility status.

## Academic and Advisory Boards

The Academic Board meets at the end of each academic term to review the cases of midshipmen whose records are deficient as defined in USNAINST 5420.24G. The Academic Board is composed of the Superintendent, the Academic Dean and Provost, the Commandant, and others appointed by the Superintendent. The Board reviews the academic records, MAPRs and COMAPs of midshipmen whose records are deficient, and makes a decision for retention or separation. If you find yourself in this position, you must report to the Advisory Board if you are retained by the Academic Board. This Board will carry out the decisions of the Academic Board and make changes to your academic and summer training programs as appropriate. If you are not retained by the Academic Board, you are permitted to appeal your case in person, with your chain of command present, before the Academic Board.

## Academic Resources

There are many resources available to supplement formal class instruction, including the following:

- Extra Instruction (EI) with Professors (typically by appointment)
- Center for Academic Excellence
  - [Midshipman Group Study Program \(MGSP\)](#)
  - [Professional Tutoring](#)
  - [Advanced Learning Skills Courses](#)
  - [Writing Center](#)
- Supplemental Instruction
- Company Tutor Programs (consult with Company Academics Officer)
- Company Mates/Upperclassmen (especially those majoring in the course you're struggling with)

If you are struggling with a particular course/subject, seek help as soon as possible to prevent falling behind. It is much easier to *catch on* than to *catch up*!

Recall that you must maintain a 2.0 minimum CQPR to be eligible to sign 2-for-7 papers in the beginning of your 2/C year, and you must maintain a 2.0 minimum CQPR to graduate. If your major QPR is less than 2.0, you will graduate with a General Studies degree, not a Political Science degree.

## Summer School

Midshipmen are enrolled in a summer course with either *mandatory* or *voluntary* status. The status will determine whether the course may be substituted for a professional training or must be taken in lieu of leave.

- **Mandatory enrollment** has priority over voluntary enrollment and is assigned to midshipmen with academic deficiencies by the Academic or Advisory Boards. Mandatory status is usually given those repeating a required course due to failure and has first priority for enrollment. Summer school enrollment with mandatory status may displace professional summer training. Mandatory enrollment may be assigned at any time and is entered only by members of the Advisory Board.
  - **Mandatory Commandant status** is granted to a limited number of varsity athletes to permit a lighter than normal academic load (but always a *minimum* of 15 credit hours) when in-season, with second priority for enrollment. The Director of Athletics, through the Naval Academy Athletic Association (NAAA), requests summer school in lieu of professional training for a limited number of these midshipmen athletes and, after approval by the Commandant, forwards the approved list to the DAA for approval by the ADAA for enrollment. This list is typically compiled and approved in February. Although in mandatory status, a midshipman may choose not to take advantage of this opportunity if it impedes with special summer training opportunities.

You may withdraw from Commandant Mandatory Summer School without approval, but you should first inform your academic adviser.

If enrollment in summer school does not reduce your semester academic load, you will not be placed in mandatory summer school. That is, if you are a rising 1/C with 30 credits or fewer remaining to graduate or a rising 2/C with 60 credits or fewer remaining to graduate, you will not receive mandatory summer school.

If athletic participation changes and you are no longer a member of a varsity sport, you will be withdrawn from summer school.

- **Voluntary with Preference Status.** Your academic adviser may enroll you in Voluntary with Preference status if summer school is necessary for you to remain on matrix when pursuing a special program in which future credit is not guaranteed, such as studying abroad. Midshipmen in this category have third priority for enrollment in summer classes and this status requires the midshipman to enroll in summer courses in lieu of leave. A request for voluntary with preference status should be entered prior to summer training assignments (usually March) to minimize summer training changes. The summer training

office will not normally allow changes in summer training for those in Voluntary with Preference status.

- **Voluntary enrollment** is available after all mandatory enrollees have registered and there are extra seats available in a given course. You may enroll in a summer course voluntarily only when you would otherwise be in a leave status. Summer professional training has priority over voluntary summer school enrollment. You MUST enroll yourself via MIDS; advisers cannot enroll you in voluntary summer school, as it will take the place of their leave block.

You should consult with your adviser before enrolling in summer school. Voluntary enrollment opens in MIDS immediately after spring break. Space is granted on a first come, first served basis. Enrollment is open until the Friday before the course begins.

Summer courses are intense and proceed at a pace that is much faster than during a normal semester; each day of a summer course covers about as much as material as an entire week. The arduous course load makes it impossible for you to take more than one summer course at a time. You may not be engaged in any other activity during the summer course that would interfere with their studies. However, you *can* simultaneously work on passing swimming courses. Once enrolled in a summer course, you will receive an email from the PE department to sign up.

Failure to achieve a quality point ratio (QPR) of at least 2.00 during summer school, failure of any course during summer school, or failure to meet stipulations made by prior Academic Boards qualifies you for separation from the Academy and requires a positive decision on the part of the Academic Board for you to be retained.

Please note that grades in summer school courses will affect your QPR, but not your Order of Merit.

For more information, to include schedule of courses, consult [Academic Dean Instruction 1531.77A](#): Summer School Enrollment Policy *and* the [Summer School Information website](#).

## Major Changes

Requests for change of assigned major must be addressed to the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs (APAA). This request must be processed via the company officer, the academic adviser, the original department senior adviser and chair, and the new department senior adviser or chair. Such requests will not normally be approved if the change in major results in you falling further behind in the new academic matrix than in the old one.

If you are considering a major change, you should first meet with your currently assigned academic adviser to review the matrix of both majors and determine viability. If there is a viable pathway to *on time* graduation, you should meet with the senior academic adviser of the desired major department to further review. You will then be directed to formally route the Change of Major request through the chain of command for review by the APAA. Remember to allow ample time for routing prior to the Major Review Board meeting.

For more information to include the template in Enclosure 1 to complete change of major request consult [PROVOSTINST 1531.59C](#): Major Selection And Course Enrollment And Changes.

Normal Naval Academy policy is that no major changes will be approved for 3/C midshipmen until after the Drop Course Date of the fall semester (3/C year). In other words, they must spend an entire semester in their newly-chosen major before a change will be approved. That said, if you are considering a major change during 3/C fall, please meet with your adviser to discuss your potential options. Exceptions may be made prior to the Add Course Date of the 3/C fall semester under specific circumstances noted in [PROVOSTINST 1531.59C](#).

# Appendix A - Change of Major Request Template

PROVOSTINST 1531.59C

4 Dec 2020

## MAJOR CHANGE REQUEST FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

From: MIDN \_\_\_/C\_\_\_\_\_ alpha: \_\_\_\_\_

To: Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

Subj: REQUEST FOR A CHANGE OF MAJOR

Via: (1) Academic Adviser \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Company Officer \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Senior Adviser or Chair of Current Major \_\_\_\_\_

(4) Senior Adviser or Chair of Proposed Major \_\_\_\_\_

Encl: (1) My Current Major Matrix (from MIDS)

(2) My Proposed Major Matrix (from MIDS)

(3) MIDRECC

(4) Senior Academic Adviser Endorsement Form

1. I request to change my major from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, because \_\_\_\_\_

2. I recognize that, at the end of any semester, if I am 2 or more courses behind in my major, I will be separated from the Naval Academy unless retained by the Academic Board.

3. I have identified the deficiencies and course sequencing necessary for the major change and this major change will not impede my ability to graduate on-time.

4. I \_\_\_\_\_ (do / do not) request voluntary with preference summer school, which is in lieu of leave to get caught up with my matrix.

5. If I am making this request before the Drop Date of the Fall 3/C semester, I request early consider consideration because \_\_\_\_\_

6. I'm prepared to attend the Advisory Boards (dates are consistent with the Academic Boards dates on the Academic Calendar), if necessary, to meet with the Senior Academic Adviser of my new major to ensure scheduling (courses, adviser, and major) are changed and (if needed) I am added to summer school in lieu of leave.

7. I have attached my current and proposed major matrices.

Very respectfully,

\_\_\_\_\_  
MIDN USN

My Current Major Matrix (from MIDS):

My Proposed Major Matrix (from MIDS):

MIDREC

MIDRECC for NAME, Alpha

From: Senior Academic Advisor, (Proposed Major)

To: Academic Scheduling

Please change Major from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

For the current semester:

Drop:

Add:

For the upcoming semester:

Drop:

Add:

Proposed Schedule:

Period	Day					
	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						

SENIOR ACADEMIC ADVISER ENDORSEMENT FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

From: Senior Adviser, Major

To: Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

Subj: SENIOR ACADEMIC ADVISER ENDORSEMENT FORM FOR MIDN

\_\_\_\_\_

1. Forwarded, recommending \_\_\_\_\_ (approval / disapproval).
2. Most recent CQPR: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Academic issues discussed relative to major change:
4. Registration Changes.
  - a. Drop:
  - b. Add:
5. Summer School \_\_\_\_\_ (is / is not) required. If so, course recommended (will be in voluntary with preference status):
6. Progress on new major matrix (#/#), list number of courses behind.
7. List specific pre-requisite or course sequencing constraints.
8. New Adviser information:
  - a. Adviser:
  - b. Office:
  - c. Phone:
  - d. Email
9. Additional comments: