

## Elective Program

### General

The Elective Program provides students the opportunity to enhance both personal and professional growth while conducting advanced studies which may be related to the Core and/or AOC curriculum. The program is designed to support long-term professional development of the student. The program is also designed to broaden the student's professional needs. The Elective Program consists of several components including: Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) producing courses, Masters of Military Arts and Science graduate degree programs, and unrestricted elective courses.

The college requires each student to complete a minimum of 192 hours (8 electives) of elective credits to satisfy graduation requirements. All students must take 24 of those hours as a regional based course.

The academic year is divided into four sections:

- Common Core (A211 is taught during this time frame).
- Advanced Operations Course (AOC)
- Electives (Term 1)
- Electives (Term 2)

A detailed MOI is published during the Common Core outlining detailed Elective Program requirements and administrative procedures. This section provides an overview of the program and is located on both the Faculty and Student SharePoint sites in the administrative document library. It is subject to change.

### The MOD

A MOD is a block of time in which an elective is taught (usually in 2 hour blocks). All electives are taught in one of six MODs. MOD 1 and 2 will usually start meeting on Monday and will meet every other work day until the end of the term. MODs 3 and 4 will usually start meeting on Tuesday and will meet every other work day until the end of the term. MODs 5 and 6 will usually meet on Tuesday and Thursday. Due to facility and time constraint you must refer to the schedule published by the CGSS curriculum scheduler which will be posted on the web for exact days and time for specific MODS.

The MOD (M) layout is shown below:

TIME	MOD	MOD	
0830-1020	M1	M3	Meets every other day
1030-1220	M2	M4	Meets every other day

## Appendix C (Electives Program) Extracted from CGSC Circular 350-5

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1330-1520		M5 GDP	Meets Tuesday and Thursday
1530-1720		M6	Meets Tuesday and Thursday

### **Course Offerings**

Each elective course normally meets for 12 regularly scheduled sessions, in a specified MOD, and counts as 24 contact hours (1.5 semester credit hours in standard university terminology). Changes may occur in course offerings due to availability of instructors, over and/or under subscription (students required to take the course and no seats being left over), or drop/add impact.

### **Elective Program Schedule Development**

Students develop their individual Elective Program schedule in coordination with their Staff Group Advisors (SGAs). The basis for each student's Elective Program schedule begins with requirements for graduation. Electives are designed to broaden officers' knowledge and to give them the opportunity to study subjects related to their career fields in greater depth.

International Military students are required to take A660, American Civil War for International Officers.

### **Focused Programs**

A focused program is a specialized program of concentrated study in a specific subject area which leads to the awarding of an additional skill identifier (ASI). Seven separate focused programs are offered, each requiring 72 to 96 hours of study. Students desiring to complete training in a focused program must gain permission of the appropriate department proponent.

### **Audit**

Students may audit elective courses on a space-available basis. Auditing does not constitute an overload because a grade is not given for audit status. The student must coordinate directly with the instructor for permission to audit a course. Once permission is granted the student must submit a CGSC Form 3 to the Registrar's office in order to be registered for the course in an audit status. Students wishing to drop a course they have taken in an audit status must follow the same procedure they would follow for any course to be dropped. Instructors may not switch the student to credit status after the second meeting of the course. No instructor may allow a student to audit a course which has already reached MAX CAP.

### **Family Members**

After students, military personnel, and DoD civilians are registered for their elective courses, family members over 18 years of age may apply to audit elective courses on a space-available basis, with the exception of classified courses. Grades, transcripts, or other documentation will not be provided for family members. Family members will coordinate directly with the applicable instructor to audit courses.

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### **Language Program**

a. Students have the opportunity to study language by choice, or may be directed to language studies based on projected post-graduation assignments.

b. Students who receive a post graduation assignment to Iraq or Afghanistan will be directed to take an instructor-facilitated study of Arabic (Iraqi dialect) and/or Dari and will be conducted by instructors from the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center. These language courses are mandatory for Army officers assigned to units likely to be serving in Iraq or Afghanistan within 12 months of graduation from CGSC. Based on requests for orders (RFOs) and/or communications with branch assignments officers, students and SGAs will determine whether either Dari or Iraqi should be required. Enrollment is open to all other US officers on a space available basis. These language courses consist of 48 hours of classroom instruction and students receive credit for two electives.

c. Students have the option of enrolling in strategic languages, Chinese, French, Modern Standard Arabic, and Spanish (A767, A770).

**NOTE: Please note that students enrolled in one of the strategic language courses cannot receive credit for a corresponding Rosetta Stone self-directed language course.**

d. There are also elective courses available for self-directed study of the language of choice, using Rosetta Stone via AKO. Students can receive a maximum of one elective credit for self-directed language study (A765, A766).

### **Specialized Tracks**

During in-processing each student is assigned a track based on their Basic Branch. Tracks are designed to broaden an officer's knowledge and provide an opportunity to study subjects in greater depth.

Officers are allowed to request a change of track if it can be justified based on professional need. Changes require the approval of their Staff Group Advisor, the gaining and losing track proponent, and the concurrence of the Director CGSS.

Sister service students must obtain approval of the director of their service element. International students must obtain approval of the Chief, IMS Student Division.

### **AOC Branch Officers**

This track is comprised of every student not enrolled in either the Special Operations Forces (SOF) Track. Students in the AOC OPCF Track are required to complete a minimum of 192 hours of elective courses. These hours must include one Regional course (24 hours) and 168 hours of additional elective courses of their choice to satisfy graduation requirements. For specific requirements, see page 1 of Encl 4 to the MOI.

Approval for enrolling in other than AOC programs will be published in a separate policy letter.

**Special Operations Forces (SOF)(Track 2)**

**SOF Studies Program Track**

a. All US Army Special Forces (SF) branch officers, US Army Psychological Operations (PO) branch officers, and US Army Civil Affairs (CA) branch officers will be enrolled in the Special Operations Forces (SOF) Studies Program (Track 2). Special Operations Aviation Regiment officers and US Army officers with a follow on assignment to the 75th Ranger Regiment should apply for enrollment in the SOF Studies. Program approval must be granted by their CGSOC directorate/proponent. Air Force Special Operations Forces and Navy Special Operations Forces are encouraged to enroll with approval from their service component. Other officers with a follow-on SOF assignment and no previous SOF experience are encouraged to enroll in the SOF track with the approval of their directorate or service element. The Director, SOF Education Element, will approve these requests.

b. For specific requirements see page 3 of Encl 4 to the MOI.

**Tracks 3 and 4 are not used at this time**

**Homeland Security Studies (Track 5)**

This track is limited to US Students. The Track offers students the opportunity to develop expertise in the area of Homeland Security. This program does not currently offer an Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) but it does offer students the opportunity to gain subject matter expertise in the area of Homeland Security that will serve them in future assignments within NORTHCOM, ARNORTH, the National Guard, or Army Reserve.

For accountability purposes, students must indicate their intent to pursue the Homeland Security Studies (HSS) Track and electronically apply through the Homeland Security Studies Program SharePoint webpage accessible through Student SharePoint. At any time during the elective period, students may drop out of the HSS AOC program by withdrawing through the Homeland Security Studies Program SharePoint webpage.

Students may take homeland security courses without applying for the Track. If more students apply for courses than there is capacity to teach them, those enrolled in the track will have priority.

For specific requirements see page 5 of Encl 4 to the MOI.

**Additional Skill Identifier (ASI)**

Students have the opportunity to complete training in a specialized program of concentrated study leading to the awarding of an ASI. Offered ASIs follows:

- Joint Planner - 3H
- Military History - 5X
- Strategist - 6Z

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Space Activities - 3Y  
Air Operations Officer - 5U  
Red Team Member - 7J  
Red Team Leader - 7G

### **Joint Planner (3H)**

**Description:** The ASI 3H, Joint Planner, identifies positions requiring personnel qualified in the Joint Operation Planning and Execution System (JOPES) and supporting information technologies. US Army officers can earn the ASI 3H by completing resident CGSOC and the Joint Planner Program. Officers from other services who complete resident CGSOC and the Joint Planner Program will receive memoranda stating that they have achieved Joint Planner status – a US Army ASI. Traditionally, all officers earning the ASI 3H have had that accomplishment noted in their Academic Efficiency Reports or Service Fitness Reports.

The Joint Planner Program is open to US students who attend resident CGSOC at Fort Leavenworth. A SECRET clearance is required. The Director of the Joint Planner Program determines enrollment.

For specific requirements see page 1 of Encl 5 to the MOI.

### **Space Activities (3Y)**

**Description:** The 3Y program at CGSC consists of A537 Space Orientation and A543 Space Operations. A537 is a 24-hour basic course designed for the student with limited space knowledge. A537 is also the prerequisite for A543. A543 builds on the knowledge acquired during A537. It is a 48-hour course where the students receive TS/SCI instruction from guest speakers from a variety of organizations that utilize space capabilities. A543 includes a staff ride to Colorado Springs, CO. The staff ride is conducted in order to visit military organizations that perform many of the military space missions discussed in class. Students may take A537 as a stand-alone course or take both courses which will lead to the 3Y ASI.

For specific requirements see page 2 of Encl 5 to the MOI.

### **Strategist (6Z)**

All resident officers of the Intermediate Level Education Course may apply to participate in the Strategist Program. The Army G3 is the proponent for this ASI, and therefore establishes guidance for the selection of officers to participate in it. Such officers should be “uniquely qualified by aptitude, experience, and education in strategy formulation and articulation”. The application for the program serves to identify applicants that meet the Army G3 criteria. Each applicant’s DJIMO instructor must provide a recommendation in writing as part of the application. Career Field 59 students are required to enroll in this program.

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Completion of the strategist program will be annotated on officer's Academic Efficiency Report or Service Fitness Report. The 6Z program manager will submit the names of U.S. Army officers to the proponent (Army G3) for awarding of the 6Z ASI. The program manager will submit the names of Navy officers for awarding the 2000P designator, provided they meet additional service specific requirements. For USAF officer the program manager will submit a letter announcing program completion to Deputy Undersecretary of the Air Force for International Affairs. For International officers the program manager will submit a letter to Director Security Assistance Training Activity – TRADOC with an attached letter to the officer's home country senior command.

For specific requirements see page 2 of Encl 5 to the MOI.

### **Historian (5X)**

**Description:** Historian (ASI 5X) designates to the Army personnel system those Officers who have unique skills and who are qualified to serve in positions as Army Historians, Instructors, and History Detachment members. The program is open to all CGSC students who possess an advanced degree in history or who are pursuing the MMAS- History. Please note, those students who pursue the MMAS-History, are registered in and required to complete the 5X program. Upon completion, the Director, Combat Studies Institute (CSI) certifies to the Center of Military History that Soldiers who complete this program of study are qualified for the designation of ASI 5X. The requirements to receive the Director, CSI certification are a graduate degree in History and completion of A625, Field Historian Course. Students who possess a graduate degree in an equivalent or related field may apply to the Director, CSI, for a degree waiver. Officers of sister Services and International officers will receive certification letters with a copy provided to their respective controlling element in the Command and General Staff College.

For specific requirements see page 3 of Encl 5 to the MOI.

### **Air Operations Officer (5U)**

Air Operations Officer--Skill 5U, distinguishes officers qualified as air operations officers. The requirements for this skill are successful completion of either one of the following:

The Joint Firepower Course (JFC) at the Joint Air Ground Operations Group (JAGOG), Nellis AFB; or

The CGSOC curriculum, **and** completing the A866 Joint Firepower Course elective. A minimum of eight (8) students per section are needed due to the limited availability of qualified instructors, classroom space, and the need to create an optimal student experience mix to enhance practical exercises and classroom discussion.

Completion of the following requirements will result in certification for the award of the 5U ASI.

For specific requirements see page 4 of Encl 5 to the MOI.

### **Red Teaming (7J or 7G)**

**Description:** Red Teaming is defined as a function executed by trained, educated, and practiced team members that provides commanders an independent capability to fully explore alternatives in plans, operations, concepts, organizations, and capabilities in the context of the operational environment and from the perspectives of our partners, adversaries, and others. Graduates will enhance mission accomplishment by looking at problems from the perspective of the adversary, multinational partners, and others through the lens of alternative strategies. Effective Red Teams help ensure units avoid group think, tunnel vision, and mirror imaging, while providing critical insights to enable better decisions during planning and operations.

For specific requirements see page 5 of Encl 5 to the MOI.

### **Other Programs**

#### **Graduate Degree Program**

See Graduate Degree Program section.

#### **Research Projects**

Student research projects are facilitated by designated elective courses in each teaching department or designated staff office and are normally scheduled as 0 MODs within that department course listing (e.g., GDP, A201; LID, A799; etc.). The student and applicable department will coordinate all requirements prior to registration. The department project sponsor will give the student written acknowledgment consisting of the sponsor's name, department, and subject of research. The student must provide the course author/project sponsor with a written plan and title for the research project. Each research project is expected to take 60 to 100 hours of in-depth research for each 24 credit hours awarded. All 0 MODs are treated as instructor permission courses and no student can add or drop a 0 MOD without the permission from the individual listed as the course author. That is the only name which the Registrar's Office will accept as official for add/drop purposes. No project can have the hours changed once it has started (for example if a student enrolls for a research course for 24 hours it cannot be changed to 48 hours at a later date). Research requiring a survey (printed, e-mail, telephonic, or personal/group interviews) must be approved by the CGSC Quality Assurance Office.

All Independent research projects are approved at the Department Director level.

#### **Advanced Military Studies Program (AMSP)**

Once students are selected for SAMS and their names are submitted to the Registrar, they will be required to enroll in A699, The Evolution of Military Thought, and an elective to be named that will include A360, Collaborative Planning (CAPES), and A364, Maneuver Control System-Work Station (MCS). SAMS selected students may then drop a course from their elective course load, if they desire to. SAMS selectees will not be automatically enrolled in these courses as they must select the MOD they wish to attend. Sister-service students are not required to take the new course.

