



## **CURRICULUM 255 GREAT POWER COMPETITION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

Updated February 15, 2023

### **OVERVIEW**

The Naval Postgraduate School's (NPS) Department of National Security Affairs (NSA) is soliciting applications for a distance learning (DL) cohort in Curriculum 255 – Great Power Competition (GPC) certificate program. Target applicants are active-duty officers in operational/strategic level of war billets. The certificate consists of four courses covering 13 credit-units over a nine-month period from July 2023 to March 2024. The certificate is 100% DL with a mix of synchronous and asynchronous requirements. Students should expect to devote two hours each Friday to synchronous class seminars using Zoom for Government in addition to 8-10 hours per week on assignments outside of class. Applicants should note that graduate education requires a time commitment to complete reading assignments, write papers, and participate in synchronous class discussions. Applicants are encouraged to discuss operational and training schedules with their commanding officers to ensure that time is available for program requirements. Commanding officers are encouraged to afford time whenever possible. Applicants in a sea-duty/deployable status may only be considered with careful attention given to possible time constraints.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must have an undergraduate degree from a regionally accredited four-year college or university with a 2.6 GPA or higher on a 4.0-scale and meet one of the following criteria:

- Active-duty USN/USMC\*
- Active-duty officers (commissioned and warrant) from other US Armed Forces with a unit-funded tuition support agreement
- GS civilians with a unit-funded tuition support agreement

Reserve personnel, contractors, and international students are not eligible for Curriculum 255.

\*NOTE: Per OPNAV Instruction 1520.23C, Naval officers participating in this program must agree to remain on active duty for a period of one year following completion of the certificate program. This obligation is discharged concurrently with any other service obligation already incurred. This agreement does not obligate the Navy to retain the officer on active duty.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Selection is accomplished by a panel of military officers and academic faculty within the NSA Department. Qualified students will be considered based on the following criteria:

- Strength of academic record\*\*
- Strength of one-page personal statement
- Deployment status/duty location
  - CONUS-based shore-duty/non-deployment status preferred
  - Student's physical location is limited to an area from roughly Hawaii east to Germany due to synchronous seminar timing requirements
- Projected rotation date/PCS date does not fall within the period of the program
- Service/sponsor inputs
- Applicant's lack of access to traditional resident programs due to career timing limitations

\*\*NOTE: Applicants with significant prior graduate education in Security Studies or related fields are encouraged to apply but may be overqualified for this certificate program. A limited number of seats is available in each cohort.

### **COURSE OF STUDY**

The certificate consists of four required courses covering 13 credit-units:

- NS4000 GPC: Current Policy and Strategy (July-September 2023 / 1 credit-unit)

- NS3005 GPC in Modern History (July-September 2023 / 4 credit-units)
- NS4642 Chinese Foreign Policy (October-December 2023 / 4 credit-units)
- NS4425 Russian Foreign Policy (January-March 2024 / 4 credit-units)

#### Learning Outcomes:

- To understand the nature of great power competition historically and its current manifestations.
- To understand the core motivations behind Chinese and Russian political, economic, and military policies, as well as the challenges they pose to the United States.
- To understand the tools China and Russia use to further their interests in various regions of the world outside their borders and in critical competitive domains, such as cyberspace.
- To understand the range of possible U.S. and allied responses to Chinese and Russian behavior.

### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

A complete application consists of 1) an NPS Admissions online application with official transcripts, 2) a participation agreement signed by your commanding officer or supervisor, and 3) a one-page personal statement.

- Go to <https://nps.edu/web/admissions>. Once registered, select GPC Certificate Program (Curriculum #255, segment 51) with start date 2023/4 (4th quarter of FY2023). When prompted for a tuition POC, refer to the tuition section below. Upon application submission, applicants must send official transcripts to the NPS Admissions Office for each undergraduate and graduate institution attended.
- A participation agreement signed by your commanding officer or supervisor is required. The blank form can be found on the [admissions website](#). Completed forms must be emailed to [admissions@nps.edu](mailto:admissions@nps.edu).
- A one-page personal statement including the applicant's name, rank/grade, service, designator/MOS, current billet/duty assignment, duty station, and projected rotation date (see format example on the final page of this document) is required. The statement will describe the applicant's purpose, preparation, motivation, and interest in the topic of GPC with emphasis on its relevance in your career field or duty assignment. Statements should be sent by email to [NSAprogramofficer@nps.edu](mailto:NSAprogramofficer@nps.edu).
- Complete applications with transcripts, participation agreement and personal statement must be submitted **NLT March 27, 2023**.
- Delayed receipt of official transcripts, participation agreement, or personal statement will result in delay or rejection of the application.

### TUITION

NPS is mission-funded to provide tuition-free graduate education to active-duty USN and USMC personnel. USN and USMC personnel will indicate "N/A" when asked for a tuition POC in the online application. Applicants from other services and GS civilians must provide a unit/directorate tuition POC in the online application. Tuition is payable by quarter before the start of instruction. Tuition for FY23 is \$650/credit hour. NPS cannot accept personal funds or tuition assistance. Contact [tuition@nps.edu](mailto:tuition@nps.edu) with questions. Applicants other than active duty Navy/Marines will not be considered without a valid tuition POC.

### POINTS OF CONTACT

NPS Admissions: [admissions@nps.edu](mailto:admissions@nps.edu)

NPS Tuition: [tuition@nps.edu](mailto:tuition@nps.edu)

NSA Program Officer: [nsaprogramofficer@nps.edu](mailto:nsaprogramofficer@nps.edu)

NPS Admissions online application: <https://nps.edu/web/admissions>

Department of National Security Affairs GPC webpage: <https://www.nps.edu/web/nsa/gpc>

### IMPORTANT DATES

Online application due with transcripts, participation agreement, and personal statement: **March 27, 2023**

Period of instruction: **July 5, 2023 – March 24, 2024**

## **SAMPLE PERSONAL STATEMENT FORMAT**

FROM: *Applicant's name, rank/grade, and service (ex. First M. Last, LT/USN)*

SUBJ: Personal Statement ISO Application to Curriculum 255, Summer Cohort 2022

Designator/MOS: *provide number/code and full title (ex. 1110, Surface Warfare Officer)*

Billet and Unit:

Duty Station:

Projected Rotation Date:

*In this space, provide a one-page personal statement describing your purpose in applying to the certificate program, motivation, preparation, and interest in the topic of GPC. Describe how GPC is relevant in your career field or current duty assignment. We recommend Times New Roman, 10 or 12-point font, single-spaced. Do not italicize. Other formats can be used if the statement provides all the requested information and presents a consistent and professional appearance.*

*Command/unit letterhead is not required. If you have special circumstances for consideration by the selection committee (ex. currently on sea-duty but assigned to a unit that will not deploy or travel during the course of instruction), please include as much information as possible in the statement.*