Online Bachelor’s Degree Completion Program

Created exclusively for U.S. Special Operations Forces
Strategic Studies and Defense Analysis Online
EXCLUSIVELY DESIGNED FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES

The Bachelor of Science in Strategic Studies and Defense Analysis (SSDA) program is specifically designed to build upon the military education and experience of U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF). The program is structured to combine relevant coursework with your unique military experience in areas such as sociology-anthropology, geography, language, cultural awareness, regional politics, and international conflict.

The SSDA program is open exclusively to students who are Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines assigned to or retired from the USSOCOM and its subordinate commands and sub-unified commands. The SSDA degree may help you advance within the military or transition to another career.

Online Classroom

Norwich University has built a cutting-edge online learning environment that facilitates individual engagement, deep learning, networking, peer support, and one-on-one contact with faculty and student support staff. Our curriculum incorporates coursework specifically designed to help students succeed in the online learning environment. Classrooms are highly interactive, linked to extensive online learning resources, and accessible anywhere and anytime.

Convenience and Flexibility

Norwich provides 24/7 access and technical support to an online learning platform, enabling students to engage with program content and contribute to class discussions at any time from any location each week.

Career Placement

If you are planning for or transitioning to a civilian career or want to advance within the military, Norwich’s Strategic Studies and Defense Analysis online bachelor’s program gives you the knowledge, skills, and credentials to help you achieve your professional goals. Your bachelor’s degree can help prepare you for numerous positions and opportunities such as military analyst, defense contractor, intelligence officer, security contractor, operations management, key Department of Defense jobs, and others.

Norwich offers 24/7 access and support. For questions about the SSDA program, email ssda@online.norwich.edu or call 1-866-684-7237.
Norwich helps you build a foundation of knowledge and skills that can be used to advance both your military and civilian careers.

A Degree Above

Because of our nearly 200-year affiliation with the U.S. military and long track record of developing leaders, a bachelor’s degree from Norwich University is highly regarded among the military community. Equally rigorous and rewarding, our bachelor’s degree completion program helps students distinguish themselves from their SOF peers and gain access to exciting career opportunities both within and beyond the military.
From the Field to the Classroom

The Bachelor of Science in Strategic Studies and Defense Analysis program focuses on strategies for improving the security, external relationships, and overall well-being of communities and countries. Students gain the theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed to develop these strategies through a comprehensive curriculum that builds on their military education and experience, enabling them to apply what they learn in class to initiatives and field exercises related to their current or past areas of deployment.

Students are taught by a highly knowledgeable faculty that includes the former assistant provost of the Naval Postgraduate School, retired military officers, and defense strategy experts from across the globe. Research, critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and leadership skills are fostered and woven throughout the curriculum, and are designed to give students the tools they need to help advance within the military or transition to a new career.

- Three start dates per year (January, May, September) allow you to begin the program when it’s convenient for you.
- You can transfer up to 84 semester credits and complete your bachelor’s degree in less than two years.
- You can access program content and contribute to class discussions on your own schedule and at your own pace through our flexible online platform.
- Faculty members bring extensive professional experience and knowledge into the virtual classroom, giving you uncommon insight into the ins and outs of defense strategy.
- Norwich understands the challenge of balancing a career with academic pursuits. Whether you need help finding the right research materials or balancing program requirements with work and family responsibilities, Norwich is here to assist and support you.
In Your Corner.  
A Motivating Force.

At Norwich, we understand the dynamics of being both a student and a service member. That’s why we provide an extensive support system of staff and faculty whose principal focus is to help you succeed academically, professionally, and personally.

Whether you need someone to walk you through the Tuition Assistance process, help you locate sources for a research paper, or tell you what to do if you have to step out, we are ready, willing and able to serve.

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As a Norwich SSDA student, you will:

- Experience a high degree of interaction with Norwich faculty and fellow classmates in small classes.
- Conduct research and analysis relating to regional threat environments and conflict areas.
- Incorporate individual research and military experiences into the classroom atmosphere to enhance theoretical and practical learning objectives.
- Apply principles of critical thinking, ethical decision-making and leadership that are interwoven throughout the curriculum.

“I chose Norwich for its prestigious reputation and the opportunity it offered me to prepare for the future. The SSDA degree program was tailored to my Special Operations experience.”

- CSM Keith Filipp, SSDA 2012
Sample Degree Completion Plan

Three start dates per year (*January, May, September*) allow you to begin the program when it’s convenient for you. The following degree completion plan presumes that the SSDA student begins in January and takes all SSDA coursework to complete the degree and enroll full-time in four (4) three-credit courses per trimester (or two courses per session) before the field study portion of the program. Individual plans will vary based on transfer history and number of courses taken.

**January**

Session A  
SSRE 300 - Comparative Religion  
SSES 301 - Environmental Science

Session B  
SSMA 232 - Elementary Statistics  
SSHI 310 - Historical Studies

**May**

Session A  
SSEN 270 - Military Literature  
SSSO 335 - Introduction to Cultural Competence

Session B  
SSDA 306 - Science & Tech of Visual Augmentation Systems  
SSEC 310 - Socio-Economic Studies

**September**

Session A  
SSPO 318 - International Terrorism  
SSPO 302 - National Security Policy

Session B  
SSPO 306 - Comparative Politics  
SSMG 320 - Strategic Planning

**January**

Session A  
SSEC 401 - Economic Studies (Field Study*)

Session B  
SSSO 401 - Cultural & Anthropological Studies (Field Study*)

**May**

Session A  
SSSO 406 - Geographic Area Studies (Field Study*)

Session B  
SSDA 401 - Capstone Project*

*All Field Study courses and the Capstone project are six (6) credits.

**Capstone Project**

As part of the final program requirements, SSDA students complete a series of in-depth, independent research projects on a country or region of their choice.

Based on their research, students develop recommendations for improving conditions in their selected area that take into consideration the historical, political, cultural, and economic influences at play.

In addition to its application in the field, the research findings contribute to the military’s body of knowledge of regions around the globe.
“Norwich allowed me to earn my degree in a relevant discipline from an institution with a proud military heritage and reputation for academic excellence.”

- Terry Cole, SSDA 2012
  Technical instructor/writer, Blackbird Technologies
  USAJFKSWC

Admission Criteria

- The SSDA program is open exclusively to students who are Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines assigned to USSOCOM and its subordinate commands and sub-unified commands (JSOC).

- For the Army, the program is tailored to Soldiers who have successfully completed one of the following: the U.S. Army’s Civil Affairs Qualification Course (38), Psychological Operations (37), Special Forces Qualification Course (18), or Warrant Officer (180), MOS courses, or related occupations.

- Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in basic math and writing skills through prior college or training credit in these areas, or CLEP tests.

Application Process

Call a Norwich Admissions Advisor to begin the application process and submit the following items:

- Online application form. Go to: online.norwich.edu/ssda

- Admissions essay outlining your experience, prior learning, and educational/career objectives (up to 1,000 words)

- Resume/ERB

- Official military training transcripts (Joint Services Transcript/CCAF)

- Official transcripts from all courses taken at regionally accredited colleges

- Official high school transcript or GED, if no prior college credits

Ways to Pay

There are many ways to finance your education. We are here to help you maximize your benefits so that you can focus on achieving your degree.

Financial aid options for the SSDA program include Military Tuition Assistance, the GI Bill and other military payment options, federal student loans, and Pell Grants.

To learn more about how to use your benefits to pay for the Norwich SSDA program:

Call 1-866-684-7237 or Email ssda@online.norwich.edu

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About Norwich University

Founded in 1819, Norwich University is a small, private, not-for-profit university that offers professional and liberal arts programs to military and civilian students. The campus is located in Vermont. Norwich University, the nation’s first private military college, has long been an innovator in education. We have been consistently ranked among the top schools in online delivery of education. The College of Graduate and Continuing Studies builds upon nearly 200 years of tradition, while emphasizing interactive classes, mentoring relationships with faculty, and extensive hands-on-learning.

Norwich University is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., through its Commission on Institutions of Higher Education.

In 2013, U.S. News & World Report recognized Norwich University’s online bachelor’s degree programs as some of the “best” in the country.

G.I. Jobs Military Friendly Schools has recognized Norwich University as a military friendly school as determined by the Military Friendly Schools Academic Advisory Board Committee Members.

College of Graduate & Continuing Studies

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How to Get Started

Norwich is committed to helping you attain your academic and career goals. We can provide information on how to apply, how to manage your time, and how to get the books and materials you need for the Strategic Studies and Defense Analysis program. We can get you started. Where you go is up to you.

For a complete overview of the SSDA curriculum, visit: online.norwich.edu/ssda

Critical Information: www.norwich.edu/consumerdata

Non-Discrimination Statement: Norwich University, in compliance with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education amendment of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, or physical handicap in any of its policies, practices, or procedures.