



National Defense University Joint Education Transformation

NDU at a Glance

- NDU's vision is to be the premier national security institution focused on advanced joint education, leader development and scholarship. Our mission is to provide rigorous Joint Professional Military Education to members of the U.S. Armed Forces and select others in order to develop leaders who have the ability to operate and creatively think in an unpredictable and complex world.
- Approximately 35% of NDU students are civilian members of the interagency community or industry fellows drawn from the private sector
- NDU also hosts International Fellows from over 60 partner nations
- NDU is accredited through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education

What is the Joint Education Transformation?

To continue to meet our mission to deliver quality joint education to both our military and civilian students, NDU is adapting its curriculum. These changes are called the Joint Education Transformation (JET) and include a modification of the traditional curriculum that puts students at the center of all we do by:

- Adding a student assessment upon arrival to incorporate prior learning/knowledge into a year-long plan
- Adding a pre-departure assessment to establish a personalized career-long learning plan
- Adding a university-wide foundational course (Phase I) to give students a similar foundation in joint doctrine, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs' Desired Leader Attributes (DLA), Ethics the Profession of Arms, and lessons learned from a decade of war.
- Modifying the academic year calendar to allow students to focus on an individualized research project and electives during the final 8 weeks.
- Retaining the core focus and curriculum of each college: national strategy and policy at the National War College (NWC); national strategy resourcing at the Eisenhower School (ES) and counterterrorism/irregular warfare at the College of International Security Affairs (CISA)

Inspiration for the Joint Education Transformation:

- Lack of common academic calendar
- Desire to allow students to tailor their research and course selection to match their career needs
- Desire to advance "One University" ; collaborate and share resources across the colleges and components
- Deliver a better education to students despite declining resources

Benefits to Civilian and International Students

- Enhancements: Civilian and international students will receive a basic foundation in national security strategy and national military strategy during Phase I, putting them on par with US military for the rest of the year. Students will receive the core curriculum during Phase II and can tailor their education during Phase III to their own needs.
- Output: Strategic research project can be linked to the work of civilian agencies and foreign governments; students can take advantage of career-long learning to stay connected with NDU and alumni
- Efficiencies: Enhances "One University" initiative to collaborate and share resources

Timeline

- NDU will begin to implement the JET for Academic Year (AY) 2015, which begins in August 2014
- Lessons learned from AY 2015 will be incorporated into version 2 of the JET in AY 2016 and beyond