



USMC OCS BLOG



Academics

OCS Curriculum Selected Chapters

For all you super-motivated candidates who would actually like to study ahead of time before hitting the beaches at OCS, here is an excellent opportunity to actually get access to some of the curriculum you will be learning and tested on while there.

To understand the process of academics, see the following post.

[Click for Academic-related articles](#)

» *Understand how academics are taught at Officer Candidate School*

Good luck!

Selected chapters of OCS Knowledge

History 1-3 (pdf)

Op Order (pdf)

Close Order Drill (pdf)

Intro to Leadership (pdf)

Fundamentals of Leadership (pdf)

Land Navigation (pdf)

Is success at OCS your goal?

Weapons (pdf)

I'd recommend memorizing the following five areas of knowledge before shipping to OCS. You need to know them. It is not enough just to read them over a couple of times; you will need to be able to recite them out loud, and under pressure, so practice that way:

1. Leadership Traits

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The mnemonic device for the Leadership Traits is: JJ DID TIE BUCKLE

JUSTICE

JUDGEMENT

DECISIVENESS

INTEGRITY

DEPENDABILITY

TACT

INITIATIVE

ENTHUSIASM

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BEARING

UNSELFISHNESS

COURAGE (PHYSICAL & MORAL)

KNOWLEDGE

LOYALTY

ENDURANCE

2. Leadership Principles:

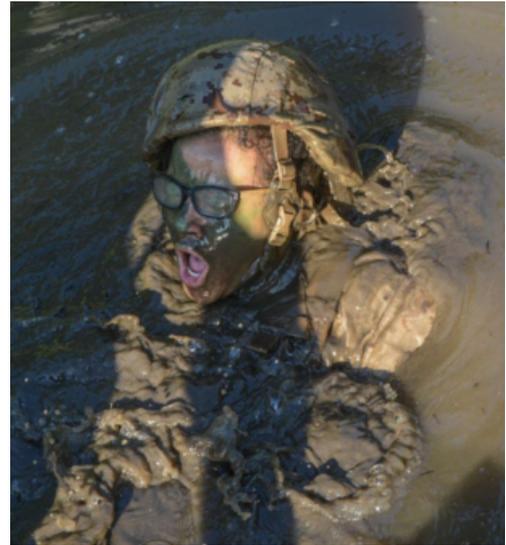
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8. Develop a sense of responsibility in your subordinates.
9. Ensure that the task is understood supervised and accomplished.
10. Train your men as a team.
11. Employ your unit in accordance with its capabilities.

3. General Orders of the Guard

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2. To walk my post in a military manner, keeping always on the alert, observing everything that takes place within sight or hearing.
3. To report all violations of orders I am instructed to enforce.
4. To repeat all calls from posts more distant from the guardhouse than my own.
5. To quit my post only when properly relieved.

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4. Code of Conduct

ARTICLE I.

I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

ARTICLE II.

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

ARTICLE III.

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If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

ARTICLE IV.

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me and will back them up in every way.

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5. Rank Structure

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Marine_Corps_rank_insignia

Colonel Jackson addresses new candidates

“Bonus” Knowledge

Acquire as much of the following as possible before shipping to OCS. Once you are there, you will be learning it when you should instead be sleeping. Before you start memorizing this section, however, make sure you have the above section memorized first.

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BAMCIS = THE ACRONYM FOR THE TROOP LEADERSHIP PROCESS

BEGIN PLANNING

ARRANGE FOR RECONNAISSANCE AND COORDINATION

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SALUTE = THE ACRONYM USED TO ORGANIZE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENEMY

SIZE

ACTIVITY

LOCATION

UNIT

TIME

EQUIPMENT

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FIVE PARAGRAPH ORDER

The five paragraph order is an element of small unit tactics that specifies instruction to a unit based upon a METT-T Analysis (Mission, Enemy, Terrain & Weather, Troops & Fire Support, and Time) using the BAMCIS process (Begin the Planning, Arrange Recon, Make Recon, Complete Planning. Issue Order, Supervise) prior to potential enemy engagement. It provides a structure for the unit to be able to understand and execute the mission of the unit leader. You will receive more in depth instruction once at OCS. For now, just be familiar with the acronym "SMEAC." outlined below (for more information

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HISTORY

– General Jacob Zeilin adopted the Marine Corps Emblem, the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, in 1868. The Globe depicts the western hemisphere, to show the global service and reach of the Marine Corps. The eagle symbolizes America, and the anchor with rope wrapped around it (the "fouled" anchor) symbolizes the Marine Corps' naval traditions and roots.

– The Marine Corps Motto is *Semper Fidelis*, which means Always Faithful. The motto was adopted in 1883.

– The Continental Congress founded the Marine Corps on 10 November 1775. The 13th

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lished the

birthday celebration.

- Two Marines have received *two* Medals of Honor, Gunnery Sergeant Dan Daly and Major General Smedley Butler.
- Major General Lewis “Chesty” Puller received 5 navy crosses.
- The Mameluke Sword was awarded to Lieutenant Pressley O’Bannon after the battle of Tripoli. It is the oldest weapon still in use in the military today.

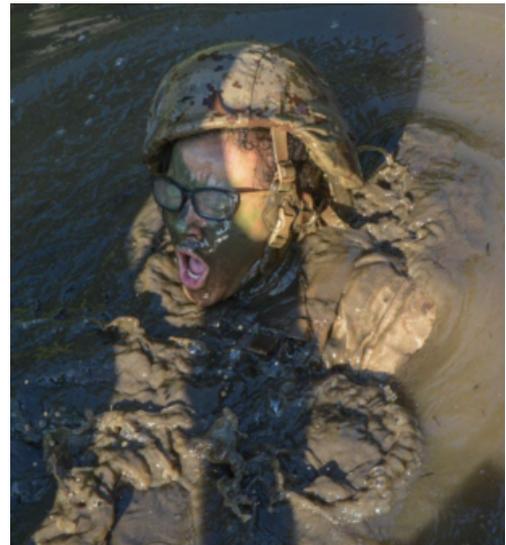
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30 thoughts on “Academics”

Pingback: [Academics vs Sleep: Think About It « Marine Corps OCS](#)



Michael

JULY 14, 2010 AT 12:51 AM

First link to “Understand how academics are taught at Officer Candidate School” is broken, Sir!

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REPLY



Former Candidate

JULY 21, 2010 AT 5:55 PM

Got it fixed! Good catch, thanks Michael.

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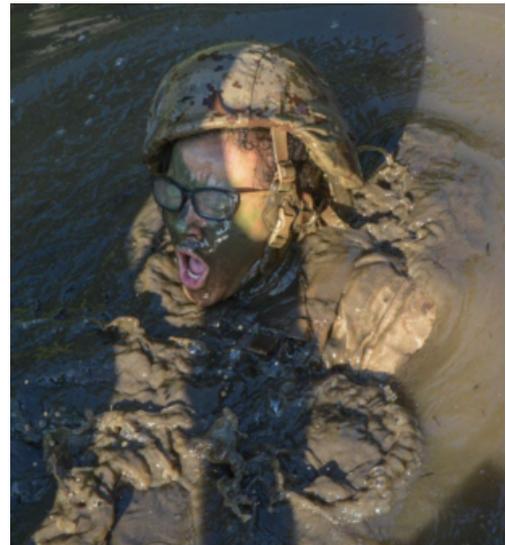
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REPLY



Former Candidate

FEBRUARY 26, 2011 AT 11:13 PM

Onelook.com confirms it as noun: the quality of not putting yourself first but being willing to give your time or money or effort etc. for others

Sounds perfect to me. Selflessness is a synonym but unselfishness is a word in its own right. And it works for BUCKLE way better than BSCKLE I guess...

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★
REPLY



SteinMan

APRIL 4, 2011 AT 11:14 PM

Im only a senior in highschool and im really eager to start doing all this and i was just curious as to how early other people started preparing for OCS.

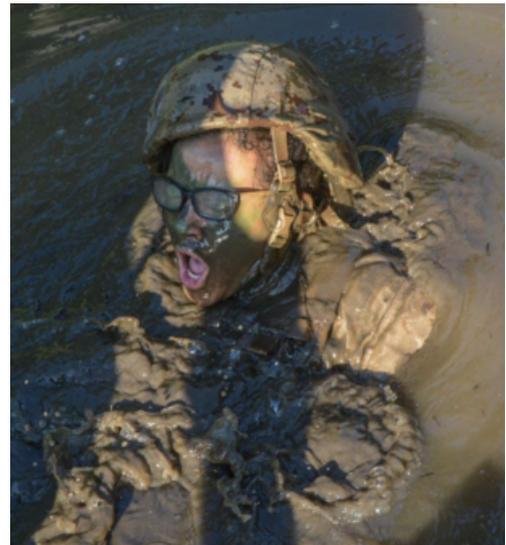
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preparing for OCS!

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REPLY



Justin

OCTOBER 16, 2011 AT 9:39 PM

The GPA requirement is above a 2.0. Do you get dropped if say you got a "D" in a class, and you have to re-take it, but your cumulative is still above a 2.0?

I have one class in particular im struggling with.

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REPLY



Former Candidate

OCTOBER 16, 2011 AT 9:46 PM

No, only your overall matters.

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Dan

FEBRUARY 2, 2012 AT 2:38 AM

This is all tremendously helpful, so thanks for putting it all up, but I have a few questions.

I've seen the Leadership Principles listed in various orders and with word changes; is there some definitive order and wording one should know verbatim? For instance, I assume one would have to know specifically what General Order # 5 is, but would one ever have to name "principle # 5," and is there any such thing?

Thanks.

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REPLY

Former Candidate

FEBRUARY 7, 2012 AT 10:16 PM

No—the General Orders are the main thing to have verbatim. And JJDIDTIEBUCKLE, too

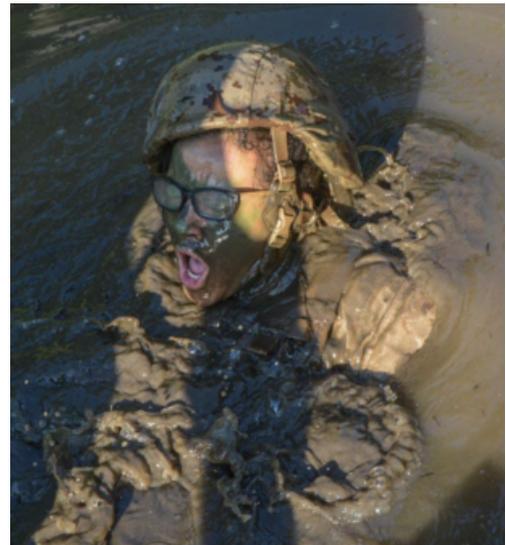
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keavy - klll

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REPLY

Pingback: **Oops, not found | OCS Blog**

Henry

MARCH 26, 2013 AT 11:15 AM

Good Morning Gentlemen,

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My question is concening PLC Seniors. I graduated from PLC Juniors last Summer and will be going back the summer after next. My question is what the differences are between Juniors and seniors with PT and knowledge. I struggled most with the Billits (particularly candidate platoon Sgt. or Commander).

What can I do to better myself with the responsabilites in regaurds to candidate platoon staff?

Will there be a transition phase or we hit the ground rolling?

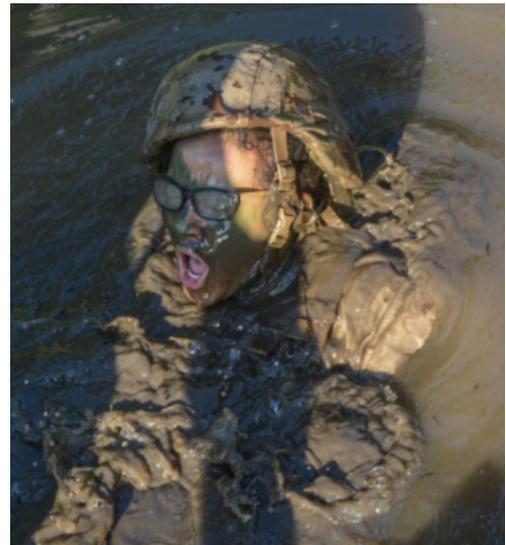
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Similar to the above comment, I would also like to know the differences between Juniors/Seniors with knowledge. Are all of these documents taught at Juniors or only some of them? I would just like to know which ones I should learn for Juniors and which ones I should learn for Seniors. Thanks!

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REPLY

Henry

APRIL 2, 2013 AT 11:14 AM

Steve, I can't tell you what to expect for seniors but for Juniors you can expect to have
 t
 t **Is success at OCS your goal?** s was the easiest
 lot failed.

There will be tests on famous Marine Corps People, and historical events. Know all about Chesty, Tripoli, and the beginnings of the USMC.

Also, you will go over alot of the UCMJ rules and regualtions etc.

If you fail more than 2 tests, you will go on academic probation and that will suck. It happened to me but I got my act together and passed them later on.

The tests are not hard, but when you have had a billit for two days and have slept 8 hours in the last 3 days your mind gets nrettv whonned

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Wasn't Gen. Lejeune's first combat in the Spanish American War? The history notes say he saw combat during the Mexican American War, but I don't see how this could be correct.

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REPLY

Marine OCS Blog

MARCH 31, 2014 AT 3:30 PM

That is a mistake, calling the Span-Am War the Mexican American War, which occurred even before the Civil War!

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REPLY

Sarah Farrell

MARCH 31, 2014 AT 1:41 PM

I've been going through making flash cards for the knowledge portion and I'm currently working on the history part. I noticed that on the History II exam, the question asked "When did World War I begin?" is answered by "1917", which is when the U.S. entered the

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hope (but cannot confirm).

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REPLY

Rita Borkotoky

JULY 27, 2014 AT 8:38 AM

Could please name a few accredited universities from which officers have to get their MA. I tried searching through Google but didn't get any results

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REPLY

Johnston

JANUARY 7, 2015 AT 10:23 PM

I found a small error in History 1 question 8. It asks who the first commandant was and the answer says Maj William Ward Burrows. I believe Samuel Nicholas was the first commandant, and if I recall Maj Burrows was the second.

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REPLY

Aaron

MAY 6, 2015 AT 7:00 PM

In a way, both are correct. Samuel Nicholas was the first to fill the position of commandant but it wasn't an official title yet. Maj. Burrows was the first official commandant.

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REPLY

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nco of marines

SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 AT 8:07 PM

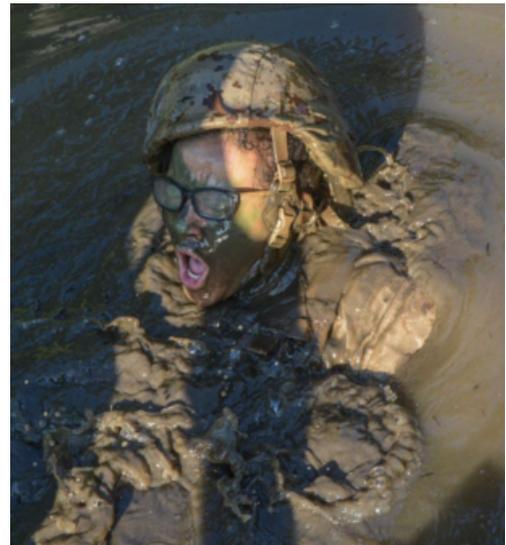
these boots are going to be the death of me, why don't we teach them something actually helpful instead of letting them join an infantry platoon full of people with more skill who are now forced to censor themselves and dumb things down for that LT. not bashing all officers but most of you are garbage. have a nice day learn something other than jj did tie buckle and maybe find a humble bone in your body and learn from your marines and actually do the training as well instead of seeing from afar

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REPLY**Marc**

OCTOBER 22, 2016 AT 8:10 PM

Is there any practice History II exams?

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REPLY**Is success at OCS your goal?**

Apache Khan

MAY 28, 2017 AT 9:40 PM

become more advanced by going into nrotc in the university from there you will be sent to ocs if you ae able to pass.

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REPLY

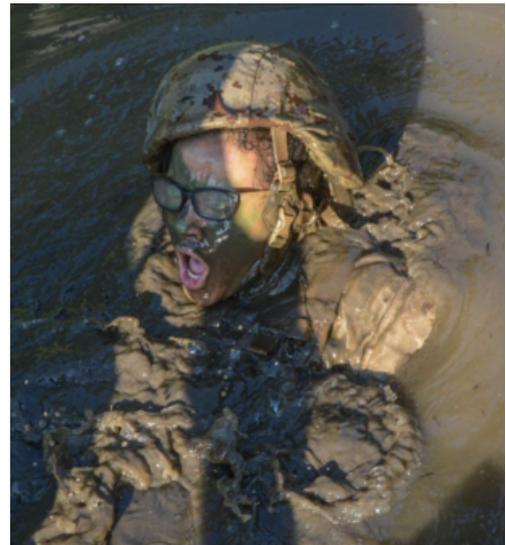
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