



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY WAR COLLEGE AND CARLISLE BARRACKS
CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17013-5243

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATWC-ADE

7 January 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR Prospective USAWC DDE Students

SUBJECT: U.S. Army War College (USAWC), Department of Distance Education (DDE)
Orientation Weekend

1. Several studies of university distance education programs have found that attendance at onsite orientations significantly reduced student angst and contributed to their subsequent success. The unique administrative requirements and online learning systems can sometimes be challenging for first-time online students. Feedback from students, who have attended previous USAWC orientation weekends, indicates that they benefited greatly from attendance, especially as they began to complete initial course requirements.
2. The USAWC DDE will conduct a voluntary two-day orientation weekend, 13 - 14 May 2011, for the Class of 2013 at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. This optional resident program for new students is designed to compliment the online orientation beginning 13 April 2011. Faculty will review DDE course requirements, articulate evaluation standards, and familiarize new students with USAWC distance education online systems. Students are able to meet and develop a rapport with fellow students and supporting faculty. For a limited number of students that have conflicts with the primary dates there is an alternate orientation, 29 - 30 April 2011.
3. There is no registration fee for either orientation weekend. Attendees are responsible for making travel arrangements and registering for the orientation weekend online, beginning on 15 February 2011. This can be accomplished at <https://dde.carlisle.army.mil> by selecting the "Welcome Class of 2013" link and following subsequent directions. USAWC will provide transportation support to and from Harrisburg International Airport, airport code MDT, and train station. We will also provide shuttles to and from assigned hotels during the weekend. Once registered online you will be notified of your assigned hotel. You are responsible for contacting the hotel and confirming the hotel reservation.
4. The tentative itinerary for the Distance Education Orientation Weekend is attached.
5. POC for the program is COL Darrell Fountain, (717) 245-4603 or darrell.fountain@us.army.mil. If you have administrative questions please contact Mr. Amos Myers and Mrs. Danielle Lenox, (717) 245-3424 or Carl_DDE-FirstYear@conus.army.mil.

Encl
Tentative Itinerary


Clayton K.S. Chun, Ph.D.
Chairman, Department of
Distance Education

Tentative Itinerary for DDE Orientation Weekends

Day/Time Event

Friday

0730-0830 Registration/Root Hall Tours (Bliss Hall Auditorium foyer)

0830-1630 DDE Online Technology Training

(Students will be assigned to groups as they arrive and participate in the following training)

- Defense Connect Online (DCO) – operation and use
- Online Academic Student Information System (OASIS) – operation and use
- IT Assistance – computer configuration and setup
- Graduate Level Writing Seminar – expectations and key concepts
- Administrative Support Period –
 - Microsoft Office 2007 software issue
 - Bio Book Photograph
 - Biographical Data Information Entry

1645-1745 Student Welcome Social

Saturday

0700-0800 Registration for late arrivals (Bliss Hall Auditorium foyer)

0800-0830 Commandant, Dean & DDE Chairman Welcome

0830-0915 Curriculum Overview / Golden Threads/ DE2301 Introduction

0915-0930 Break (move to seminar rooms)

0930-1130 Introductions/Seminar Discussion

1130-1300 Lunch (Joint Deli Open)

- Intro to APRFI (1145-1245)
- Library Tours (1145-1245)

1300-1420 Introduction to Critical Thinking

1420-1430 Break (move to seminar rooms)

1430-1530 Seminar Discussion

1530-1630 Seminar Evaluation Standards

1630-1645 Break (move to Bliss Hall Auditorium)

1645-1715 Alumni & Mentoring Panel

1715-1730 Question & Answer Period

1800 Student Release