Master of Science of Strategic Intelligence (MSSI) Concentrations and Programs of Study

In 2015, the College of Strategic Intelligence began a multiyear curriculum review designed to enhance student learning opportunities and better align curricular content to IC priorities. Results of this review led to the establishment of concentrations and programs of study within the MSSI program. A concentration is a collection of courses based on a specific strategic intelligence mission area. A program of study is a distinct sequence of courses designed to achieve a set of learning outcomes within a given concentration. In academic year 2015-2016, the College of Strategic Intelligence is piloting three concentrations and one program of study. The three concentrations are: (1) Regional Security and Intelligence, (2) Intelligence Community Leadership and Management, and (3) Defense Intelligence (JPME). The one program of study, China and East Asia, falls within the Regional Security and Intelligence concentration. MSSI students are not required to take a concentration or program of study.

Regional Security and Intelligence Concentration

The Regional Security and Intelligence concentration has two goals: (1) developing a broad understanding of a particular region’s existing and emerging security issues and trends; and (2) demonstrating mastery of a strategic intelligence issue in a particular region through the researching and writing of a thesis. To accomplish these goals, students will collaborate with faculty in performing all-source intelligence research that builds on existing knowledge and addresses strategic and operational requirements of the National Security and Intelligence Communities.

Strategic intelligence issues form the concentration’s regional research agenda. This research agenda includes the following categories: (1) strategic and military intelligence/WMD capabilities and strategies; (2) economic, industrial, and technological capabilities and strategies; (3) geopolitical competition, including resource wars; (4) internal conflict, including insurgency and ethnic or identity conflict; (5) broader interstate war and sectarian conflict; (6) near-violent civilizational clash or ideological cold war and culture war; (7) extremist and other destabilizing social or political movements, including secessionist and revolutionary movements; (8) rogue regimes and associated destabilizing blocs of resistance; (9) nonstate structures of power, including deep states or state-within-a-state institutions and transnational crime; and (10) structures of destabilizing governance, including corruption, patrimonialism, failed states, and ungoverned/weakly governed areas.

Students will critically examine and evaluate complex regional intelligence issues in terms of their local, intraregional, and global contexts. They will creatively combine and apply a range of applicable conceptual frameworks from the academic literature to assess and estimate each regional intelligence issue.

Concentration Learning Outcomes:

1. Knowledge of Applicable Scientific Literature—Discuss and critically appraise the various interdisciplinary theoretical frameworks or models for social action from the literature that apply to the broader categories of regionally based strategic security issues.
2. **Contextual and Substantive Knowledge**—Critically discuss and evaluate each of the region’s complex strategic security issues, as well as the local, regional, and global contextual factors and strategies of the various agents that shape, enable, and constrain them.

3. **Application and Synthesis**—For each of the region’s strategic security issues, demonstrate the ability to creatively combine the relevant sociological conceptual frameworks and other analytical concepts, as well as knowledge of relevant contextual and substantive factors to evaluate potential threats, estimate their future trajectory, and assess the strategic and operational opportunities for the National Security and Intelligence Communities.

**China and East Asia Program of Study**

The China and East Asia program of study emphasizes strategic-level knowledge of this diverse and dynamic region, preparing students to critically identify, analyze, and forecast current and emerging intelligence and security concerns facing the Intelligence Community and impacting the United States’ rebalance to Asia. The program provides students with a multi-disciplinary approach for researching and evaluating the drivers, objectives, strategies, and activities associated with East Asian political, social, economic, security, military, conflict, and informational issues for state and non-state actors. Particular focus is on assessing the drivers and outcomes of China’s comprehensive modernization and the impacts and trajectories of its re-emergence as a great power, both regionally and globally. Students choose a topic and collaborate with faculty to organize courses that prepare them to produce a future-oriented intelligence estimate and contribute to national strategies related to this important region.

The program of study focuses on the internal, external, and informational characteristics and causal variables influencing China and East Asia’s domestic stability, regional disputes and behaviors, and other regional activities. Internal variables include domestic economic reforms, a myriad of internal security and social stability challenges, leadership and governance issues, territorial disputes, leadership perceptions and aspirations, military modernization, and overall national strategies for comprehensive development. External variables are analyzed to evaluate the conditions, causes, effects, and likely future outcomes for a range of priority intelligence issues, including: bilateral and multilateral state-to-state relations and foreign policies; economics, trade, and finance; regional and international institutions; transnational security issues; and military strategies, modernization, and operations. Particular emphasis is on the informational and operational characteristics and effects of China’s intelligence activities, cyber and information operations, and strategic influence and other forms of soft power throughout the region and globally.

The China and East Asia program of study includes the following courses:

- MSI 601 Intelligence and the Global Strategic Environment
- MSI 576 Introduction to China and East Asia Intelligence Studies
- MSI 577 China and East Asia National Strategies and Foreign Policy
- MSI 578 China Military Capabilities and Strategy
- MSI 579 Chinese Intelligence and Information Operations
China and East Asia Program of Study Learning Objectives:

1. Understand, analyze, and evaluate the dynamics of China and East Asia’s evolving internal socio-economic development, political and legal systems, economic initiatives and reforms, domestic stability and internal security, and military strategy and modernization.
2. Evaluate, synthesize, and forecast China and East Asia's evolving regional and global aspirations and behaviors to include foreign policy, trade and finance, regional and other multilateral organizations, transnational security issues, and regional disputes.
3. Understand, analyze, and appraise China's domestic and international activities in the information domain to include intelligence, counterintelligence, cyber and information operations, and persuasion and strategic influence.

Intelligence Community Leadership and Management Concentration

The Intelligence Community Leadership and Management concentration seeks to educate intelligence professionals on the skills and competencies necessary to effectively lead an adaptive and agile Intelligence Community. The concentration provides students an opportunity to explore and apply leadership and management principles to current and future IC challenges through theoretical and real-world examples. Students are exposed to national security law, budget and resource management, intelligence and leadership ethics, strategic decision analytics, and specific leadership roles and methods to effectively support senior policy makers.

Students choose a leadership and management topic for their graduate thesis and collaborate with faculty to select specific elective courses that prepare them to produce research that will contribute to the growing body of work focused on the Intelligence Community.

In order for students to complete the Intelligence Community Leadership and Management concentration, they will be required to complete the following Leadership and Management courses (total of 15 credits), along with MSSI core course requirements towards graduation.

- MSI 637 Intelligence Resource Management: Process, Politics, and Money
- MSI 638 Professional Ethics
- MSI 639 Intelligence and National Security Law
- MSI 636 Strategic Decision Analytics and Methods
- MSI 657 Intelligence to Protect the Homeland

Leadership and Management in the IC Concentration Learning Objectives:

1. Understand and apply legal and ethical considerations to IC leadership roles and responsibilities.
2. Understand and apply budget and resource knowledge to IC management decisions.
3. Understand how to shape and lead major decisions through support to policy makers.
Defense Intelligence (JPME) Concentration

The Defense Intelligence (JPME) Concentration integrates the complex needs of departmental strategic intelligence with the tenets of Joint Professional Military Education (JPME). National Intelligence University is accredited to grant Phase I JPME credit to selected, qualified students enrolled in a full-time master’s program. A board consisting of the JPME Program Director and the Senior Service Advisors selects qualified students from the incoming class to participate in the JPME program. Students are notified of their selection during orientation and will be assigned to one of the JPME student tracks. A small number of civilian students may also be selected for the JPME program each year. Interested students may contact the JPME Program Director for further details.

As with other JPME Phase I institutions, the Defense Intelligence (JPME) concentration educates students in the principles of warfighting within the context of operational art. Students expand their understanding of joint force deployment and employment at the operational level across the spectrum of conflict. In addition to the continuing development of their intelligence and warfighting expertise, students are introduced to national military strategy, joint plans, joint doctrine, joint command and control, and joint force requirements.

Unique to National Intelligence University’s JPME Phase I program is the emphasis on intelligence support to operations. As the key driver for all defense and security operations, strategic/operational intelligence is stressed in all aspects of the curriculum. Students engage in critical analysis and abstract reasoning, develop comfort with ambiguity and uncertainty, and demonstrate innovative thinking, particularly with respect to complex, non-linear problems. Elective offerings provide students with additional opportunities to broaden their expertise on regional and transnational issues while understanding the strategic and operational impact of these areas on the joint operating environment. Students must complete a master’s thesis relevant to intelligence and the joint operating environment.

The Defense Intelligence (JPME) concentration includes the following courses:

- MSI 601 Intelligence and the Global Strategic Environment
- MSI 615 Intelligence and National Security Strategy
- MSI 619 Asymmetric Warfare: Future Strategies
- MSI 621 Joint Campaign Planning and Intelligence
- MSI 629 Strategic Crisis Exercise

Defense Intelligence (JPME) Learning Areas:

1. National Military Capabilities, Command Structure, and Strategic Guidance
2. Joint Doctrine and Concepts
3. Joint and Multinational Forces at the Operational Level of War
4. Joint Planning and Execution Processes
5. Joint Command and Control
6. Joint Operational Leadership
Individual Course Title and Description Modifications

**MSI 698N Comparative Intelligence is renumbered as MSI 658**

**MSI 615 Intelligence and National Security Strategy**
National level policy and decision makers rely on strategy to guide their actions in the pursuit of policy objectives. Effective strategies rely on intelligence to develop the proper understanding of the environment and all relevant actors in it. Successful strategies at the highest level, known as national strategies, also effectively use all means necessary and available to achieve the desired ends. Strategy formulation is a continuous process that evaluates the current situation and the means available to shape the future. This course examines the formulation of national strategy, the factors that influence and shape strategic choices, and the role of intelligence in strategy formulation.

**MSI 638 Intelligence Community Ethics**

**BSI 437 South Asia: Intelligence Issues**
This course provides students with a basic understanding of the drivers and causes of conflict and instability in South Asia, focusing particularly on the intertwined relations between India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. The course explores the historical and cultural sources of the region’s extremism, its ethnic, communal, and sectarian conflict, and its potential flashpoints, including Kashmir. The course examines the historical and contemporary decision points and challenges that have brought India global stature as an economically dynamic democracy, yet have yielded a struggling and conflict-ridden state in Pakistan, nuclear proliferation, and safe haven for a range of militant Islamic groups. Students will also explore the nature of Afghan governance, Afghanistan’s current and future prospects, and Indian-Pakistani competition there for influence. The course concludes with a look at the region’s future prospects and the enduring nature of U.S. strategic interests there.

**MSI 636 Strategic Decision Analytics and Methods**
This course examines the use of applied decision sciences and business analytics in strategic intelligence decisionmaking to determine mission priorities, capabilities, and resources. These disciplines have changed the way senior intelligence executives approach decisions on complex, interdependent systems. For the intelligence community, these tools and methods must be adapted to an interdependent system that combines collection, analysis, technology, infrastructure, workforce and organizational dynamics that spans the diverse intelligence disciplines. The course will introduce the fundamental methods for decision analytics and apply them to real problems in the intelligence community through a case study approach supplemented with advanced textbook exercises.

**MSI 576 Introduction to China and East Asia Intelligence Studies**
This course identifies and analyzes the key characteristics, drivers, issues, and actors influencing stability within the strategic intelligence and security landscape comprising China and East Asia. Tracing historical, cultural, demographic, and national evolution among this region’s diverse civilizations to modern nation-states, the course identifies influential variables that can be applied for analyzing
competition, cooperation, and conflict between state and non-state actors. Particular focus is on assessing the internal drivers and potential outcomes of China’s comprehensive modernization, including: the myriad of domestic economic reforms; internal social and ethnic instability; leadership, party-state political institutions, and legal system; natural resource and environmental challenges; and key development strategies for infrastructure, industry, services, and technology. Analysis of China’s internal stability and governance challenges are contrasted with China’s expanding activities and influence in trade, finance, and economic cooperation within the region and globally.

**MSI 577 China and East Asia National Strategies and Foreign Policy**

This course familiarizes students with the background, drivers, and academic approaches to assessing and synthesizing issues impacting relations between China, East Asian regional powers, and the United States. Students will develop a future-oriented assessment in response to a key intelligence question about national strategies, current and potential conflicts, and foreign relations. The course examines how national interests among various states are evolving and what impacts these are having on stability throughout the region and beyond. The course gives students a comprehensive and focused study of the internal, external, and informational characteristics influencing national aspirations, foreign policy formulation, territorial disputes and behaviors, and other key strategic intra- and inter-regional activities. Causal variables are identified and analyzed to evaluate the conditions, causes, effects, and likely future outcomes for a range of priority intelligence issues, including: bilateral and multilateral state-to-state relations and foreign policies; economics, trade, and finance; regional and international institutions; and transnational security issues. Particular focus is on China’s aspirations, activities, and the impacts and trajectories of its re-emergence as a great power both regionally and globally.

**MSI 648 Geospatial Intelligence: A Strategic Introduction**

Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) is the use of imagery, imagery intelligence, and geospatial information to describe, assess, and depict geographically referenced activities and physical features on Earth. GEOINT’s power both to develop and to support strategic intelligence resides in its ability to enhance the situational awareness of policymakers, defense planners, and military operators by gathering information and presenting complex problems in a spatial, geographical context. This course examines the historical foundations of military geography and aerial reconnaissance, and evaluates the ways in which GEOINT provides decision advantage to policymakers and military leaders. It also dissects current GEOINT collection capabilities and analytic approaches, and explores future challenges in the discipline. *(Prerequisite: MCR 609)*
New Courses Added to Curriculum

MST 698A Identity Intelligence

Identity Intelligence (I2) performs two primary functions: discover/reveal threat identities and protect/conceal friendly identities from foreign entities. The course will examine the conceptual foundations, supported missions, organizations, technologies, tools, and policy and legal considerations involved with conducting identity discovery/reveal operations. Additionally, students will learn I2 enterprise best practices, tools, authorities, and trends associated with protecting/concealing friendly identities from foreign intelligence and law enforcement entities.