



NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

DESCRIPTION

The American Legion National College is the highest level of education offered by The American Legion. The course is intended to teach the principles and techniques necessary for effective leadership at the higher levels of The American Legion. The successful graduate will possess the education and skills necessary to provide program and command leadership at the district level and above.

ORGANIZATION

The course length is one week and requires that the student remains in attendance for the entire session. Tuition and other costs for the course will be paid through a combination of National and Department funds. All national legion college applicants must complete the online version of Basic Training as a prerequisite prior to submitting an application. Optimum prospective students should also have advanced experience at the post level and ideally have provided command leadership. Additional experience and command leadership at the county level and/or program experience at the district and department level will better prepare the prospective student to achieve the maximum benefit from attending The American Legion National College.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND TOPICS

The American Legion National College will provide instruction using both classroom lectures, small group interactive techniques, and team building. Primary topics to be addressed include:

- Leadership and mentoring in a distributed non-profit, volunteer environment
- Communication using both face-to-face, written, and social media methods
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Team building to set and accomplish goals
- Recognizing and effectively utilizing personality types in personnel management
- Develop or broaden networking skills outside of the department
- Develop, instruct, or support a department, district, or post level training platform
- Effective meeting management through parliamentary techniques

TEXT AND REQUIRED SUPPLIES

All course materials will be supplied to the students before, at the start of and during the week of instruction. No additional material is required but students are encouraged to explore additional outside sources on their own initiative. The use of a personal laptop or tablet is encouraged but not required. Students will be informed in those instances when only college-supplied materials may be used.

GRADING PLAN AND RULES OF CONDUCT

The course is graded pass/fail. Students may withdraw at any time and return home. Completion of the week's instruction will be considered satisfactory to meet graduation requirements. No formal class ranking will be kept. All graduates will receive a diploma indicating completion or The American Legion National College. Serious personnel or behavior issues will be the only grounds for expulsion of a student and notification to your department leadership.

YOUR IDEAS, EVALUATIONS, ETC

In general, your ideas, comments, suggestions, questions, grade challenges, etc. are welcome and encouraged for most topics. Your discretion in these matters is expected, however.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS

Most students will find this course to be challenging both intellectually and personally. For some students, this will be their first experience as a member of a group of talented, highly motivated individuals. Defending your ideas and positions with skill and passion but at the same time respecting the same level of passion from other students is critical. Leadership while working within a team is essential to achieve the maximum results from the course.