MILITARY SCIENCE LEADERSHIP (MSL)

MSL Courses

MSL 101. Foundation of Officership I. 1 unit
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: Freshman or sophomore standing.

Introduction to issues and competencies of the Army officer profession. Emphasis on stereotypes about the military, the role of the Army officer, customs and traditions within the military, and personal and physical development. 1 lecture.

MSL 102. Foundation of Officership II. 1 unit
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: Freshman or sophomore standing.

The role of leadership within a large organization. Emphasis on the definition of leadership, leadership framework, individual and organizational core values, and the moral responsibility of leadership. 1 lecture.

MSL 103. Basic Leadership. 1 unit
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: Freshman or sophomore standing.

The foundation of basic leadership fundamentals such as problem solving, communications, briefings and effective writing, techniques for improving listening and speaking skills, and an introduction to counseling. 1 lecture.

MSL 110. Exercises in Military Leadership. 1 unit
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
Prerequisite: Enrollment in any MSL course or consent of department head.

Hands-on instruction on the proper execution of small-unit military operations. Incorporation of the military decision-making process in the planning, execution and conducting of a wide variety of squad, platoon and company sized missions. Credit/No Credit grading only. 1 activity.

MSL 111. Orienteering. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Principles of orienteering, basic map reading and compass skills; course running techniques applied in field orienteering events. Open to all freshmen and sophomores. 1 lecture, 1 activity.

MSL 112. The Army Physical Fitness Program. 1 unit
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP
The Army Physical Fitness Program and its proper execution. Physical training to the Army standard with the goal of successfully passing the Army Physical Fitness Test. 1 laboratory.

MSL 201. Foundations of Leadership I. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: F
Prerequisite: Freshman or sophomore standing.

The development of individual leadership traits and capabilities using the Army officer as a model. The Army’s problem solving methods, written and oral communications, tactics and group leadership. 2 lectures.

MSL 202. Foundations of Leadership II. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: W
Prerequisite: Freshman or sophomore standing.

The development of individual leadership traits and capabilities using the Army officer as a model. The Army’s problem solving methods, tactics and group leadership. 2 lectures.

MSL 203. Foundations of Leadership III. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: SP
Prerequisite: Freshman or sophomore standing.

The development of individual leadership traits and capabilities using the Army officer as a model. The Army’s problem solving methods, land navigation techniques, tactics and group leadership. 2 lectures.

MSL 212. Leader’s Training Course. 1-7 units
Term Typically Offered: F
One to seven units of credit may be granted depending upon successful completion of training. Five weeks of training, Fort Knox, Kentucky. Travel pay and salary provided through the Military Science Department. No obligation. LTC graduates eligible to enroll in ROTC Advanced Program.

MSL 229. Ranger Challenge. 2 units
CR/NC
Term Typically Offered: F
Selection and preparation of the Ranger Challenge Team which will represent Cal Poly in military tactical skills competition. Includes rope bridging, orienteering, weapons knowledge, hand grenade accuracy, 10K road march with equipment, first aid, marksmanship, physical fitness and tactics. Credit/No Credit grading only. 2 activities.

MSL 240. American Military History and the Evolution of Western Warfare. 4 units
Term Typically Offered: W, SP
Comprehensive analysis of American military history from the early Anglo-French period to the end of the 20th Century. Examination of the strategies, operations and tactics of military warfare, and exploration of how social, economic, and technological factors produced the distinct patterns of war that characterize the struggles of the past two hundred plus years. Open to all students. 4 lectures.

MSL 270. Selected Topics. 1-4 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Prerequisite: Open to undergraduate students and consent of instructor.

Directed group study of selected topics. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.

MSL 275. Facilitation and Teambuilding. 2 units
Term Typically Offered: TBD
Techniques and models used in leadership, facilitation, and teambuilding. Emphasis on leadership and facilitation styles and models, teambuilding and group dynamics, and working with various populations. Field trip required. 2 seminars. Crosslisted as MSL/RPTA 275.
MSL 301. Tactical Leadership I. 3 units  
Term Typically Offered: F  
Prerequisite: Completion of MSL 101, MSL 102, MSL 103, MSL 201, MSL 202, MSL 203, or completion of MSL 212, and consent of department head.  

Introduction to the life of a professional Army officer. Instruction in the operational art of small-unit leadership, and the roles and responsibilities of an Army 2nd Lieutenant in preparation for attendance at the Leader Development and Assessment Course. 3 lectures.

MSL 302. Tactical Leadership II. 3 units  
Term Typically Offered: W  
Prerequisite: MSL 301, and consent of instructor.  

Continuation of study of the life of a professional Army officer. Instruction in the operational art of small-unit leadership, and the roles and responsibilities of an Army 2nd Lieutenant in preparation for attendance at the Leader Development and Assessment Course. 3 lectures.

MSL 303. Applied Leadership. 3 units  
Term Typically Offered: SP  
Prerequisite: MSL 301, MSL 302, and consent of instructor.  

Demonstration of proficiency in leading small units. Emphasis on clear and concise oral communications, land navigation, weapons skills, and timely decision-making. Completion of training for the Leader Development and Assessment Course and preparation for attendance at the course. 3 lectures.

MSL 310. Advanced Leadership of Military Exercises. 1 unit  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: MSL 110. Recommended: MSL 203 or MSL 212.  

The planning, resourcing and execution of selected Army tactical missions in a field environment, and leading all students enrolled in MSL 110. Total credit limited to 3 units. 1 activity.

MSL 312. Leadership of the Army Physical Fitness Program. 1 unit  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: MSL 112. Recommended: MSL 203 or MSL 212.  

The planning, resourcing and execution of the Army Physical Fitness Program, and leading all students enrolled in MSL 112. Total credit limited to 3 units. 1 laboratory.

MSL 314. Leadership Development and Assessment Course. 6 units  
CR/NC  
Term Typically Offered: F  
Prerequisite: MSL 301, MSL 302, MSL 303, and consent of instructor.  

Five week summer training program required to achieve an Army commission. Testing and training as functional Army officers and determination of potential for service. Travel pay, room and board, and salary provided by the U.S. Army. Held at Fort Lewis, Washington. Credit/No Credit grading only.

MSL 400. Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates. 2 units  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.  

Individual investigation, research, studies, or surveys of selected problems. Total credit limited to 4 units, with a maximum of 2 units per quarter.

MSL 401. Developmental Leadership I. 3 units  
Term Typically Offered: F  
Prerequisite: MSL 301, MSL 302, MSL 303 and consent of instructor.  

In-depth study and analysis of the duties and responsibilities of an ethical Army officer. Emphasis on honing skills required at follow-on training. Administrative actions and self and subordinate developmental processes utilized by an Army 2nd Lieutenant. 3 lectures.

MSL 402. Developmental Leadership II. 3 units  
Term Typically Offered: W  
Prerequisite: MSL 401 and consent of instructor.  

Continuation of MSL 401 with a focus on communications and personal development. Continuation of in-depth study and analysis of the duties and responsibilities of an ethical Army officer. Emphasis placed on honing skills required at follow-on training. Administrative actions and self and subordinate developmental processes utilized by an Army 2nd Lieutenant. 3 lectures.

MSL 403. Adaptive Leadership. 3 units  
Term Typically Offered: SP  
Prerequisite: MSL 401 and MSL 402.  

Beginning of transition from student to commissioned officer. Emphasis on expectations of an Army 2nd Lieutenant. Cultural awareness, effective command climates, terrorism and force protection in the current operational environment, and individual officer skills. 3 lectures.

MSL 410. Administration and Evaluation of Exercises in Military Leadership. 1 unit  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: MSL 303 or MSL 310. Recommended: MSL 314.  

The supervision and evaluation of the organization, planning, resourcing, and execution of selected Army tactical missions, and mentoring assigned students enrolled in MSL 310. Total credit limited to 3 units. 1 activity.

MSL 412. Administration and Evaluation of the Army Physical Fitness Program. 1 unit  
Term Typically Offered: F, W, SP  
Prerequisite: MSL 303 or MSL 312. Recommended: MSL 314.  

The supervision and evaluation of the organization, planning, resourcing, and execution of the Army Physical Fitness Program, and mentoring assigned students enrolled in MSL 312. Total credit limited to 3 units. 1 laboratory.

MSL 470. Selected Advanced Topics. 1-4 units  
Term Typically Offered: TBD  
Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.  

Directed group study of selected topics for advanced students. The Class Schedule will list topic selected. Total credit limited to 8 units. 1 to 4 lectures.