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Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC)

Course Catalog
2026-2027



Table of Contents

General Information 2

Academia- 3

School of Professional Military Education 4

Command & General Staff Officer Course (B171425)

Joint Planning Course (B121430)

Maneuver Captains Career Course – WHINSEC (B171420)

Joint Logistics and Security Assistance Course (B151035)

Interagency Crisis Action Planning Course (B173015)

De León - Gonzalez School of Leadership and Tactics 5

Cadet Leadership Development (B176230)

Operational Tactics for Hemispheric Security (B121427)

Transnational Threat Network Intelligence Analysis (B129202)

Medical Assistance Course (B175350)

Joint Disaster Response Techniques Course (B174500)

NCO Academy Roy P. Benavidez 6

Basic Leader Course - WHINSEC (B121431)

Intermediate Leadership Course - WHINSEC - (B179115 Spanish)

Intermediate Leadership Course—WHINSEC - (B179116 English)

Senior Enlisted Advisor Course (B179118)

Center for Faculty and Staff Development- 7

Common Faculty Development Instructor Course (CFD-IC) (B1279117)

Instructor Writers Course

Instructor Observer Course

Recertification Workshop

Center For Operation Law- 8

Classes and electives on human rights, rule of law, due process, armed forces and democracy, and ethics.



Center For Operation Law

Since its founding on June 17, 2016, the Center For Operation Law (CFOL) has championed the advancement of human rights, democratic values, and ethical leadership across the Western Hemisphere. Through tailored education for military, law enforcement, and government civilians, CHRD empowers professionals to make principled decisions, strengthen institutional integrity, and foster a culture of respect. Its mission unfolds through curriculum development, training programs, expert exchanges, and consulting support—building a region anchored in dignity and democratic governance.

- Available to all WHINSEC students and instructors, this program is offered year-round. Class activities include
- Classes and electives on human rights, rule of law, due process, armed forces and democracy, and ethics
- Andersonville educational visit and staff ride
- Field studies program visits to
 - ◊ The National Center for Civil and Human Rights
 - ◊ The Tubman African American Museum
 - ◊ The William Breman Jewish heritage
- International Red Cross workshops and subject-matter expert exchanges

Focuses on applying human rights and democratic values at the operational and tactical levels. Trains service members, law enforcement officials, and government civilians to understand and uphold their legal obligations under international human rights law during military and police operations.

Topics Covered:

- Human rights violations: identification and legal implications
- Root causes and prevention strategies, including lawful vs. unlawful orders
- Command responsibility: when superiors are criminally liable for violations committed by subordinates
- Lawful use of lethal force in military and law enforcement operations .

General Information



About us

The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC), located at Fort Benning, GA, delivers professional military education and training to eligible personnel from U.S. and Partner Nation Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational (JIIM) organizations. Since 2001, WHINSEC has been a staunch advocate of human rights and democratic values, cultivating a new generation of ethical leaders equipped to confront the region's complex and evolving security challenges. Its programs promote innovative and critical thinking rooted in a foundational respect for human rights. WHINSEC offers a comprehensive educational continuum—from tactical instruction to advanced theoretical study on military doctrine application—through nationally and regionally accredited graduate-level master's degree programs. For over two decades, WHINSEC has served as the premier center of professional military education for the Americas, graduating an average of 700 - 1000 military, law enforcement, and civilian students from across the Hemisphere each year.



WHO WE ARE

WHINSEC is a security assistance command, designated as an “Other Service Intermediate Level Command College,” that supports the Joint Force by educating and training military, police, and civilian personnel from the Western Hemisphere.

MISSION

WHINSEC shall provide professional education and training to eligible military, law enforcement, and civilian personnel of nations of the Western Hemisphere within the context of the democratic principles set forth in the Charter of the Organization of American States (Reference (d)), such charter being a treaty to which the United States is a party. WHINSEC shall foster mutual knowledge, transparency, confidence, and cooperation among the participating nations and promote democratic values, respect for human rights, and knowledge and understanding of U.S. customs and traditions. As stated in 10 U.S. Code Section 343 (Public Law 106-398, 30 Oct. 2000) .

VISION

To strengthen the mutual defense of our Hemisphere, one ethical leader at a time.



CFSD



Center for Faculty and Staff Development

Common Faculty Development Instructor Course (CFD-IC)

An 80-hour, outcomes-based, learner-centered course aimed at current and future Army instructors, trainers, and facilitators. The course focuses on essential components of instructional excellence in adult education concepts and theories, lesson planning and delivery, effective assessment strategies, and Army faculty professionalism. This course prepares instructors to create an effective learning environment that supports Army readiness and enhances operational capabilities. **Student Profile:** WHINSEC Instructors (military and/or civilian) and Foreign Guest Instructors (FGI). **Duration:** 2 weeks, 1 –day.

Instructor Writers Course

Introduces experienced instructors to the Analysis, Design, Development, Implementation, and Evaluation (ADDIE) process as part of the Senior Army Instructor Badge (SAIB) pathway within the FDRP. This course is designed to build instructional design competencies while focusing on lesson plan development.

Student Profile: WHINSEC Instructors (military and/or civilian) and Foreign Guest Instructors (FGI)

Duration: 2 days

Instructor Observer Course

Trains instructors on how to evaluate their peers using the Instructor Observation Rubric (IOR), TF 600-21-1. This six-lesson course builds essential observation and feedback skills, ensuring faculty members can contribute to their professional educational development.

Student Profile: WHINSEC Instructors (military and/or civilian) and Foreign Guest Instructors (FGI)

Duration: 16 hours.

Recertification Workshop

Designed for WHINSEC instructors recertification in accordance with TRADOC guidelines. It reinforces key Army instructor competencies through a structured approach that begins with a review of the Experiential Learning Model (ELM), advances into active learning strategies, critical thinking techniques, and the integration of educational technology. Participants will apply concepts through practical activities and culminate the course with practical demonstrations. The goal is to enhance instructional effectiveness by equipping instructors with innovative, student-centered teaching practices. **Student Profile:** WHINSEC Instructors (military and/or civilian) and Foreign Guest Instructors (FGI) **Duration:** 2 days.



Since opening its doors on January 17, 2001, the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) has evolved into a dynamic center for professional education, rooted in historic Ridgway Hall—the former home of the U.S. Army Infantry School.

In March 2004, WHINSEC adopted the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) instructional model from the Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, aligning its academic rigor with world-class standards. When Fort Benning became the Maneuver Center of Excellence in 2008, WHINSEC transitioned to Collins, Lewis, and Greene Halls and restructured into three schools: the School of Professional Military Education (SPME), the School of Specialized Studies (SSS), and the Roy Benavidez NCO Academy (NCOA).

In July 2010, the historic Station Hospital became WHINSEC’s permanent campus, and by 2014, state-of-the-art 21st-century classrooms were added. That same year, the Center for Human Rights and Democracy (CHRD) was established to address Combatant Command priorities in human rights Instruction for partner-nation leaders.

As international engagement deepened, WHINSEC expanded its leadership structure to include a Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) Deputy Commandant and Academic Dean. In June 2020, the Faculty and Staff Development Division evolved into the Center for Faculty and Staff Development (CFSD), standardizing instructor certification across partner nations and broadening WHINSEC’s reach throughout the hemisphere.

Since its founding, WHINSEC has trained over 24,500 military, law enforcement, and civilian professionals from 36 countries. Its students and faculty have earned 560 master’s degrees—141 through civilian university partnerships, over 273 Master’s in Operational Studies (MOS), and 146 through CGSC’s Master of Military Art and Science (MMAS). With deep respect for cultural diversity, the Institute celebrates each partner nation’s independence and proudly hosts the annual International Festival “Bocadillos,” a reflection of its enduring commitment to unity through education.

School of Professional Military Education

Command and General Staff Officer Course

Educates and prepares mid-level military, interagency, and partner-nation officers to lead in complex Army and JIIM environments as field-grade commanders and staff officers. U.S. Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy officers study alongside international peers. Graduates may earn a Master in Operational Studies (MOS) upon completing the CGSOC Course or, with additional academic work, a Master of Military Art and Science (MMAS).

Both degrees are offered at no additional cost.

Student Profile: MAJ to LTC; military, law enforcement, or civilian equivalent. **Duration:** 47 weeks.

Maneuver Captains Career Course - WHINSEC

Trains and develop students to lead creative, agile, and confident combined arms staff officers and commanders capable of executing combat operations against adaptive threats. Covers troop-leading procedures and company-level operations across infantry, heavy, and Stryker brigade combat teams. Students build and brief tactical plans for diverse units in unified land operations. U.S. Army officers train alongside international peers. Graduates receive Military Education Level –F credit for U.S. Army Officers.

Student Profile: Senior Lieutenant to Captain; military or law enforcement officers. **Duration:** 24 weeks.

Joint Planning Course

Equips field-grade officers and interagency civilians with expertise in joint operations, planning, and decision-making through lectures and case studies. Prepares participants to serve as joint and multinational operations officers in coalition environments.

Student Profile: MAJ to COL; military, law enforcement, or civilian equivalents. **Duration:** 9 weeks.

Interagency Crisis Action Planning Course

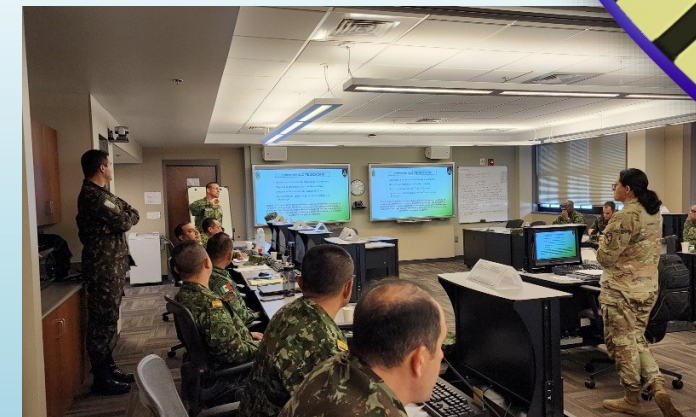
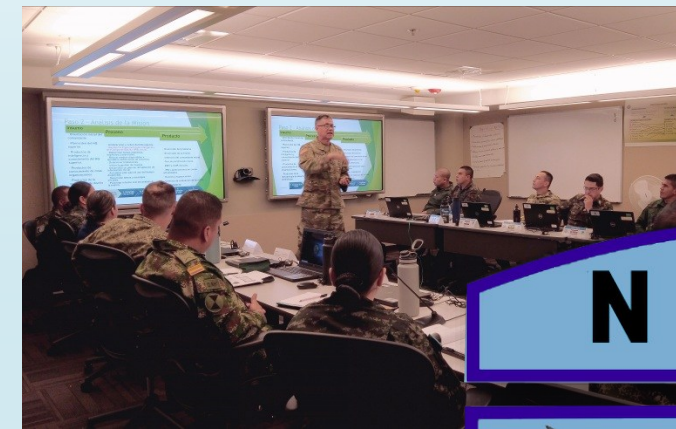
Trains security force personnel to serve as advisors or planners in crisis management during military operations or initial response efforts. Focuses on individual skills and interagency coordination in multinational environments.

Student Profile: Sergeants First Class to Lieutenant Colonel; law enforcement or civilian equivalents. **Duration:** 5 weeks, 2 days.

Joint Logistics and Security Assistance Course

Prepares security force personnel for roles in defense logistics planning, U.S. materials procurement and training, and JIIM logistics in support of full-spectrum operations.

Student Profile: Captain to Colonel; military, law enforcement, or civilian equivalents. **Duration:** 4 weeks, 1 day.



MSG Roy P. Benavidez NCO Academy

Basic Leadership Course - WHINSEC

Focuses on developing essential leadership skills to lead team-sized elements. Enhance military and law enforcement missions by shaping capable, innovative, communicative, and mission-ready leaders who can protect their teams and sustain equipment.

Student Profile: Sergeant (E-5), Corporal, or Staff Sergeant (E-6) equivalents; physically fit and mentally prepared.

Duration: 5 weeks, 2 days.

Intermediate Leader Course - WHINSEC

Develops military non-commissioned officers (NCOs) and law enforcement into adaptive, innovative, and mission-ready leaders capable of leading squad and platoon-sized units in diverse operational environments. Students will enhance critical thinking, technical and tactical proficiency, and logistical and administrative skills. This course is offered in both English and Spanish.

Student Profile: Staff Sgt. (E-6) to Sgt. 1st Class (E-7) or equivalent; physically fit and mentally prepared.

Intermediate Leader Course - WHINSEC (English)

Trains military non-commissioned officers (NCOs) and law enforcement to lead squad and platoon-sized units in diverse operational environments. It focuses on developing critical and creative thinking skills while enhancing technical, tactical, logistical, and administrative capabilities. Graduates will be equipped to lead with adaptability and professionalism in any situation. Offered in English.

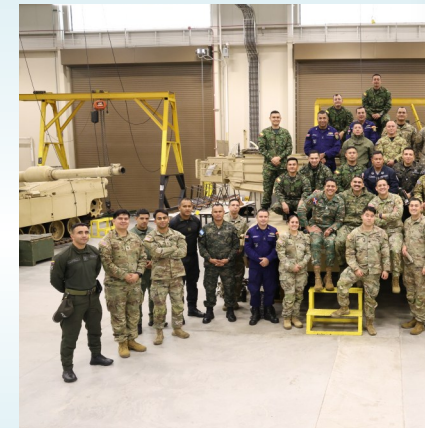
Student Profile: Staff Sgt. (E-6) to Sgt. 1st Class (E-7) or equivalent; physically fit and mentally prepared. **Duration:** 7 weeks, 3 days.

Senior Enlisted Advisor Course

Prepares senior non-commissioned officers (NCOs) for leadership and advisory roles at organizational and institutional levels. Strengthens critical reasoning, creative thinking, and decision-making skills in a joint, communicative (oral and written), as well as multinational and multiservice environment. Students analyze problems, develop timely solutions, communicate their decisions, and oversee the execution of those solutions.

Student Profile: Master Sergeant (E-8) to Sergeant Major (E-9) or equivalent; graduate of an advanced NCO course.

Duration: 10 weeks.



De León - Gonzalez School of Leadership and Tactics

Cadet Leadership Development Course

U.S. and partner-nation cadets build leadership, teamwork, and cross-cultural skills through immersive tactical and leadership training, fostering enduring partnerships.

Student Profile: Cadets or equivalents; military or law enforcement.

Duration: 4 weeks, 2 days.

Operational Tactics for Hemispheric Security

Delivers specialized and comprehensive training to counter transnational criminal organizations and illicit networks at the detachment, task force, or platoon level. Emphasizes tactical planning and command and control during realistic counter-threat operations.

Student Profile: Military NCOs and officers; law enforcement or civilian equivalents.

Duration: 9 weeks (49 days).

Transnational Threat Network Intelligence Analysis Course

Trains security force personnel to operate as operational analysts alongside multinational and multiservice peers. Students apply analytical techniques in illicit trafficking environments, enhance commander situational awareness, and employ intelligence methods to target local and transnational organized crime during tactical operations.

Student Profile: Military NCOs and officers; law enforcement or civilian equivalents. **Duration:** 8 weeks.

Medical Assistance Course

Develops essential medical skills for military and law enforcement personnel in ground operations roles. It covers lifesaving techniques, trauma care, fluid replacement, force health protection, splinting, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), limited primary care, combat evacuation, and physical readiness. No prior medical mission medical clearance (MOS) is required.

Student Profile: Private (E-3) to Captain (O-3); MOS in ground operations. **Experience:** prior assignment to a squad or patrol unit.

Duration: 9 weeks.

Joint Disaster Response Techniques Course

Trains security force personnel in military engineering techniques for post-disaster operations, humanitarian demining, demolition, mobility, and counter-mobility in support of crisis response.

Student Profile: Military NCOs and officers; law enforcement or civilian equivalents.

Duration: 6 weeks, 1 day.

