



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SERGEANTS MAJOR ACADEMY
11291 SGT E. CHURCHILL STREET
FORT BLISS, TX 79918-8002**

ATSS-DAS

27 January 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR Students, Sergeants Major Academy (SGM-A), Sergeants Major Course-Resident (SMC-R), Fort Bliss, TX 79918

SUBJECT: Participation in the Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Workforce Development (BA-LWD) degree program, SMC-R

1. Congratulations on your selection to attend the SMC-R (Class 72) at the SGM-A. We are excited to introduce to students the BA-LWD degree program.
2. On 17 January 2019, the Higher Learning Commission, a regional accrediting body, granted the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) authority to confer a BA-LWD bachelor's degree at the SGM-A (as a school and branch campus of the CGSC) for qualified students attending the SMC-R.
3. As a result of the collaborative efforts between Army University, CGSC, and the SGM-A, we are excited to offer students of the SMC-R, Class 72, the opportunity to complete this new degree program. The BA-LWD degree program is available to those students who have not yet been conferred a bachelor's degree. Participation in the degree program is voluntary. The SMC-R curriculum earns 50 core academic hours for scholastic achievements. For all graduates of the SMC-R, CGSC will issue an official transcript for the SMC-R core hours.
4. For those without a conferred a bachelor's degree, you can apply previously earned academic core hours towards the BA-LWD degree program. In order to earn the BA-LWD degree, students must meet 36 hours of general education requirements and 27 credit hours from LWD Major Courses (transfer credits, CLEP/ DANTES test, ACE credits, et al.), and 7 elective credit hours added to the SMC-R core 50 hours.
5. The SGM-A encourages students wishing to participate in the BA-LWD degree program to send-in all unofficial transcripts of previously attended colleges/universities, a copy of their Joint Services Transcript, and a copy of all NCOER ratings as a Master Sergeant/First Sergeant (E8). Redact any sensitive or personal identifiable information and send-in the above documents to the Noncommissioned Officer Leadership Center of Excellence (NCOLCoE) Education Program Analyst (see paragraph 7 below) – sending-in the documents prior to arrival is strongly encouraged. The NCOLCoE Education Program Analyst, will conduct a pre-audit prior to students arriving for the

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SMC-R. During in-processing, students wishing to opt into the BA-LWD degree program will receive a briefing on the program and be able to meet one-on-one with the NCOLCoE Education Program Analyst, who will assist in the development of each candidate's degree completion plan.

6. The SGM-A encourages students who wish to pursue the BA-LWD degree and lack general education requirements to enroll in general education classes or visit the local education office and take the battery of CLEP/DANTES test. Education offices have information on how to research and study for these tests.

7. Prospective students should contact the NCOLCoE Education Program Analyst as soon as possible, who can provide more details on the BA-LWD degree program and help in developing a degree completion plan tailored to each student's level of education.

8. The POC for this memorandum is the NCOLCoE Education Program Analyst, Shawn P. Conrad, to get started, at (915) 744-8243 or shawn.p.conrad.civ@mail.mil.

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CSM, USA
Commandant