



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER LEADERSHIP CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
11291 SGT E. CHURCHILL STREET
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79918

ATSS-CD

19 January 2022

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 73) 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 73, the opportunity to complete this degree program. 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 from the SMC-R core hours.
4. SMC-R students 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 the following documents:
 - a. All unofficial transcripts from previously attended colleges/universities.
 - b. Unofficial Joint Services Transcript.
 - c. All NCOER ratings as a Master Sergeant/First Sergeant (E-8) or higher.

Redact any sensitive or personal identifiable information and send all of the above documents to **both** Mr. Jason Wenzel and Mrs. Laura Pratt (see paragraph 7 below). Sending in these documents prior to arrival is strongly encouraged. The degree programs team will conduct a pre-audit prior to students arriving for the SMC-R. During

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in-processing students wishing to opt into the BA-LWD program will receive a briefing on the program and will be able to meet one-on-one with the degree programs team to 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 tests. Post Education offices have information on how to research and study for these tests.

7. To get started, prospective students should contact both Mr. Wenzel (jason.m.wenzel.civ@army.mil) and Mrs. Pratt (laura.d.pratt.civ@army.mil), as soon as possible, to 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 at (915) 744-8243 (option 3) or shawn.p.conrad.civ@army.mil.

JASON SCHMIDT
CSM, USA
Commandant