



**United States Marine Corps
Marine Corps University
Enlisted Professional Military Education**

Faculty Advisor Course (FAC) Syllabus

DESCRIPTION

The Faculty Advisors Course (FAC) prepares Marine sergeants, gunnery sergeants, staff sergeants, and master sergeants to serve as Faculty Advisors (FAs) at the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academies. The three week course introduces adult learning methods, teaching strategies, learning assessment tools, and Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME) policies and procedures. During the course, Marines practice teaching large and small groups, mentoring students, supervising combat conditioning, and modeling positive leadership. (Prerequisite: Read the Faculty Advisors Guidebook and Marine Corps University Academic Regulations before attending the course.)

ORGANIZATION

The FAC uses active teaching methods and strategies to stimulate higher order thinking across the three learning domains so that FA candidates can, in turn, apply the same skills in their classrooms. During the course, facilitators model active teaching strategies such as Socratic questioning, small group discussion, decision-forcing case study, brainstorming, peer teaching, and role playing as well as other active learning methods. The course organization encourages students to apply effective education methods and individual teaching styles as they learn.

PROGRAM AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Program Outcome (PO): Graduates of the course will be able to facilitate professional military education (PME) through the application of teaching philosophies, instructional strategies, and behavior modeling.

Learning Outcome 1 (LO 1): Apply learning theories, facilitation methodologies, and instructional technologies to enhance student learning.

Learning Outcome 2 (LO 2): Apply critical thinking theories and philosophies that promote a student-centered environment.

Learning Outcome 3 (LO 3): Employ classroom management principles that encourage student interaction and active learning

Learning Outcome 4 (LO 4): Discuss the application of ethical principles in the decision-making process.

Learning Outcome 5 (LO 5): Discuss EPME operating procedures, policies, and command philosophy required to support organizational objectives.



**United States Marine Corps
Marine Corps University
Enlisted Professional Military Education**

COURSE CONTENT

125.00 Academic Hours		Student: Teacher
46.00	Faculty-led Lessons	15:1
7.50	Small Group Discussion	5:1
15.50	Counseling/Mentorship	5:1
13.50	Combat Conditioning & Coaching	15:1
19.00	Practical Application	5:1
8.50	Field Trip	15:1
15.00	Performance Evaluation/Test	5:1
3.00 Student Preparation Hours		
Reading		
2.00	Student Guide & Articles	
Homework		
1.00	Adult Learning Theory Worksheet	

ASSESSMENT PLAN

1. Writing Workshop (LO 1) – The workshop prepares students to identify the parts of an essay and provide qualitative feedback along with grammar and style corrections. Students complete a written assignment and provide qualitative peer feedback that FAC educators use to assess student knowledge of adult learning theory, facilitation techniques, and effective feedback practices.
2. Small Group Discussion (LOs 1, 2, and 3) – Students conduct research, prepare discussion material, and lead a small group discussion on an assigned lesson topic. Assessments rate student ability to prepare and guide small-group conversations toward the lesson’s educational objective and learning outcome.
3. Case Method (LOs 1, 2, 3, and 4) – Student teams develop a decision-forcing case focusing on leadership, ethics, and decision-making that reinforces current EPME curriculum and originates from their professional experience. The students are required to submit an outline or presentation that contains a narrative of the case. The minimum components include a background of the case, the problem to be solved, discussion questions (aka decision points), and the actual historical solution. The case may derive from the student experience (nonfiction), minus the real names to protect the individual or units involved.
4. Lesson Delivery (LO 1, 2, and 3) – For this culminating event, students plan, personalize, and deliver a lesson that applies appropriate learning theory, includes a minimum of two appropriate student-centered active teaching strategies, considers critical thinking strategies, and uses classroom management techniques that help meet the lesson’s learning objectives. Students are required to develop visual aids for their lesson. Experienced FAs assess the preparation and facilitation presented in the student’s lesson plan and mentor them on areas of improvement.
5. Lead Combat Conditioning (LOs 1 and 5) – Student teams plan and facilitate a combat conditioning session that employs high intensity, short duration aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities as outlined in the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Program. Students will demonstrate proficient use of fitness equipment provided at SNCO Academies.



**United States Marine Corps
Marine Corps University
Enlisted Professional Military Education**

6. Faculty Advisor Course Overall Performance Evaluation (LOs 4 and 5) – The FAC mentors conduct weekly counseling each Friday to assess student learning and performance. This counseling provides students with qualitative feedback on perceptions of student attitudes, behaviors, preparation, and participation and identify opportunities for self-improvement. The FAC mentors will provide an overall evaluation using a rubric at the end of the course.

DRAFT



**United States Marine Corps
Marine Corps University
Enlisted Professional Military Education**

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Basic learning supplies – Pens, pencils, markers, and paper

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

Electronic device – Laptop, tablet, or notebook

Student preferred supplies – Highlighters, index cards, and sticky notes

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Actively participate in class.

Demonstrate critical thinking that creates original thought and properly attributes others' work.

Model active learning and student-centered teaching philosophies presented during the course.

Submit projects and assignments on time.

REFERENCES

Commanding General, Marine Corps University. *Academic Regulations*. October 31, 2013, <https://www.mcu.usmc.mil/MCU%20Command%20Policies/MCU%20Academic%20Regulations.pdf>

Enlisted Professional Military Education. *Faculty Advisors Guidebook*. Quantico, VA: Enlisted Professional Military Education, 2011.

DRAFT