

**HELLENIC
NON COMMISSIONED OFFICER
ACADEMY**



STUDY GUIDE

Noncommissioned Officer Academy

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Noncommissioned Officer Academy

1. Introduction-General Information

a. The Hellenic NonCommissioned Officer (NCO) Academy is an eminent young leader development institution of higher education for the training of NonCommissioned Officers of the Hellenic Army.

b. The Academy's emblem has the motto «ΑΠΑΝΤΩΝ ΤΙΜΙΩΤΕΡΟΝ ΠΑΤΡΙΣ» - which actually means "your country is more precious and more to be revered and is holier and in higher esteem" (Plato, Crito, 51a). This is a part of Socrates's answer to his friend Crito's suggestion to escape from prison, after his sentence to death by drinking a poisonous beverage of hemlock. The emblem bears both the Owl and a double axe. The Owl in Ancient Greece was the symbol of wisdom and knowledge and refers to the effort made by the Academy to provide well educated young leaders. The double axe symbolizes the power and strength of its rigorous military training.

2. Historical Overview

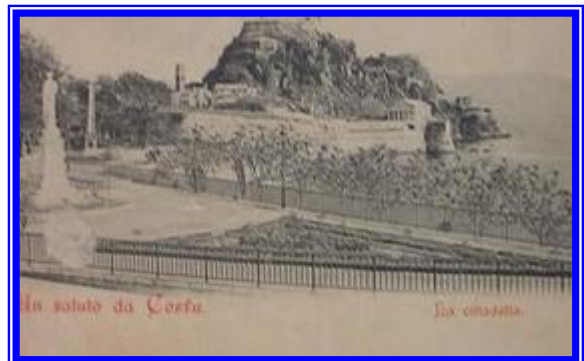
a. The First NCO Academy was founded on the 9th of April 1884 in Corfu, as a Preparatory School of Non-Commissioned Officers. Since then, it was relocated to four different major Greek cities, including Patra, where in 1951 it was renamed to Non-Commissioned Officer Academy.

b. In 1953 it was relocated to the island of Syros, in 1957 to the island of Samos and since 1975 It has been stationed in the city of Trikala.

c. From the very first beginning of its function, the NCO Academy offered to the country a huge number of Greek distinguished graduates who fought selflessly, bravely and heroically in all of the nation's struggles.



Picture 2 Patra



Picture 1 Corfu

3. Aim & Learning Objectives

a. The aim of the educational program of the Academy is to instruct and train the cadets so that each graduate will have the qualities and attributes essential to continued development through a lifetime career as a noncommissioned officer in the army. The above aim is being accomplished by developing cadets in the following four critical areas:

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- (1) Intellectual
- (2) Physical
- (3) Military
- (4) Moral-ethical

b. A challenging Academic Program that consists of a core of 33 general education courses plus 44 technical during the 3 years training cycle of the Academy, provides a balanced education in the arts and sciences.

c. The Physical Program at the Hellenic NCO Academy includes both physical education classes and competitive athletics. Every cadet participates in an intramural level sport each semester. This rigorous physical program contributes to the mental and physical fitness that is required for service as a noncommissioned officer in the Army.

d. Cadets learn basic military skills, including leadership, through a demanding Military Program which begins on their first day at the Academy. The military training occurs during a whole academic year. The culmination of cadet's military training takes place during winter and summer under austere weather conditions and rigorous Field Training Exercises (FTXs). Military training is combined with military science instruction to provide a solid military foundation for small-echelon leadership.

e. Moral-ethical development occurs throughout the formal academic programs as well as a host of activities and experiences available at the Military Academy. These include formal instruction in the important values of the military profession, voluntary religious programs, interaction with staff and faculty role models, and a vigorous guest speaker program.

4. Mission

The Hellenic NCO Academy mission is to educate, train and cultivate the military values of the cadets and prepare them for a career as a noncommissioned officer of the Hellenic Army capable of responding to the demands of the contemporary joint operations battlefield.

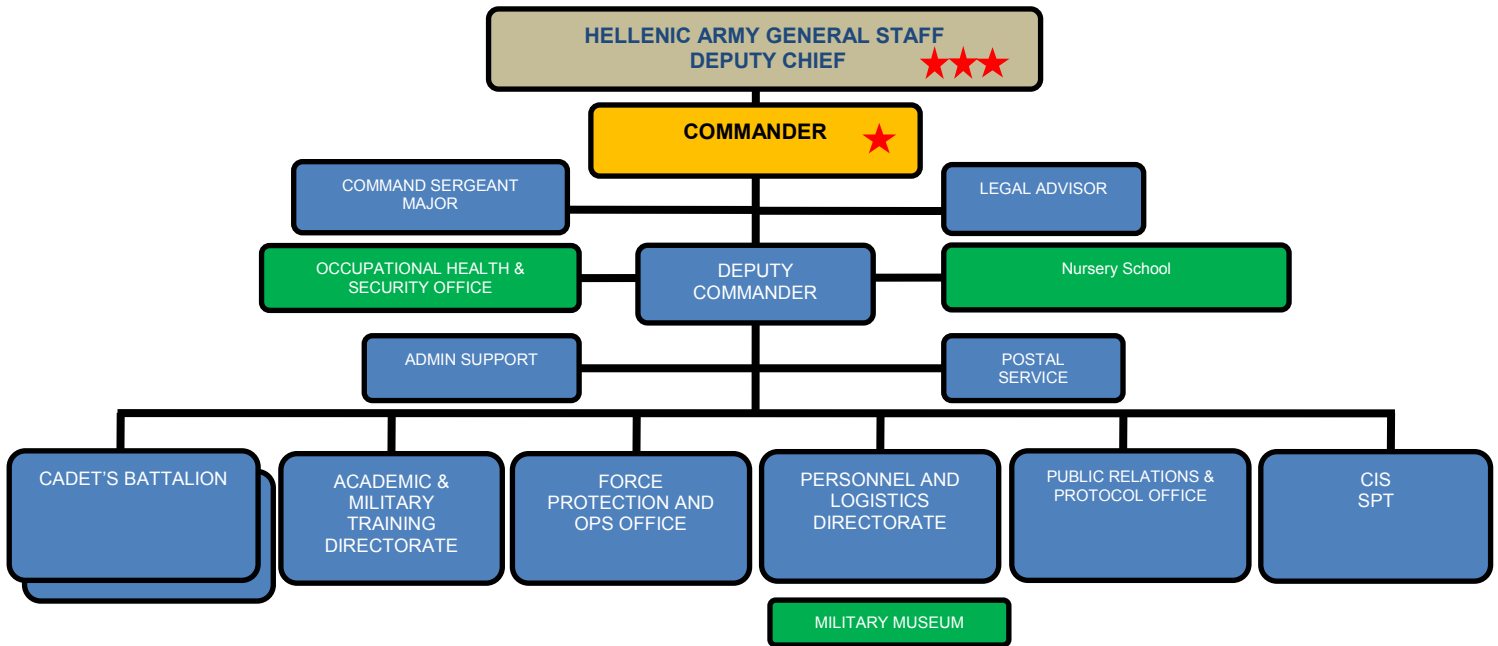
5. Accreditation

According to national legislation law (N.1911/1990) the Hellenic NCO Academy belongs to the "higher level of Higher Education" and the cadets graduate after a 3-year training cycle. The Hellenic NCO Academy is accredited by the **Military Academies Quality Management Board of the Hellenic Army General Staff Training Directorate**. Every 5 years the Academy undergoes a reaccreditation by the aforementioned Board. The next accreditation is scheduled to occur during Academic Year 2024-25.

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6. Organization

The organizational structure of the Academy is depicted in the following chart:



7. Undergraduate Studies

a. The Academy's Educational Program consists of **Academic, Military** and **Technical courses** and it runs in 6 semesters (two per year):

(1) During the first 2 years of the Academic, Military (in theory) and Technical studies, the courses are common for each cadet. The distinction between Administrative and Technical cadets takes place at the beginning of the last Academic Year (early September)

(2) The **third** year includes:

(a) Common academic courses, for both Administrative and Technical cadets.

(b) Specialized technical courses, only for the Technical cadets focused on their specialization as technical NCOs of the Hellenic Army

(c) General education courses, focused only on the duties and responsibilities an Administrative cadet should be aware of (Academic and theoretical military education).

a. On-field military training is carried out, throughout the 3-year cycle of studies and the Training Objectives of each Academic Year are adapted to the General Educational Guidelines of the Academy.

b. More specifically, the Military Education is divided in:

(1) Theoretical Military Education taught in the classrooms.

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(2) On-field training carried out in designated firing ranges and training fields.

8. Combat Arms (CA), Combat Support (CS) Combat Service Support (CSS) Branch

a. The Hellenic Army Forces are divided into 3 major categories according to their function on the battlefield: Combat Arms, Combat Support Branch and Combat Service Support Branch.

b. Combat Arms (CA) forces, engage in direct confrontation with enemy forces to kill or capture them, to break their will to continue the fight, and to seize and hold terrain or to deny it to the enemy. Combat Support (CS) forces, provide direct support of the forces on the battlefield by providing, communications, engineering, and chemical warfare services of immediate impact on the course of the battle. Combat Service Support (CSS) forces, provide administrative and technical (logistical) services to ensure that the combat and combat support forces are adequately manned, armed, fed, fueled, maintained, and moved as required.

c. The cadets upon their admission in the Academy they are being categorized into 2 main categories: CA/CS Branch and CSS Branch. At the end of the 3rd year of studies, the Administrative cadets according to their final scores and grades in the Academic/Military training they are eligible to choose between:

(1) Combat Arms (CA) Branch: Infantry, Armor and Artillery.

(2) Combat Support (CS) Branch: Army Engineers, Signals and Army Aviation.

(3) Combat Service Support (CSS) Branch: Army Medical Service, Finance, Geographical Service, Ordnance, Quartermaster and Transportation Corps, Military Secretaries, Postal Service, CIS.

9. Curriculum

The purpose of the Hellenic NCO Academy's Academic Program is to establish the intellectual foundation for service as a highly educated NCO and to develop in cadets the skills necessary for service and continued development as an NCO in the Hellenic Army. In conjunction with the Military and Physical Programs, the Academic Program nurtures each cadet's competence, character, and confidence to act decisively as a small unit leader in the battlefield. The curriculum is balanced between mathematics and basic and engineering sciences, the humanities and social sciences, military science, and physical education such as:

a. Field of **Social Studies**

(1) History

(2) Psychology

(3) Environmental Education

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- (4) English
 - (5) Management
 - (6) Social Communication Studies
 - (7) Constitutional International Law
 - (8) Greek Literature
 - (9) Military History- Military Geography
 - (10) Strategic Planning
- b. Field of **Science Studies**
- (1) General Principles of Economy
 - (2) Statistics
 - (3) Information Technology
 - (4) Physics
 - (5) Technical Design
 - (6) Mathematics
 - (7) Ballistics
- c. Field of **Technological Studies**
- (1) Electro-technics
 - (2) Internal Combustion Engines
 - (3) Electric Engines
 - (4) Electronics
 - (5) Electric Measurements
 - (6) Ammunition
 - (7) Aircrafts-Helicopters
 - (8) Thermodynamics
 - (9) Technical Design
 - (10) Fuels-Lubricants
 - (11) Machine Elements
 - (12) Elements of Electrical Engineering
 - (13) Metallurgy-Physical Metallurgy
 - (14) Experimental Strength of Materials
 - (15) Digital Technology
 - (16) Electro -technical Materials
 - (17) Aerodynamics-Flight Theory
 - (18) Piston-Air Turbine Engines
 - (19) Pneumatic- Hydraulic Systems
 - (20) Mechanist Technology

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- (21) Weapon Systems
- (22) Quality Assurance
- (23) Automatic Control Systems
- (24) English Technical Terminology
- (25) General Principles of Mechanical Engineering

d. Field of **Military Studies**

- (1) Leadership
- (2) Logistics
- (3) Ammunition
- (4) International Law
- (6) Field Manuals (FMs) and Army Regulations (AR)
- (7) Peacekeeping Operations
- (8) Martial Law
- (9) Tactics
- (10) Decision Making Process (DMP) in the PLT/SQD echelon

e. In the field of asynchronous education, the Academy uses an online educational platform that has been developed from Hellenic Army General Staff and implements a process of e-learning between Instructors – cadets. In the field of modern education, through the same platform, the Academy can fully implement e-learning, whenever and for any reason required.



Pictures 3, 4: Teaching Classrooms

f. Field of **Physical Training**

- (1) Physical training seeks to achieve the improvement of physical stamina and strength of the cadets through:
 - (a) Combatives

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- (b) Self-defense & martial arts
- (c) Marathon
- (d) Swimming
- (e) Volleyball
- (f) Soccer
- (g) Obstacle courses



Picture 5 Swimming team



Picture 6 Volleyball team



Picture 7 Basketball team



Picture 8 Physical training

i. In the context of Competitive Athletics, the Academy during the Annual Military Academies Athletic Competition competes with the rest of the Hellenic Joint Forces Military Academies athletic teams in various sports. Furthermore, they take part in athletic competitions organized by other foreign and domestic institutions within the context of extroversion of the Hellenic Armed Forces.

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j. The cadet's Military Training aims at developing:

(1) A warrior-trainer who will be an excellent soldier, in the best physical condition and self-confidence and value the military code of conduct of the Hellenic Army.

k. (2) A small-echelon leader who will project offensive spirit and initiative during peace and combat operations.

l. The above mentioned are achieved through the **Basic Tactical Training** and the **Advanced Military Training**.



Picture 9, 10 Military training



Picture 11 Firing the MG3 machine-gun

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Picture 12 Weapons Training



Picture 13 Hand grenade Training



Picture 14 Small Arms Weapons Simulator



Picture 15 Training at the Climbing Tower



Picture 16 Winter Training

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m. The culmination of the cadet's military training is:

(1) The **Winter training** which lasts 2 weeks and the cadets are being trained in surviving methods under austere weather conditions.

(2) The **Summer training** which lasts 6 weeks and the cadets are trained among others in amphibious operations, CQB, competitive tactical marches, FTXs at Platoon level, Airmobile operations, rifle shooting, land navigation etc.



Picture 17 Military training

n. The Technical Education aims at acquiring specialized knowledge, experiences and the necessary skills and abilities so as future NCOs they will have the necessary capabilities to maintain and fix all the modern military equipment of the Hellenic Army. It takes place in designated intramural laboratories and also in nearby military factories.



Picture 18 Internal Combustion Engine Laboratory



Picture 19 Electronic Engineering Laboratory

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Picture 20 Helicopter Engines Laboratory



Picture 21 Mechanical Engineering Laboratory

10. Study Trips and Visits

The Academy's Field Study Program consists of a series of visits and single-day field trips. They are designed to provide Hellenic NCO Academy cadets with a balanced understanding of Greek society, institutions and culture through exposure to various topics, including religious tradition, important battles of the nation, education institutions and more.

- a. Holy Monastery of Meteoron - Trikala Castle-Tsitsani's Museum
- b. Village of Ligiades (Ioannina) – Kalpaki&Bizani
- c. Distomo (Viotia)
- d. Parthenon- War museum – Marathon Tymbos
- e. 700 Military Manufactory for army clothing
- f. Archaeological site of Delphi&Thermopylae
- g. Museum of the Battle of Sarantaporo
- h. Archaeological site of Dion (Olympos) – Vergina
- i. Agion Oros(Mount Athos)
- j. Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki–War Museum of Thessaloniki- NRDC-GR HQ – Balkan Wars Museum

11. Academic Faculty and Military Teaching Staff

The academic education is held in classrooms by hourly-paid hired civilian professors according to the Hellenic Army Regulations and relevant National Law Provisions for hiring personnel. In the military training, the trainers are graduates from the respective Army Officers/NCOs Military Academies.

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12. Syllabus

a. The general aim of our training is to provide the cadets with the following characteristics/knowledge/skills:

(1) 1st year of studies

a. Develop the necessary skills of properly reading and using a military map.

b. Develop the basic capabilities for the battlefield preparation upon receiving a WARNO/OPLAN by to constructing battle positions, entrenchments, barbed wire entanglement as well as SQD level schemes of maneuver.

c. Assuming the role of SQD leader in various tactical scenarios.

d. Acquisition of necessary skills for the operation of Squad served weapons and the respective means of communication.

e. Continuous physical condition improvement and stamina.

f. Mastering TTPs in various tactical scenarios.

g. Land navigation and survival techniques in different weather conditions.

(2) 2nd year of studies

a. Acquisition of basic knowledge on identifying and using ammunition as well as taking all necessary safety precautions.

b. Acquisition of basic knowledge on mines and minefield laying.

c. Acquisition of basic knowledge on identifying and using explosives as well as taking all necessary safety precautions.

d. Acquiring the fundamental knowledge on the cooperation between the Mechanized Infantry and Armor.

e. Learning the tactical use of Heavy Infantry Weapons in complex tactical scenarios.

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- f. Improving the techniques of passing the Obstacle course and the cadet's physical condition.
- g. Advanced survival techniques in different weather conditions.
- h. CQB training

(3) 3rd year of studies

- a. Advanced knowledge on the use of ammunition as well as taking all necessary safety precautions.
- b. Advanced knowledge on the use of explosives as well as taking all necessary safety precautions.
- c. Firing with Heavy Infantry Weapons in various tactical scenarios.
- d. Establish and organize a Company's CP during combat operations. TTps on attacking an enemy CP.
- e. Excel in the passage of the Obstacle's course and reach a high level of physical condition according to the Hellenic Army's Physical Fitness standards.
- f. Assume the role of PL (Platoon Leader) and be trained in complex tactical scenarios.
- g. FTXs, tactical road marches, CQB training, rappel climbing training, individual/platoon tactical passage of a river.

13. Thesis – ECTS units – Postgraduates Studies

- a. In order to complete their studies, 3rd year cadets have to individually submit an undergraduate thesis.
- b. The NCO Academy belongs to the higher level of higher education. At the time being, the NCO Academy degree does not include ECTS.
- c. There is an active MOU between the Academy and the Department of Physical Education and Sport Science of the University of Thessaly where our graduates can apply for "MSc in Military Fitness & Wellbeing".

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14. Admission

a. The Greek candidates for the Academy, in order to be accepted they must:

- (1) Possess the Hellenic nationality,
- (2) Be mentally and physically healthy according to National Legislation
- (3) Be high school graduates,
- (4) Be 17 – 21 years of age,
- (5) Have successfully passed aptitude tests, medical examinations and physical fitness tests before admission
- (6) Have successfully passed the Hellenic National Exams for Higher Education.

b. The prerequisites for the foreign cadets may differ.

15. Graduation – Promotion – Career

a. Graduates of the NCO Academy are given the opportunity of:

- (1) A brilliant career in the Hellenic Army
- (2) Postgraduate specialization in science and new technology in Greece and abroad.
- (3) Serving abroad in embassies, NATO, UN, EU, Peacekeeping missions etc

b. After graduating from the Academy, the NCOs are obliged to remain in the Army for 5 years. They are promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer, after a total service of 9-12 years at the ranks of Sergeant – Staff Sergeant – Sergeant First Class. After being promoted to Officers, they are integrated in the Officers Corp.

c. Due to the fact that the NCO Academy belongs to higher education, graduates, acquiring the degree of the Academy, can be enrolled in other higher Education Institutes or Technological Education Institutes through graduate admission examinations.

16. International Cooperation with NCO Academies Abroad

Noncommissioned officers of other countries visit our Academy in order to exchange views and participate in field training exercises.

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17. Facilities (Buildings – Library – Laboratories – Sport etc)

a. Camp facilities include a combination of old and newly built buildings, such as the cadet's Barracks, small arms simulator, 2 cadets' recreation halls, indoor gym, 2 weight-lifting rooms, sports facilities, climbing tower, firing range.



Picture 22,23 Outside view of the Academy



Picture 24,25 Barracks of the Academy

b. The Academy has a Health-Support Department integrated to ensure the physical and mental health of students.

18. Transportation

Either from the International Airport of Athens or the International Airport of Thessaloniki you can reach the NCO Academy by a combination of daily buses and train itineraries.

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19. Contact Information- Point of Contact

Address:

Hellenic NCO Academy,
V. Tsitsani Ave. 63, Trikala
Tel.: (+ 30)2431023950
Postal Code: 42100, Greece

PoC : Head of Academic Education/Department of Studies
NCO Academy

Tel.: (+ 30) 2431432122

Fax: (+ 30) 2431074233

20. Official Website

E-mail: smy@army.gr

Note:

In order to be able to answer to possible questions please do not forget to include your full name and address in the e-mail.