

UCIP ACADEMY

WARRANT OFFICER COURSE

1. Introduction

Welcome to the Warrant Officer Course, Cadet.

This course will give you a better understanding of the Warrant Officer, and their use within both the Naval and Marine Corps structure. To better understand this role, you need to understand that there are three distinct groupings of 'ranks'; Officer, Warrant Officer, and Enlisted. Each group offers a different aspect of the same area. This guide will illustrate the differences between each group, and why Warrant Officers are just as vital in the 24th Century military as they are today.

2. What is a Warrant Officer?

A Warrant Officer is considered to be an expert in their selected field. People who hold a Warrant, rather than a Commission, tend to be professionals of a certain area, and don't move between departments into different roles, unlike officers can and often do. The warrant officer forms the backbone of a solid and stable crew, providing the leading officers with fixed professionals within each of their respective departments, to fall back onto.

These roles can be filled by leading Non-Commissioned Officers, but generally a Warrant Officer is preferred.

So how does a Warrant Officer differ from a regular officer, or even an enlisted man?

A commissioned officer is considered a "generalist" in their role. This means that they know a little about each and every aspect of the entire department they are assigned to. This gives them broad understanding so that they can perform the necessary leadership functions required in an officer. Any grade of commissioned officer will outrank any Enlisted person, but that is not strictly true of Warrant Officers. This will be covered later.

An Enlisted person is given a rank and a rate. This is covered in more detail in the Enlisted Course, but for these purposes, they are generally referred to as 'mates' in their rates. An example of this is "Bosun's Mate" or "Engineers Mate" or "Masters Mate". This is mixed in with their grade, so a Petty Officer 2nd Class would be a Bosun's Mate 2nd Class. Enlisted personnel specialise in a specific area of their chosen field, like an Engineers Mate would also be a Power Distribution Technician or a Master-at-Arms might become an Investigator. This means that the Enlisted person is focused on one specific element of their department, and generally doesn't deviate into other areas.

A Warrant Officer fills the gap between the two. A Warrant Officer is generally the person who occupies the title of “Boatswain”, “Engineer”, “Master” and so on and so forth. They are departmental experts, who have spent years studying to be professionals in their given field of study. So they would be Surgeons, but not General Physicians. They would be Pilots. They’d be navigational experts, or Operations experts. They provide the knowledge base that is often not filled by either Enlisted or Officer.

What are the Warrant Officer ranks?

There are six grades of Warrant Officers in Starfleet. They are:



Warrant Officer

The Entry level for the Warrant Officer tier. To be considered for Warrant Officer you need to have already demonstrated great skill or knowledge in your selected service stream. That could be Engineering, Medical, Science, Etc. To be considered for Warrant Officer, you need to have achieved the enlisted rank of Petty Officer 2nd Class, or be an Academy Graduate, but choose not to attain a commission, but rather a warrant. You must hold an academy completion in your chosen field to be considered for this grade.



Leading Warrant Officer

A Leading Warrant Officer or “Leader” as they are known, is an experienced hand aboard any vessel, starbase or facility. At this stage in their career, they would be their service stream resident expert, being able to give “chapter & verse” to the manual, possibly even writing most of it. By this time, they would also have needed to demonstrate IC leadership skills equivalent to that of a full Lieutenant in the Naval branch (Marine Captain in the Marines).



Senior Warrant Officer

The Senior Warrant Officer, or “Senior” as is known, is a master in their service stream. They are the SIM’s professors of their department. Often called upon to educate junior officers in their service stream, and on occasion, to actually be the Department Head in lieu of a more experienced officer. At this stage of your career, you would need to demonstrate excellent writing abilities, and the ability to manipulate the plot from your department’s point of view.



Master Warrant Officer

The Master Warrant Officer, or “Master”, really is that. They are still masters of their service stream, and looked upto and revered by their peers. At this stage of your career, you would almost certainly be educating people in your chosen service stream, and mentoring everyone, even the command team. You would be expected to navigate the plot around your department, contributing considerably to it’s development and providing your knowledge.



Chief Warrant Officer

The Chief Warrant Officer, who can be called “Chief” if they want, although it does get confusing with Chief Petty Officer. Most Chief Warrant Officers prefer to be called “Chief” though, so its not that bad. At this stage in your career, you are admired by everyone, including your Captain. You will be expected to contribute to the SIM at the same level of performance as the SIM CO and XO, with considerable writing talent and experience.

What is a service stream and what are my titles?

A Service Stream is basically your department. Within each Service Stream you’ll have specific titles that you’ll hold as a Warrant Officer.

The service streams and titles you can hold as a warrant officer are as follows:-

Department	Title
Helm & Navigation	- Quartermaster (Helm) - Master (Navigation)
Operations	- Boatswain
Security & Tactical	- Constable (Security) - Master-at-Arms (Security) - Gunner (Tactical)
Engineering	- Engineer - Mechanic
Science	- “Subject” Specialist (Botany, Geology, etc)
Medical	- Surgeon - Dentist - Non-Doctorate Specialist - Medical Examiner - Medic
Flight Operations	- Pilot - Air Traffic Controller
Marines	- Bombardier (Artillery) - Quartermaster (Stores)

	- Corpsman (Medic)
Intelligence	- Operative
Special Forces	- Team Leader
	- Team XO
	- Team Medic
	- Team Explosives Expert
	- Team Weapons Specialist
Diplomatic Corps	- Attache`

Chain of Command

Warrant Officers are above in substantive rank to all enlisted personnel, including Master Chief Petty Officer's. They are also senior in rank to Cadets. However, all Warrant Officers are subordinate to commissioned officers (Ens>FAdm).

In certain situations, a Warrant Officer can be placed in a position superior to that of commissioned officers, such as a department head. In that instance, the positional authority gives the warrant officer command over the commissioned personnel under his or her command.

Terms of Address

When addressing a Warrant Officer, enlisted personnel are to refer to them as "Sir" or "Ma'am", as you would any officer. They are however, not to be saluted, in the same way you'd salute a commissioned officer.

The common referral to them is usually via their positional title, if applicable. For example "Gunner Parkson" or "Boatswain Smith", as there would only be one such person aboard ship/station. Where a title is not appropriate, then "Warrant Officer Smith" is appropriate for all Warrant Officer grades upto but not including Chief Warrant Officer. In regards to Chief Warrant Officer's, they are to be referred to as "Chief Warrant Officer Smith".

In a formal environment, it is then suitable to use the full title, such as Senior Warrant Officer Roe or Leading Warrant Officer Brown.

It is however acceptable in an informal environment, and providing the individual in question approves, to refer to them via their rank slang. "Chief" "Master" "Senior" "Leader" "Staffy", are all acceptable informal references.

Uniforms

Warrant Officers wear the standard duty uniform of their division, as any other member of the department would. Their rank device is worn on the right hand side of the collar, with the comm. Badge on the left breast. Warrant Officers may also wear uniform variants.

Dress uniforms are the same as officer dress uniforms. However no Warrant rank wears the white undershirt of the Captain, and no warrant officer has rank devices on both sides of their collar.

Marine Warrant Officers may wear their rank as a combat patch on their BDU's where appropriate.

Career Path

In order to become a Warrant Officer, the individual in question needs to have served as an enlisted member of the service upto the rank of Petty Officer 2nd Class. Alternatively, they can be an academy graduate, and opt to hold a Warrant rank as opposed to a commissioned rank.

Once in the Warrant Officer track, you advance through the grades as you would in either the enlisted or commissioned track. If you however wish to change your track, you cannot revert to enlisted grades. You can however exchange your warrant for a commission. The exchange rate is thus:

Warrant Rank	Equivalent Officer Rank (Transfer only)
Warrant Officer	Ensign/2 nd Lieutenant
Staff Warrant Officer	Lieutenant JG/1 st Lieutenant
Leading Warrant Officer	Lieutenant/Marine Captain
Senior Warrant Officer	Lt. Commander/Major
Master Warrant Officer	Commander/Lt. Colonel
Chief Warrant Officer	Captain/Colonel

Conclusion

Whilst the Warrant Officer grades are not the glamorous and sought after roles like “Commander” and “Master Chief” and the like, they do have a vital function in the hierarchal tier. Divisional Experts are an important step in the structure of any ship, starbase or facility that has a large crew. Even a smallish crew would find use for such people.

Generally speaking, Warrant Officers are the unloved bastard child of the military ranking structure. Underutilized and lacking the romance of the commissioned track, without the possibility of holding command. Almost all officers aim to be Captains and Admirals, whereas Warrants will never get that high.

However, in terms of the focus and mentality of the Warrant Officer, they perform every bit as vital a function in Starfleet as her Captains and Admirals. How would they function without experts in their fields to help them do their jobs?

Revisions

Version 1.0 – Fleet Admiral Kerry Malone

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