

Section I

The Way the Program Works

Can college credit be earned by simply watching these videos? Not likely. Although incorporating multimedia support with a course significantly increases the retention level, students watching them in the same manner as they would watch entertainment TV cannot absorb these courses. For example, if after watching 26 half-hour segments of a comedy series over several weeks and being tested on the topics covered, the students certainly would not score very well. If students combined the viewing along with a study guide, textbook, practice test, and preparation, their success rate would increase dramatically.

There are four components usually associated with these courses:

- (a) The video, DVD, CD, or audio cassettes (usually 13 one-hour or 26 half-hour segments).
- (b) A study guide (usually 6-10 pages of text per video segment).
- (c) The textbook (very similar to the one used in the classroom-based course).
- (d) The practice test.

It is imperative that students purchase the study guide and textbook for each course! Success in using these materials cannot be guaranteed. However, those students who treat these courses seriously, devoting time and effort into concentrated study over a reasonable period of time, should pass the recommended examination.

HOW DO MEMBERS & SPOUSES EARN COLLEGE CREDIT WITH THIS PROGRAM?

The first step is for the student to see the unit's ESO to fill out the enrollment form, (DANTES Form 1560/36R), found in the front of this booklet or on the Coast Guard Institute's web page. The student has from 2 to 4 months to study the videos depending upon the type of video ordered. As soon as the cassettes are ordered, the student should order the study guide and textbook(s) for the course (as explained later). In some cases, the study guides are included with the cassettes on loan to the student. (These should be treated with care - other students will use them.) The cost of the printed material may be placed on a personal MasterCard or Visa. The approximate cost of study guides and textbooks for these courses is provided in the course overview section of this publication. Since the cost of textbooks continues to rise, the student should verify the cost before purchasing the materials or use an online service that may offer the materials at a lower cost. In some cases, the study guides/textbooks are included with the cassettes. Study materials provided with the courses should be treated with care and returned with the tapes.

When the videocassettes, textbook and study guide arrive, the student should begin the course. Usually this entails reading a chapter in the textbook followed by watching a session on TV (or listening to an audio session). Then the student should read the appropriate chapter in the study guide. At the end of each chapter there are several questions students should be able to answer. If students can't answer the questions, they should review the chapter and/or the video again. The answer should be provided somewhere in the text.

The Way the Program Works, Cont

The recommended test should be ordered approximately 3-4 weeks before completion of the course. The recommended test may be a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) General or Subject Exam, a DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST), or an Excelsior College Exams (ECE) exam. The recommended tests are listed in the Matrix of Courses. ***THE STUDENT MUST PASS THE RECOMMENDED TEST IN ORDER TO RECEIVE COLLEGE CREDIT FOR EACH COURSE.*** The student should contact the nearest DANTES Test Center before enrolling in the course to ensure the test will be available and that it can be given at that location. For the location of the nearest DANTES Test Center, go to the DANTES web site at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>. Click on examinations programs. Then select test center lookup. A popup screen will allow you to search for a center. (For more information on acceptance of recommended tests by colleges and universities, see Section IV of this publication.)

Upon completion of the course, the student must return the video or audiocassettes to the distribution facility. The postage-paid return mailing label is included with the materials for the convenience of the students.

