



## Fort Polk NCO Academy Facts Sheet

The Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) is the first course in the Non-Commissioned Officer Evaluation System (NCOES).

**Purpose:** Prepare selected promotable specialists/corporals and sergeants to perform the duties and execute the responsibilities of junior noncommissioned officers and to teach them how to train and lead the soldiers who will work and fight under their supervision.

**Scope:** Trains prospective and newly promoted sergeants in basic leadership skills, NCO duties, responsibilities and authority, and how to conduct performance-oriented training. It focuses on leader training for first time leaders. Produces battle competent junior NCOs who are qualified team/section/squad leaders, trainers of leader and warfighting skills, evaluators and counselors, conductors/participants in individual and collective training, and performers/teachers of leader skills, knowledge, and attitudes. This course is non-MOS specific, taught in a NCO Academy live-in environment using small group instruction with practical application, followed by hands-on, performance-oriented training conducted in a field environment, culminating with a field training exercise. Cadre personnel assess the students' leadership potential and evaluate their ability to apply lessons learned to effectively lead their classmates in a tactical environment. PLDC provides opportunity for education, to learn warfighting skills, and to gain experience. The Active Component course is 4 weeks, 2 days in length.

**Prerequisites:** Active Army or Reserve Component enlisted personnel. Must meet height/weight standards outlined in AR 600-9; be eligible for reenlistment; and recommended by their immediate commander.

**First Priority:** Sergeants that are non-PLDC graduates and PFC/SPC upon completion of the Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS).

**Second Priority:** Promotable specialists/corporals and "Star MOSSs".

**Third Priority:** Specialists/corporals in leadership positions.

**Temporary Profiles:** These will not be enrolled, other than for shaving. For soldiers diagnosed as pregnant after enrollment, the attending physician must make a determination if continuing the course would be harmful to the pregnant soldier. Pregnant students will provide a copy of the determination to the Academy.

**Permanent Profiles:** Permanent designator of "3" or "4" must include a copy of DA Form 3349 and the results of the soldier's military medical review board (MMRB) as part of the course application. Soldiers who have been before an MMRB, or similar board, awarded medical limitations, allowed to retain their occupational classification will be able to attend appropriate courses and train within the limitations of their profile provided they can otherwise meet course prerequisites and graduation requirements.

**Physical Requirements:** Students must be able to meet the following physical requirements during the course:

- a. Pass the APFT.
- b. Negotiate rough terrain under varying climatic conditions.
- c. Conduct, demonstrate, and lead drill and ceremonies.
- d. Conduct, demonstrate, and lead physical fitness training.
- e. Walk a minimum of 3200 meters with Load Carrying Equipment (LCE) in a minimum of three hours.
- f. Lift and carry all required packing list items (OCIE and CTA 50-900) for short distances.
- g. Carry 50-pound combat load containing mission essential equipment.
- h. Occasionally lift and carry fuel, water, ammo, MREs, or sandbags.
- i. Low crawl, high crawl, and rush for three to five seconds.
- j. Move over, through, and around obstacles.
- k. Carry and fire individual assigned weapon IAW applicable regulatory guidance.
- l. Don Mission-Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear.

**Course Graduation Requirements:** To achieve course graduation requirements, students must score 70 percent or higher on the following examinations/evaluations, to include Land Navigation.

- a. Written Examinations I, II, III.
- b. Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). (IAW FM 21-20 w/ C1)
- c. Physical Fitness Training (Train the Trainer Evaluation)
- d. Drill and Ceremonies Evaluation
- e. Individual Training Evaluation
- f. Land Navigation Evaluation
- g. Both Demonstrated Leadership Evaluations

Soldiers must take the APFT with 72 hours of enrollment. If students fail the initial APFT, one retest is permitted within 7 to 14 days of the initial APFT. If students fail the retest, it is mandatory dismissal from the course for failure to meet APFT standards.