

Educational Opportunities

As stated in the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA), education is a critical element in the career progression of the AL&T Workforce member. This section lists several career development opportunities that will enable AL&T Workforce members to complete a bachelor's or master's degree or to obtain the 12 or 24 semester hours in business disciplines required for membership in the AAC. For all available education opportunities in this catalog, acquisition workforce members must pursue disciplines that underpin the acquisition functions as described in the Department of Defense Directive (DOD) 5000.52-M, Acquisition Career Development Program. Additional information on AETE policy and procedures can be found on the AAC home page at <http://asc.army.mil/docs/policy/AETEpolicy.pdf>.

Civilians must apply to the AETE Board to be considered for the Senior Service College (SSC) Fellowship Program at the University of Texas (UT). The Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF), the Army War College and the National War College are also available as SSC options for civilians. Civilian applications for these opportunities are reviewed by a selection board convened by the Assistant Secretary of the Army's Manpower and Reserve Affairs (ASA M&RA). A Department of the Army board automatically considers military officers for SSC based on their individual year group.

The AETE Board will review and approve civilian applications for Naval Post Graduate School and School of Choice. Military officers pursuing full-time Advanced Civil Schooling (ACS) programs are governed by AR 621-1, Training of Military Personnel at Civilian Institutions. Application and selection procedures for AAC officers are available at: <https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/opfam51/ambmain.htm>.

Applications for the Acquisition Tuition Assistance Program (ATAP) may be submitted to the National Capital Region Customer Support Office. Military personnel must contact the Army Continuing Education System (ACES) office at their local installation for tuition assistance.

Senior Service College (SSC)

The SSC Program offers a unique opportunity for members of the AAC, military and civilians to gain advanced leadership training and experience specifically designed for senior leadership positions. The following institutions comprise the SSC Program for AAC professionals:

ICAF was designated by the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) to present the Senior Acquisition Course as part of the DAU. At completion, the student acquires SES core competencies as outlined by OPM. The AAC is allocated seven acquisition seats annually for this program. Selection is competitive through a Department of the Army board process.

The Senior Service Fellowship College Program at UT, SSFCP offers two types of fellowship opportunities: a resident program and a distance learning program. Both programs are in affiliation with the U.S. Army War College (USAWC). These are structured programs with a trilateral focus on the relationships between national security policy and process, emerging critical technologies and the industrial base. Two acquisition seats are set aside for each of the UT fellowship opportunities. Selection is competitive through the AETE selection process.

Senior Acquisition Course (ACQ 401)

Industrial College of the Armed Forces

Students are offered a wide choice of research and elective opportunities, as well as a common core curriculum and two mandatory advanced studies in acquisition policy courses. Separate attention is given to acquisition course work while retaining the benefits of intermingling with students from the operational and other functional communities. At completion, the student acquires SES core competencies as outlined by OPM.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/ PREREQUISITES:

- Must have or be able to attain a TOP SECRET clearance with a Special Background Investigation (SBI) that will not expire during the academic year.
- Must be identified by the organization as being on track for executive-level service.
- Must develop a Post Utilization Plan as outlined in the application instructions of the ACTEDS Training Catalog.
- Must be certified at Level III in a primary ACF and should be certified at Level III in an additional ACF.
- Must possess an undergraduate degree.
- Should possess a graduate degree in an acquisition-related field listed in DOD Directive 5000.52-M, Acquisition Career Development Program.
- Additional consideration will be given to AAC members who are Advanced Program Management Course (or equivalent success or course) graduates.

WHO MAY APPLY: Civilian members of the AAC, grades GS-14/15 or equivalent payband, who currently occupy a Critical Acquisition Position (CAP) and meet the certification requirements of that position. For military officers, this is a board process.

LENGTH: 10 months

LOCATION: Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

CLPS: 10 per quarter hour/15 per semester hour, plus 30 in year degree is awarded.

HOW TO APPLY: Application packets must be submitted in accordance with IAW Army Civilian Personnel Policy. Please refer to the following Web sites for more information: <http://cpol.army.mil/library/train/catalog/ch02icaf.html>. AAC requirements for ICAF are detailed in this catalog.

PROGRAM DATES: August to June

Senior Service College Fellowship Program

University of Texas



The SSCFP at the Center for Acquisition Studies, University of Texas at Austin, is designed to prepare selected AAC components (Active Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard and AAC civilians) for high-level staff and leadership positions throughout the AAC community.

Fellows pursue a resident program in affiliation with the U.S. Army War College. This is a structured program with a trilateral academic focus on the relationships between national security policy and process, emerging critical technologies and the industrial base. Each course module is enhanced through a series of distinguished speakers. Additionally, the industrial module includes linkage to Austin-based corporations such as IBM, Dell Computer and Marconi Aerospace. Fellows complete a research project or a written paper as part of the program.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/ PREREQUISITES:

- Must have or be able to attain a TOP SECRET clearance with a SBI that will not expire during the academic year.
- Must be identified by the organization as being on track for executive-level service.
- Must develop a Post Utilization Plan as outlined in the application instructions of the ACTEDS Catalog.
- Must be certified at Level III in a primary ACF and should be certified at Level III in an additional ACF.
- Must possess an undergraduate degree in business, engineering, the sciences or contracting.
- Should possess a graduate degree in an acquisition-related field listed in DOD Directive 5000.52-M, ACDP.
- Additional consideration will be given to AAC members who are APMC graduates.

WHO MAY APPLY: Civilian members of the AAC, in grades GS-14/15 or equivalent payband, who currently occupy a CAP and meet certification requirements of that position. For military officers, this is a board process.

LENGTH: 10 months

LOCATION: Austin, Texas, for resident course; home station for distance learning course.

CLPS: 10 per quarter hour/15 per semester hour, plus 30 in year degree is awarded.

HOW TO APPLY: The AETE Board makes selections annually. Individuals applying to the above opportunity will be board selected. Applicants should refer to the AETE Board Application instructions detailed in this catalog on page 80.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Go to <http://www.utexas.edu/research/cpdt/>

PROGRAM DATES: August to June

Naval Postgraduate School

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), located in Monterey, California, is an academic institution whose emphasis is on study and research programs relevant to the Navy's interests as well as the interests of other Department of Defense Component Services. The student body of more than 1,500 students consists of military officers from the five U.S. uniformed services, officers from approximately 30 other countries and civilian employees. The NPS offers classes leading to advanced degrees, including terminal degrees, in a variety of fields. Civilian members of the AL&T Workforce may apply for the four programs listed below.

Acquisition and Contract Management (815): Leading to a Master of Science degree in Management, this 18-month resident program provides an understanding of the theory and management of field contracting, systems acquisition and contracting administration processes. Major acquisition themes covered in the program are Contract Pricing, Pricing and Negotiations, Contract Law, Contract Administration, Acquisition Management and Major Systems Contracting and Acquisition Policy; Completion of this program leads to Level III certification in Contracting.

Systems Acquisition Management (816): Leading to a Master of Science degree in Management, this 18-month resident program provides an understanding of the theory and management of Systems Acquisition Management. Major acquisition themes covered in the curricula are Commercial Products, Teamwork and Empowerment, Tailoring and Best Practices, and DAWIA certification. Completion of this program leads to Level III certification in Program Management and Test and Evaluation; Level II certification in Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering—Systems Engineering; Production, Quality and Manufacturing; and Software Acquisition and Level I certification in Contracting.

Master of Science in Contract Management (MSCM-835): The Master of Science in Contract Management Curriculum is a regional distance learning program. Sponsored by the AAC and conducted by NPS, MSCM is a 27-month, 9-quarter distance learning program held on station at specific locations, via video teleconferencing. The first week students travel to Monterey to attend an orientation. The MSCM program degree satisfies DAU mandatory training requirements for Level III certification in Contracting. Completion of MSCM 835 meets the DAWIA requirements for 24 hours of business subjects and for 40 hours of continuous learning.

Master of Science in Program Management (MSPM-836): The Master of Science in Program Management (MSPM-836) is a regional distance learning program. Sponsored by the AAC and conducted by NPS, MSPM is a 24-month, 8-quarter distance learning program held on station at specific locations, via video teleconferencing. The first week students travel to Monterey to attend an orientation. The MSPM program degree provides equivalency for PMT 352 and Software Acquisition Management courses. It also satisfies DAU mandatory training requirements for Level III certification in Acquisition Logistics and Program Management, and Level

II certification in PQM, SPRDE and TST. Completion of MSPM-835 satisfies the DAWIA requirements for 24 or 12 semester hours in business.

More information and preliminary activities for the distance learning courses may be coordinated through your regional ACM. For further information go to <http://asc.army.mil/contact/acms>.

Acquisition and Contract Management (815)

Naval Postgraduate School



Master of Science in Management: The Acquisition and Contract Management Curriculum is an interdisciplinary program that integrates mathematics, accounting, economics, finance, behavioral science, management theory, operations/systems analysis and specific courses in acquisition and contracting. This curriculum is designed to provide officers and civilians with the skills to serve effectively in hardware systems buying military offices, field-contracting offices, contract administration offices and contracting policy offices. Completion of this curriculum for Army students leads to the M.S. degree in Management and provides equivalency for DAU mandatory training courses for Level III certification in the Contracting career field.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/
PREREQUISITES:**

- A bachelor's degree with above average grades is required.
- Completion of at least two semesters of college algebra or trigonometry is considered to be the minimum mathematical preparation, however, visit <http://www.nps.navy.mil> for more complete prerequisite and program information.
- A written request must be submitted to the school at least three months prior to the program start date.
- A letter of acceptance from the school is required prior to application to the AETE Board.

WHO MAY APPLY: Civilian members of the AL&T Workforce who are certified to at least Level II in their primary acquisition career field and currently assigned to an acquisition position. Priority will be given to Corps Eligible (CE) Members.

LENGTH: 18 months, full-time

LOCATION: Monterey, California

CLPS: 9 per quarter hour/15 per semester hour, plus 30 in year degree is awarded.

HOW TO APPLY: The AETE Board makes selections annually. Individuals applying to the above opportunity will be board selected. Applicants should refer to the AETE Board Application instructions detailed in this catalog on page 80.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Go to <http://www.nps.navy.mil>

PROGRAM DATES: For the most current dates, please go to the above referenced Web site.

Systems Acquisition Management (816)

Naval Postgraduate School



Master of Science in Management: The Systems Acquisition Management curriculum is an interdisciplinary program that integrates business principles, management theory, operations/systems analysis and engineering applications. It is uniquely tailored to Defense Acquisition Management with intensive exposure to the fundamental principles of the acquisition environment. The courses in this curriculum present the structure of acquisition management, the decisions and problems facing the Defense Acquisition Manager, the various forces at work within industry and government and the impact of acquisition policies and strategies. Completion of this curriculum for Army students leads to the MS degree in Management and also satisfies the Department of the Army training requirements for the advanced Program Management Course (PMT-302).

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/
PREREQUISITES:**

- A bachelor's degree with above average grades is required.
- Completion of at least two semesters of college algebra or trigonometry is considered to be the minimum mathematical preparation, however, visit <http://www.nps.navy.mil> for more complete prerequisite and program information.
- A written request must be submitted to the NPS at least three months prior to the program start date.
- A letter of acceptance from NPS is required prior to application to the AETE Board.
- Must develop a Post Utilization Plan in accordance with instructions in the AETE Board Application section of this catalog on page 80.

WHO MAY APPLY: Civilian members of the AL&T Workforce who are certified to at least Level II in their primary acquisition career field and currently assigned to an acquisition position. Priority will be given to CE Members.

LENGTH: 18 months, full-time

LOCATION: Monterey, California

CLPS: 9 per quarter hour/15 per semester hour, plus 30 in year degree is awarded.

HOW TO APPLY: The AETE Board makes selections annually. Individuals applying to the above opportunity will be board selected. Applicants should refer to the AETE Board Application instructions detailed in this catalog on page 80.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Go to <http://www.nps.navy.mil>.

PROGRAM DATES: For the most current dates, please go to the above referenced Web site.

Contract Management (835)

Naval Postgraduate School



Master of Science in Contract Management: The Contract Management curriculum is designed to provide an advanced education in the concepts, methodologies and analytical techniques necessary for successful management of acquisition and contracting within complex organizations. The curriculum focuses on problem solving and decision-making within the acquisition environment utilizing case studies, teaming exercises, hands-on applications, active participation and other similar activities. Lecture and laboratory tasks require the application of critical thinking to problem solving within actual situations. The system is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills and abilities to manage and lead effectively in systems buying offices, field contracting offices, contract administration offices and contracting policy offices.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/
PREREQUISITES:**

- A bachelor's degree with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.20 or higher.
- Certification at Level II or higher in the contracting career field.
- Visit http://www.nps.navy.mil/dl/dl_degree_programs.html to view current program prerequisites and requirements.
- Naval Postgraduate School Letter of Admission.

WHO MAY APPLY:

Civilian members of the AL&T Workforce who are certified to at least Level II in their primary acquisition career field and currently assigned to an acquisition position. Priority will be given to CE Members.

LENGTH: 27 months

LOCATION: Multiple locations

CLPS: 10 per quarter hour/15 per semester hour, plus 30 in year degree is awarded.

HOW TO APPLY:

The AETE Board makes selections annually. Individuals applying to the above opportunity will be board selected. Applicants should refer to the AETE Board Application instructions detailed in this catalog on page 80.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact your ACM. A listing of ACMs may be found at: <http://asc.army.mil/contact/acms>.

PROGRAM DATES:

Minimum of 15 students required to stand up course.

Program Management (836)

Naval Postgraduate School



Master of Science in Program Management: The Program Management curriculum focuses on management skills in an acquisition environment. Courses include Economics for Defense Managers, Public Policy and Budgeting, Strategic Management, Advanced Program Management, Test & Evaluation Management, Quality Assurance & Reliability, Managing from a Systems Perspective, Contracts Management and Administration, Systems Engineering for Acquisition Managers, Strategic Acquisition & Program Management, Acquisition of Embedded Weapon Systems Software, Principles of Acquisition Production & Quality Management, Strategic Planning & Policy for the Logistics Manager, Strategic Management, Program Management Policy & Control and Financial Management for Acquisition Managers. Completion of this curriculum satisfies training requirements for Level III certification in the Program Management and Acquisition Logistics career fields; Level II certification in the Production, Quality and Manufacturing; Systems Planning Research Development and Engineering and Test and Evaluation Career Fields. Satisfies DAWIA statutory requirements for the 24 or 12 semester hours of business disciplines, as applicable. Transfer Credit is allowed up to 12 quarter hours (8 semester hours) of graduate courses in order to satisfy certain NPS courses.

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/
PREREQUISITES:**

- A bachelor's degree with a cumulative GPA of 2.20 or higher.
- Visit http://www.nps.navy.mil/dl/dl_degree_programs.html to view current program prerequisites and requirements.
- Letter of acceptance from NPS required prior to application to the AETE Board.

WHO MAY APPLY:

Civilian members of the AL&T Workforce who are certified to at least Level II in their primary acquisition career field and currently assigned to an acquisition position. Priority will be given to CE Members.

LENGTH: 24 months

LOCATION: Multiple locations

CLPS: 10 per quarter hour/15 per semester hour, plus 30 in year degree is awarded.

HOW TO APPLY:

The AETE Board makes selections annually. Individuals applying to the above opportunity will be board selected. Applicants should refer to the AETE Board Applications instructions detailed in this catalog on page 80.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact your ACM. A listing of ACMs may be found at: <http://asc.army.mil/contact/acms>.

PROGRAM DATES: Minimum of 15 students required to stand up course.

American Graduate University

American Graduate University (AGU) provides professional development courses and fully structured master's degree programs in the areas of acquisition and contract management, project/program management, and general business management. Courses may be taken in AGU's self-paced distance education format, in a dynamic classroom environment at locations throughout the United States, or on-site. It is not necessary to be enrolled in a degree program to register for an individual course. AGU offers two advanced degree programs:

Master of Acquisition Management (M.A.M.): This program provides the student with an intensive knowledge of acquisition, contracting and procurement processes and how these practices and techniques interrelate with standard business management processes of finance, law, operations, marketing and technical management. Courses are offered in Federal Government Contracting, Subcontract Management, Government Contract Law, Business Development and Proposal Preparation, Pricing and Negotiation, Contract Management and Administration, Program Management, Managing Projects, and Negotiation Principles and Practices as well as General Management subjects. Each course is 3 credits; 36 credits are required.

Master of Project Management (M.P.M.): A student enrolled in this program acquires the ability to plan, integrate and implement organizational, business and technical management systems with human and leadership skills to successfully manage complex projects and programs. Courses are offered in Program Management, Project Management, Technical Project Management, Building and Managing Project Teams, Contracting and Procurement, Project Scope, Cost and Schedule Management, Earned Value Management Systems, Risk Analysis and Management, Project Scheduling Techniques, Project Quality Management, and Negotiation for Project Managers as well as General Management subjects. Each course is 3 credits; 36 credits are required.

Project Management Institute Professional Development Units: AGU's project and program management courses are designed to achieve the performance outcomes identified by the Project Management Institute's Project Managers Body of Knowledge (PMBOK). AGU students receive PDUs for successful completion of project management related courses. AGU is a Registered Education Provider of the Project Management Institute.

Advance Standing: DOD personnel who have earned Level I, II or III certifications in one of DOD's AL&T Workforce career fields may apply selected DAU course credits toward AGU's graduate degrees.

Accreditation: AGU is approved by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education. AGU is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC). The Accrediting Commission of DETC is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a national accrediting agency and is a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

- SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/
PREREQUISITES:**
- A bachelor's degree from a recognized educational institution.
 - Recipients of each degree must have a minimum of three (3) years experience in business activity directly or indirectly related to the area of general management, acquisitions and contracting, or project management. Persons without the required experience may complete the necessary coursework; however, the award of the degree will be withheld until the experience requirements are met.
 - Candidates for the degree must successfully complete all course requirements, pass the required course examinations, and complete a program comprehensive examination or a project. Students may secure limited credit for comparable graduate level courses previously taken at other public, private or government institutions.
- WHO MAY APPLY:** Anyone may apply.
- LENGTH:** Varies
- LOCATION:** Students can take AGU courses at locations throughout the country or through our structured distance learning format. All courses in the M.A.M. program and the M.P.M. program can be completed by distance education.
- CLPS:** 10 per quarter/15 per semester hour, plus 30 in year degree is awarded.
- TUITION:** Tuition for classroom courses is \$1,350 per student. Discounts are available for multi-student registrations. Tuition for distance learning courses is \$700 per student. Discounts are available for multi-student registrations. The ASC does not directly fund, however, individuals may apply through the Acquisition Tuition Assistance Program (ATAP) for funding. See page 34 of this catalog.
- HOW TO APPLY:** Application, enrollment, and tuition assistance information may be obtained at <http://www.agu.edu>, by calling the Registrar at (626) 966-4576 or via e-mail at info@agu.edu.
- FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Call the AGU Registrar at (626) 966-4576 or e-mail AGU at info@agu.edu.
- PROGRAM DATES:** Varies according to course and location offered.

School of Choice Program



The School of Choice Program provides civilian members of the AAC and AL&T Workforce an opportunity to obtain or complete an undergraduate or a graduate degree during duty hours. All colleges and universities must be nationally accredited and offer degree programs in disciplines that underpin acquisition functions. The School of Choice Program is restricted to universities and colleges that are located within the applicant's local commuting area. Exceptions to this policy will be granted when the desired degree program is not offered in the local commuting area. This program pays for tuition, textbooks and lab fees. Local travel expenses are not covered.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/ PREREQUISITES:

- To be established by the school. Applicants should contact their school of choice immediately to begin the registration process and to inquire about the school's requirement for GMAT or GRE testing. Testing and subsequent graduation fees are paid for by the applicant.
- Application package must include a current letter of acceptance dated within 12 months of packet submission.
- Academic Plan must be detailed in the IDP.
- Degree must be obtained in the time allotted. Prerequisites must be satisfied prior to program start.
- Undergraduate and graduate students must receive a "B" or better for each course funded. The education disciplines are limited to those that underpin the acquisition functions as described in DOD Directive 5000.52-M, ACDP.
- Grades must be submitted to the ACM upon completion of a semester/quarter.
- No travel and Per Diem will be funded.
- Maximum funding cap for a bachelor's is \$19,000 and for a master's is \$26,000.
- 24 months for part-time attendance.

WHO MAY APPLY:

Graduate degree:

Civilian members of the AAC and Level III certified CE individuals who are currently serving in an acquisition position.

Undergraduate degree:

Civilian members of the AL&T Workforce currently serving in an AL&T Workforce position.

LENGTH:

Dependent upon the school and curriculum.

- 18 months for full-time attendance.
- 24 months for part-time attendance.
- Full-time undergraduate degree candidates must take a minimum of 12 hours per semester.

- Full-time graduate degree candidates must take a minimum of nine hours per semester.

CLPS: 10 per quarter hour/15 per semester hour, plus 30 in year degree is awarded.

HOW TO APPLY: Annual AETE Board. Individuals applying to the above opportunity will be board selected. Applicants should refer to the AETE Board Application instructions detailed in this catalog on page 80.

PROGRAM DATES: Depending on the individual school.

Acquisition Tuition Assistance Program (ATAP)



The Deputy Director, Acquisition Career Management is responsible, by law, for the education, training and career progression of AAC and AL&T Workforce members. To that end, the ASC shall ensure that individuals who must attain DAWIA educational requirements, as stated in DOD 5000.52-M, are afforded the opportunity to apply for the ATAP. Individuals may attend the institution of their choice within their local commuting area and complete courses during non-duty hours. Course attendance during duty hours must be with the approval of the student's supervisor. ATAP funding will cover tuition costs, lab fees and textbooks. Travel expenses are not included. For further information, please refer to the ATAP Policy at <http://asc.army.mil/docs/programs/atap/atappolicy0801.pdf>.

OVERVIEW: The ATAP provides funding to enable AL&T Workforce employees to obtain business hours, undergraduate or graduate degrees.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS/ PREREQUISITES: Employees must maintain grades of "C" or better in undergraduate work and "B" or better in graduate work and show proof of such to continue to be funded. The education disciplines are limited to those that underpin the acquisition functions as described in DOD 5000.52-M, ACDP.

WHO MAY APPLY: AL&T Workforce members currently serving in an acquisition position.

Bachelor's Degree:

- Civilian members of the AL&T Workforce

12 or 24 Business Credits:

- Civilian members of the AL&T Workforce

Master's Degree:

- Civilian members of the AAC
- Level III certified civilian CE members of the AL&T Workforce Program

Application for a second Master's degree will be considered if:

- It is appropriate for the individual's acquisition career goals.
- It is documented and approved on the IDP.
- It is in a discipline that underpins the acquisition function and is not a duplicate discipline of the individual's present Master's degree.
- It provides a clear benefit to the Army.

CLPS: 10 per quarter hour/10 per semester hour, plus 30 in year degree is awarded.

HOW TO APPLY: Go to <http://asc.army.mil/programs/atap/> for ATAP policy, procedures and application form. If additional information is required, contact the ACM who supports your region. Contact information pertaining to your ACM may be obtained from the ASC Homepage at <http://asc.army.mil/contact/acms.cfm>.

PROGRAM DATES: ATAP Competitive Selection Board meets two times per year.