

SPRDE Certification Course Transition Details

1. Background: as part of the DoD's Systems Engineering revitalization effort, the Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering (SPRDE), Systems Engineering career field has been significantly revamped. The career field training (i.e., DAU SYS courses) subject-matter focus has been realigned to: Systems Engineering processes at Level I; acquisition lifecycle System Engineering process application at Level II; and technical leadership at Level III. These career changes have been vetted by the SPRDE FIPT who also developed new career field competencies against which the new DAU SYS courses have been designed.

The resultant SYS certification course changes, effective FY07, are significant. They impact all three levels of the SPRDE career field. These certification changes include:

- Level I: Establishment of a new Level I distance-learning certification course (SYS 101);
- Level II:
 - An additional course: a Continuous Learning Module, CLE 003, Technical Reviews
 - Replacement of SYS 201A, SYS 201B Level II courses by significantly revised courses, SYS 202 (distance-learning) and SYS 203 (classroom), respectively.
- Level III: Ultimate replacement of SYS 301 Level III course by SYS 302 by early 3QFY07

2. SYS 101: this is a 30-40 hour technically rigorous, comprehensive introduction to Systems Engineering and its 16 processes as outlined in the Defense Acquisition Guidebook. A restricted pilot offering of SYS 101 has been completed and SYS 101 will be formally available for on-line enrollment mid-September. SYS 101 is a prerequisite course for SYS 202.

3. SYS 202: SYS 201A will be replaced by the 25-30 hour on-line SYS 202 which will be available for enrollment starting FY07. Student enrollments for SYS 201A have been stopped to clear the enrollment pipeline of Level II legacy students and to allow new prospective Level II students to take the SYS 202 prerequisite course, SYS 101.

4. Transition for Level II Legacy Students: A number of students are in the "legacy pipeline". These are students that have completed SYS 201A but not SYS 201B. SYS 201A was a comprehensive on-line course that included both the Systems Engineering process and aspects of technical management. Because of this, a student's SYS 201A background will serve them well for SYS 203. SYS 203 includes a process application class which will orient students on various Systems Engineering processes and standards. Therefore, for at least FY07, the DAU catalog will list either SYS 202 or SYS 201A as acceptable pre-requisites for SYS 203.

5. SYS 203: This classroom course is identical in length to the replaced course, SYS 201B. As SYS 203 is incrementally rolled out across the DAU regions, SYS 201B courses now scheduled will be gradually replaced by SYS 203. SYS 202 graduates should only enroll in SYS 203, however. Except for normal schedule adjustments, existing FY07 schedules will remain unchanged. CLE 003 (Technical Reviews CLM), currently a SYS 201B prerequisite, remains as a prerequisite for SYS 203.

5. Transition for Level III Legacy Students: in a similar manner, either SYS 203 or SYS 201B will be listed in the DAU catalog as SYS 302 course prerequisites. Course length and schedule adjustments will be as for SYS 203 noted above.

6. Course Descriptions: for SYS -101, SYS 202 and SYS 203 will be posted to the on-line DAU catalog and will appear in the FY07 printed catalog.

7. SPRDE Career field changes: were communicated to the workforce via a July-August 2006 Defense AT&L Magazine article, "Systems Planning, Research, Development, and Engineering Career Field". Available at: http://www.dau.mil/pubs/dam/07_08_2006/Jul_Aug_2006.asp