



Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)  
Systems and Program Management Non-Resident Master's Degree Program  
(MSSPM) Program Education Opportunity  
Announcement (Cohort 722-241G)

Army DACM Office Announcement Opening Date: 3 April 2023  
Army DACM Office Announcement Closing Date: 11 July 2023  
NPS Application Deadline: 5 July 2023  
Board Review Dates: 31 August 2023  
Cohort will commence on 25 September 2023

**The Army DACM Office has the right to change/modify any dates listed in this document. Please check AAPDS within CAPPMS to confirm any program announcement dates.**

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The Army Director, Acquisition Career Management (DACM) Office is pleased to offer the opportunity to apply to the Naval Postgraduate School Systems and Program Management Non-Resident Master's Degree Program (NPS-MSSPM) education opportunity. The Army DACM Office is the sponsor of the NPS-MSSPM program and will fund the cost of books and tuition. Graduation and travel expenses are not included in the funding.

The NPS-MSSPM is a degree program conducted via distant learning. Students take two distance learning courses per quarter for eight consecutive quarters. All classes use an internet tool called, "ZoomforGov (ZfG)." ZfG uses Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technology to send both video and audio over the internet to any computer logged into the course site. The NPS-MSSPM is delivered exclusively over the Internet using two, three-hour sessions a week using ZoomforGov (ZfG) sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays 0800 – 1100 (Pacific Time). Students will need Internet access, a personal computer (PC), microphone, and a PC camera (optional) to use ZfG. There is no special software required for ZfG. Students can connect directly via their internet browser.

**Program Information:**

The NPS-MSSPM 2-year program is designed for Department of Defense (DoD) and other federal agencies to obtain an acquisition defense-focused advanced degree in a distance learning format.

The NPS-MSSPM is an interdisciplinary program combining systems engineering with program management knowledge and skills. The program is intended to broaden the technical capabilities of the acquisition workforce who may have non-technical backgrounds, so they are able to successfully manage and lead programs/projects in support of the Defense Acquisition System. Students in this program learn the systems engineering process from establishing system requirements through test and evaluation. Simultaneously, students learn how to manage, schedule, and budget programs as well as work with DoD suppliers through contracts to meet program obligations.

**Educational Credit Information:**

Students who successfully complete the NPS-MSSPM program will earn the following:

- NPS-DAU fulfillment for the following DAU courses:
  - MN3301 for EVM 101
  - MN4307 for EVM 263
- Master of Science in Systems Engineering Management
- Academic Certificates in Systems Engineering, Advanced Acquisition Studies and Advanced Systems Engineering Management

A fulfillment course listing for DoD schools may be viewed at the DAU iCatalog page at <https://icatalog.dau.edu/appg.aspx>. While completion of the NPS-MSSPM provides fulfillment credit for some DAU coursework, individuals must complete all DAU certification requirements (along with education, credentials, and experience) as outlined in the DAU iCatalog at <https://icatalog.dau.edu/onlinecatalog/CareerLvl.aspx>.

**Reimbursement:**

Participants in the NPS-MSSPM Program will be required to the Army DACM Office for NPS-MSSP funding received under the following situations:

- An “incomplete”, “failed”, or a grade less than a “B” in a course.
- “Drop” or “withdraw” from a course after the course start date.
- Withdrawal from the program after program start date.

All reimbursements must be made by money order, personal or certified check and payable to the U.S. Treasury and mailed to: U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center, Army DACM Office, ATTN: NPS Program Manager, 9900 Belvoir Road, Bldg 201, Suite 101, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5567.

**Applicants:**

Army acquisition workforce (AAW) civilians must meet NPS academic requirements, and the Army DACM Office eligibility requirements listed below, to apply and be considered for funding sponsored by the Army DACM Office. All requirements must be met at the time the application is submitted in CAPPMIS.

**NPS Academic Requirement:**

- Any undergraduate degree (BA, BS, other)
- Minimum undergraduate quality point rating of 2.2 or better

**Army DACM Office Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must be coded as “1 – Permanent – Tenure Group 1” in the Defense Civilian Personnel Data System
- Must be a GS-11 through GS-15 (or broadband/pay band equivalent)
- Must meet certification level required for current position
- Must not currently have a master’s degree in a business/acquisition/technical discipline
- Must have a Conditional Letter of Acceptance from NPS

**Department of Defense laboratories designated as Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratories who meet the following eligibility requirements may apply to the NPS-MSSPM Program:**

- Must be a permanent (non-temporary/non-term) civilian member of the Army Acquisition Workforce Exception: Per the Section 1109, FY16 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and Section 11.A.3.f, 82 Federal Register 43339, eligibility to participate in the NPS-MSSPM Program is extended to flexible length and renewable term technical appointment employees in the Department of Defense laboratories designated as Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratories (STRs).
- Term employees not appointed under Section 1109, FY16 NDAA are not eligible for the NPS-MSSPM Program.
- All other NPS and Army DACM Office academic and eligibility requirements must be met

**How to Apply for NPS Admissions – Part 1:**

The NPS-MSSPM online application is a two-part process: Part 1 consists of applying directly to NPS by visiting <https://online.nps.edu/w/722-systems-engineering-management-systems-and-program-management> and following the instructions for Army DACM Office applicants. Army DACM applicants must apply for 722 curricula, commencing Academic Year 2024, Quarter 1.

NPS application deadline is 5 July 2023. Official transcripts from all undergraduate/graduate schools attended must be sent by mail (sealed) or electronic transfer to the Admissions Office and received no later than 5 July 2023. Official electronic transcripts must be sent from your undergraduate/graduate institution directly to NPS. Institutions can send official transcripts by electronic transfer to [admissions@nps.edu](mailto:admissions@nps.edu).

- **NPS FUNDING POINT OF CONTACT:**

Funding POC Last Name: SMITH

Funding POC First Name: UHURA

Funding Mail Address: 9900 Belvoir Road, Bldg 201, Suite 101, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

Funding POC Email: [uhura.n.smith.civ@army.mil](mailto:uhura.n.smith.civ@army.mil)

Funding POC Phone: 571-574-0553

- **PARTICIPATIVE AGREEMENT INFORMATION:**

AO Title: Education and Training Manager

AO Last Name: Smith

AO First Name: Uhura

AO Phone: 571-574-0553

AO Email: [uhura.n.smith.civ@army.mil](mailto:uhura.n.smith.civ@army.mil)

The Program Manager at the Army DACM Office will provide one Participative Agreement to the Bursar's Office at NPS for those applications approved to participate in the program under the Army DACM Office Announcement.

**How to complete the Army DACM Office NPS-MSSPM Application – Part 2:**

You can begin part 2 of the application process by logging into CAPPMIS at <https://apps.asc.army.mil/camp/>. Click the AAPDS tab. Click “apply” next to the “NPS-MSSPM (722-231G) Education Opportunity” to access the online Army DACM Office NPS-MSSPM application. A blue “apply” link will only be available to those AAW civilians who are eligible to apply to the program via the DACM announcement. A message will be displayed stating reason(s) why an applicant is not eligible to apply to the program. Please contact the DACM Office Program Manager at [uhura.n.smith.civ@army.mil](mailto:uhura.n.smith.civ@army.mil) if your eligibility status is in error.

- **NPS-MSSPM Applicant Data:**

- ✓ Select “Masters” for the degree.
- ✓ Select “Naval Post Graduate School” for the school.
- ✓ Select “Systems and Program Management” for the major.
- ✓ A valid work number and email address are required on your application.

- **Verifications:** Check the small boxes next to “Applicant’s Email Address”, “Supervisor Information”, and ACRB in the application to certify your email address, supervisor’s information and ACRB are correct. If these boxes are not checked, you will receive an error message when you attempt to submit your application.

- **Acquisition Career Record Brief (ACRB):** The latest version of the ACRB will automatically be uploaded into your AAPDS online application. Ensure your ACRB is updated and correct prior to submitting your application. Applicants may update and correct specific fields of their ACRB using the edit functions within CAPPMIS. For the areas on the ACRB that cannot be changed by the applicant, please request assistance using our Army DACM Office online help request at <https://apps.asc.army.mil/camp/index.cfm?fuseaction=support.helpRequest>. Applicants will want to pay particular attention to the training, education, and assignment history sections of the ACRB, ensuring that the information is accurate. The training section should only reflect top level relevant training completed; recommend not including any DAU continuous learning modules or annual Army required training.

- **Senior Rater Potential Evaluation (SRPE).** The SRPE is a critical piece of the application. In accordance with DACM SRPE Policy at <https://asc.army.mil/web/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SRPE-Policy.pdf> and the SRPE Guidance at <https://asc.army.mil/web/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SRPE-Guidance.pdf>, both dated 1 July 2020, the applicant's SRPE must be completed by both the Rater and Senior Rater (SR). The SR must be a supervisor and senior in grade/organizational position to the rated employee.
  - ✓ The SRPE must have an ending date (the "thru" date) within one year of the closing date of the announcement. The SRPE must be completed and generated using CAPPMS. Of note, the SR should not use bullet comments; rather, narrative comments to support the overall rating are highly suggested. Senior Raters should view a SRPE as the equivalent to a "complete the record OER" and should provide supporting comments accordingly.
  - ✓ For additional information on the completion of the SRPE, Senior Raters should refer to the SRPE section of the Army DACM Office web page at <https://asc.army.mil/web/senior-rater-potential-evaluation/>. Links to SRPE Policy and Guidance, briefings, user manuals and SRPE Module are provided.
  - ✓ Instructions/tutorials are available in CAPPMS to assist the rater and Senior Rater in completing the SRPE. The SRPE form must be completed in CAPPMS by your supervisor and senior rater and will automatically upload into your online application. The SRPE must be completed/finalized in CAPPMS no later than the closing date posted in this announcement. Applicants should print and retain a signed copy of the SRPE for their records.
  - ✓ Failure to have a completed/finalized SRPE in CAPPMS prior to the announcement closing date will result in the applicant being declared ineligible. The application will be denied and will not go forward to the Board for evaluation.
- **Command Endorsement (PDF file):** Your command must endorse your participation in the NPS-MSSPM program by preparing a memorandum in accordance with Army Regulation 25-50. The Command Endorsement Memorandum is limited to one page and must adhere to all guidelines below:
  - ✓ Be completed by and from the applicant's first General Officer or Senior Executive Service Civilian in your chain of command and;
  - ✓ Be on organizational letterhead and;
  - ✓ Be addressed to the following (but DO NOT MAIL): Director, Acquisition Career Management Office, Bldg 201, Suite 101, 9900 Belvoir Road, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060 and;
  - ✓ Be unique to the specific applicant and;
  - ✓ List top 3 qualities of the applicant and;
  - ✓ Directly comment on the applicant's leadership ability and potential and;

- ✓ Identify how post utilization training will be utilized in the command upon completion of the program and;
  - ✓ Include at least one potential thesis/capstone project research topic for the applicant to address while in school that has benefit to your organization and;
  - ✓ Be digitally signed and dated by the required completing official and;
  - ✓ Applicant uploads completed Command Endorsement into CAPPMS/AAPDS
- **Supervisor Endorsement (PDF file):** The Supervisor Endorsement Memorandum is limited to one page and **must** adhere to the guidelines below:
    - ✓ Be from your 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> level supervisor. The supervisor's name must match the supervisor's name in CAPPMS and;
    - ✓ Be on organizational letterhead and;
    - ✓ Be addressed to the following (but DO NOT MAIL): Army Director, Acquisition Career Management Office, Bldg 201, Suite 101, 9900 Belvoir Road, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060 and;
    - ✓ Be unique to the specific applicant and;
    - ✓ Directly comment on the applicant's current performance and;
    - ✓ List strengths of the applicant and;
    - ✓ Include the following statement:
 

*"I approve [insert applicant's name] to participate in the NPS-MSSPM program during duty time every Tuesday and Thursday from 0800 to 1100, (Pacific Time) whenever class is in session for the duration of the 24-month program, starting the week of 25 SEP 2023 and ending 26 SEP 2025."* and;
    - ✓ Be digitally or physically signed by the required completing official and;
    - ✓ Applicant uploads completed Supervisor Endorsement into CAPPMS/AAPDS
  - **Resume (PDF file):** Upload your resume using the resume format at <https://asc.army.mil/web/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/RESUME-FORMAT.pdf>. Resumes may not exceed 4 pages and must be submitted in a .pdf format. This is the applicant's opportunity to highlight educational achievements, work experiences, skills, and accomplishments, which are key indicators to the preparation for and success as an acquisition professional. Applicants should also highlight their qualities and strengths instead of listing responsibilities. Ensure experience descriptions and dates match those in the ACRB.
  - **Statement of Interest (PDF file):** The applicant must create a personal "Statement of Interest" describing why you want to participate in the NPS-MSSPM program. Please complete the statement of interest in accordance with Army Regulation 25-50. The Statement of Interest is limited to one page and must adhere to all guidelines below:
    - ✓ Be on organizational letterhead and;
    - ✓ Be addressed to the following (but DO NOT MAIL): Deputy Director of Acquisition Career Management Office, Bldg 201, Suite 101, 9900 Belvoir Road, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060 and;
    - ✓ Directly address applicant's career goals and leadership path and;

- ✓ Address reasons for desired selection in the program and;
  - ✓ Explain the benefits Army acquisition will gain upon applicant's completion of the program and;
  - ✓ Be digitally signed and dated by the applicant and;
  - ✓ Applicant must upload completed Statement of Interest into CAPPMS/AAPDS
- **NPS Conditional Letter of Acceptance (PDF file):** Applicants must upload a copy of their NPS Conditional Letter of Acceptance into CAPPMS/AAPDS. NPS online admissions application must be received at NPS no later than 5 July 2023. Applicants who obtained conditional letters of acceptance for prior year admission can submit their existing conditional letter of acceptance for the current NPS-MSSE Announcement. Please confirm with NPS that there are no additional requirements. You must meet all NPS academic requirements and Army DACM Office eligibility requirements to be eligible to participate in the program.

For additional information on NPS conditional letters of acceptance you may contact Ms. Heather Hahn, Distance Learning Education Technician at [hlhahn@nps.edu](mailto:hlhahn@nps.edu) or Dr. Wally Owen, Program Officer at [wowen@nps.edu](mailto:wowen@nps.edu).

- **Continued Service Agreement (CSA):** The Army Director, Acquisition Career Management Office requires that Army Acquisition Workforce (AAW) civilians complete a Continued Service Agreement (CSA) as part of their application process. Supervisors will ensure the AAW civilian is informed in advance of this requirement. The period of obligated service will be 24 months from the completion date of the program.

A copy of the CSA can be obtained by copying and pasting the following URL into a browser: <https://asc.army.mil/web/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Army-DACM-Office-NPS-Continued-Service-Agreement.pdf>. Complete the form as follow:

- ✓ **Enter 26 September 2025 to 25 September 2027** as the period of obligated service
  - ✓ Digitally sign and date the CSA
  - ✓ Upload the completed CSA into CAPPMS/AAPDS
- **Individual Development Plan (IDP):** You must add all 16 courses below onto the "Education Plan" section of your IDP and obtain supervisor's approval.

Quarter 1 – Fall AY24 25 Sep – 15 Dec 2023

OS3111- Probability & Statistics for Human Systems Integration (HSC) (4-0)

MN3301 Acquisition of Defense Systems (4-0)

Quarter 2: Winter AY24 8 Jan – 29 Mar 2024

SI3100- Fundamentals of Systems Engineering (3-2)

MN3384 ACQ Production, Quality & MFG Decision Science (4-0)



Quarter 3: Spring AY24 1 April – 1 Jun 2024  
SI3400 Fundamentals of Engineering Project Management (3-2)  
MN4470 Strategic Planning and Policy for the Logistics Mgr (4-0)

Quarter 4: Summer AY24 8 Jul – 27 Sep 2024  
SE3302 Systems Suitability (3-2)  
MN4307 Defense Acquisition Program Mgmt Case Studies (4-0)

Quarter 5: Fall AY25 30 Sep – 20 Dec 2024  
SE3011 Engineering Economics & Cost Estimation (3-0)  
SE3050 Introduction to Digital Engineering with MBSE (3-2)

Quarter 6: Winter AY25 6 Jan – 28 Mar 2025  
SE4420 – Modeling & Simulation in Acquisition (3-2)  
MN3303 Contracting (4-0)

Quarter 7: Spring AY25 31 March – 20 Jun 2025  
SE4354 Verification & Validation (4-0)  
SE3211 Systems Engineering Management Capstone I (2-4)

Quarter 8: Summer AY25 7 Jul – 26 Sep 2025  
SE4520 System Manufacturing, Development and Production (3-2)  
SE3211 Systems Engineering Management Capstone II (2-4)

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Log into CAPPMS at <https://apps.asc.army.mil/camp/> to add the above courses to your application. Click on the IDP tab. Click the planning tab. Courses must be added under the “Education Plan” section of your IDP in CAPPMS. Once you have confirmed you are in the “Education Plan” section of your IDP, click “Add Course” and complete the following fields:

- ✓ Course ID: Retrieve Course ID from NPS-MSSPM curriculum
- ✓ Course Title: Retrieve Course Title from NPS-MSSPM curriculum
- ✓ Projected Start: copy of curriculum is in this announcement
- ✓ Projected End: copy of curriculum is in this announcement
- ✓ Status: Select “Planned” from the drop-down menu
- ✓ Provider: Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA
- ✓ Objective: Required Course to complete the NPS-MSSPM program
- ✓ Point of Contact: Leave Blank
- ✓ Continuous Learning Points Requested: Student earn 10 CLPs per credit hour. Use the first number in parenthesis (lecture hours) after each course on the curriculum as a full credit and the second number in parenthesis (lab hours) as 1/2 credit when requesting the number of CLPs for each course (i.e., MNXXXX (3-2) will be 40 CLPs and SEXXXX (4-0) will be 40 CLPs).

**Participants are responsible for requesting CLPs after completion of each course throughout the program. You must wait until after grades for each**



**course have been posted in CAPPMS/AAPDS before marking courses as “completed” on the IDP and requesting CLPs to be awarded by your supervisor.**

- ✓ Course Hours: Leave blank
- ✓ Course Type: Leave blank
- ✓ Estimated Book Cost: Leave blank
- ✓ Estimated Tuition Cost: Leave blank
- ✓ Planned Funding Source: Select “AETE-NPS” from the drop-down menu
- ✓ Click the “Save and Finish” button after entering each class
- ✓ Complete the required fields for each class until all 16 courses are added onto your IDP
- ✓ Check boxes for supervisor’s approval

CAPPMS will automatically generate all courses from the IDP into the online application only after the applicant has correctly completed the above steps.

**Unofficial Copy of NPS Transcript:** Participants are required to provide an unofficial copy of their NPS transcript to the Army DACM Office NPS-MSSPM Program Manager via email showing grades for completed courses no later than 30 days after each course completion date.

**Graduation/Completion of Program:** Graduates are required to inform the NPS-MSSPM Program Manager, via email, of their successful completion of the program. The NPS-MSSPM Program Manager is responsible for updating graduates’ ACRBs to reflect graduation status.

**Selection Process:**

The Army DACM Office NPS-MSSPM Program Manager will review all applications that have been submitted in CAPPMS. Successfully completed applications will be forwarded to the Review Board for evaluation.

The Army DACM Office NPS-MSSPM Program Manager will compile data from the Board results, brief the results, and provide a recommendation to the Army DACM. Approved results will be provided to the Army Acquisition workforce no later than the closing of the board review period posted in this announcement. The Army DACM is the final approval authority of selection to participate in the NPS-MSSPM Program.

**Points of Contact:**

- ✓ Ms. Uhura N. Smith, Army DACM Office Program Manager at [uhura.n.smith.civ@army.mil](mailto:uhura.n.smith.civ@army.mil) for administrative questions about information in this announcement.
- ✓ Ms. Heather Hahn, Distance Learning Education Technician at [hlhahn@nps.edu](mailto:hlhahn@nps.edu) or Dr. Wally Owen, Program Officer at [wowen@nps.edu](mailto:wowen@nps.edu) for additional information on the curriculum.