



**Memorandum of Understanding  
Forming a Strategic Partnership  
Between  
Columbia Southern University and  
the Defense Acquisition University**

We, the undersigned, hereby agree to and affirm the establishment of a strategic partnership between Columbia Southern University (CSU) and the Defense Acquisition University (DAU). The purpose of this partnership is to increase the quantity and quality of educational opportunities that allow the Department of Defense (DoD) Acquisition, Technology, & Logistics (AT&L) workforce, individuals from other government agencies and contractors to fulfill professional requirements for both training and education.

**I. Under the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding. Columbia Southern University agrees to:**

- A. Provide online education opportunities that meet professional education requirements in accordance with the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) for certain DoD AT&L career fields. Listed below are Columbia Southern University programs that will allow DoD Defense Acquisition Workforce members to transfer DAU courses toward college degrees. Columbia Southern will:
  - 1. Offer a Master of Business Administration (Excelerate Program) for qualified AT&L workers with Level II Professional Certification in the Program Management Field by awarding 9 SH of transfer elective credit (Encl 1).
  - 2. Offer a Master of Business Administration, Project Management concentration for qualified AT&L workers. CSU will award 9 SH of graduate credit for completion of DAU Course PMT 401 (Encl 2).
- B. CSU will evaluate DAU transcripts submitted by AT&L personnel and award transfer credit in accordance with the guidelines established by the American Council on Education (ACE). DAU courses evaluated for credit can/will be applied to all degree programs either as electives or to a specific course based on ACE recommendations on transferability and CSU policy.

**II. Admission to Columbia Southern University:**

- A. Graduate Programs: Completion of a bachelor degree program from an accredited college or university, and submission of all official transcripts reflecting conferral of degree. Submission of the CSU graduate school application form. Participants in this program are not required to complete separate graduate entrance examinations such as the Graduate Record Exam (GRE), Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), or Miller's Analogy Test (MAT).



B. Undergraduate Programs: High School Diploma or GED.

**III. Under the terms of this MOU, DAU and Columbia Southern agree to:**

- A. Publicize the DAU/CSU strategic partnership and corresponding educational opportunities.
- B. Provide website links between DAU and CSU websites.
- C. Notify CSU in a timely manner of upcoming changes in DAU curriculum or requirements.
- D. DAU and CSU may use the other party's name or logo in publishing materials (e.g., website and catalog) to reference this agreement. The content and text of all promotional information must be approved by each party prior to release.

**IV. Point of Contact** at Columbia Southern University for questions or any aspect of the memorandum of understanding between DAU and CSU is Mr. Rick Cooper, Vice-President of Military and Corporate Programs in Orange Beach, Alabama. An appropriate liaison from each institution will be designated to coordinate all aspects of this agreement and any future join projects.

V. No agreements concerning the transfer or exchange of any asset of either party is intended or implied by this memorandum. Columbia Southern University and DAU are separate and independent institutions of higher education and by this agreement both will continue to operate as separate institutions.

VI. As this partnership evolves and specific new opportunities for additional collaboration are identified, this agreement may be revised as appropriate through the use of addendums.

**VII. Termination of Agreement**

This memorandum of understanding will be effective upon the execution by the below participants to the agreement, and will continue until written notice of cancellation is received a minimum of 90 days before such cancellation. An appropriate liaison from each institution will be designated to coordinate all aspects of this agreement and any future join projects.

VIII. The administrators of Columbia Southern University and DAU are authorized to sign, prepare and implement plans of action and procedures necessary to effect this agreement.



*James S. McMichael* 1/29/09  
(Date)

Dr. James S. McMichael  
Vice President  
Defense Acquisition University

*Rick W. Cooper* 1/19/09  
(Date)

Rick Cooper  
Vice-President of Military and  
Corporate Programs  
Columbia Southern University

Encl:  
a/s