



Chapter 1

The Defense Acquisition University (DAU)

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DoD/DAU Leadership

What's New at DAU



The Defense Acquisition University

The Defense Acquisition University (DAU) provides mandatory, assignment-specific, and continuing education courses for military and civilian acquisition personnel within the Department of Defense. Its mission is to provide the acquisition, technology, and logistics community with the right learning products and services to make smart business decisions. Authorized by 10 U.S.C. 1746 and chartered by DoD Directive 5000.57, the DAU was established on August 1, 1992.

The DAU coordinates acquisition education and training programs to meet the training requirements of more than 140,000 DoD acquisition personnel. As the DoD corporate university for acquisition education, the DAU sponsors curriculum and instructor training to provide a full range of basic, intermediate, advanced, assignment-specific, and continuing learning courses to support the career goals and professional development of the Acquisition Workforce.

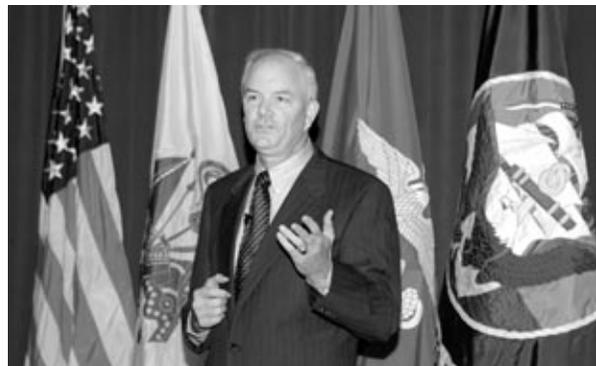
Each DoD acquisition functional area is represented by a Functional Integrated Product Team (FIPT), comprised of senior-level acquisition officials of the DoD components and led by Functional Advisors. These teams advise the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics) (USD(AT&L)) on career development issues and recommend mandatory training, education, and experience required for their respective functional areas. DAU Program Directors work in conjunction with the

FIPTs to identify performance outcomes for various career levels and incorporate them into DAU courses.

The Chief Executive Officer of the University is the President, who reports to the Director, Acquisition Initiatives (D,AI). A Board of Visitors – individuals selected for their preeminence in academia, business, and industry – advises the President and the D,AI on matters such as organizational management, curricula, methods of instruction, and facilities. The Executive Institute consists of members from the Services, defense industry, and an International Chair, who provide advice and counsel to faculty, staff, and students in their respective areas of expertise. The Service Chairs also act as liaisons between the Services and the University.

The DAU Executive Board advises the USD(AT&L) on Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) implementation in the career development of the AT&L Workforce. The Director, Acquisition Education, Training and Career Development (AET&CD) develops policy for the implementation of the DAWIA through the DAU.

In addition to providing curriculum-based training, both in the classroom and via the Internet, the DAU fosters professional development through publications, symposia, research, and consulting in areas related to the acquisition functions.



DoD/DAU Leadership

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Department of the Navy
Acquisition Reform Executive

What's New at DAU....

CONTINUOUS LEARNING CENTER

In December 1998, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics (USD(AT&L)) issued a policy for the continuing education and professional development of the Department's civilian and military acquisition and technology professionals. The intent is to help acquisition personnel stay current in a rapidly evolving work environment while furthering their long-term professional development.

To assist the Acquisition Workforce in meeting the requirements of this continuous learning policy, DAU has created an online Continuous Learning Center (CLC). The CLC, through a single point of access, offers continuous learning modules; regulation, policy, and guidance resources; and collaboration tools that provide expertise from peers and other professionals. It is designed around the metaphor of a campus map, which links to buildings that house functions one would typically find on a campus. Visit the new DAU CLC at <http://clc.dau.mil>.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

DAU is establishing strategic alliances with other colleges, universities, and commercial learning institutions. The objective in doing so is to create an effective synergy and to leverage capabilities that, with little or no capital investment, greatly increase the value of past and existing DAU courses. The opportunities availed by these partnerships will enhance the skills, knowledge, and abilities of Acquisition Workforce members and afford them a broader range of choices in meeting their continuous learning and career development goals.

The revolution of business affairs has driven DAU's approximate 140,000 customers to demand more than quality certification training. The University is responding by generating robust continuous learning opportunities that support core training and provide job performance tools for use between defined certification courses. Our partnering with other learning institutions opens new avenues to long-term professional growth. For more specific information on achieving your career enhancement goals through education, visit the DAU Home Page at <http://www.dau.mil>.

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Communities of Practice (CoPs) are groups of professionals in the same discipline who come together to share in informal learning, ad hoc problem-solving, professional networking, and mutual support. CoPs are a vital method of providing context to the information and process knowledge contained within an organization. Experts and peers communicate in person and online to leverage one another's knowledge.

The Defense Acquisition University and the Navy Acquisition Reform Office have formed a partnership to develop a CoP network for Program Managers (PMs). This is anywhere, anytime program management support through a single Web portal, providing job performance support, knowledge sharing and retrieval, team collaboration, new ideas and aids to increase productivity. This Program Management CoP will be joined in the near future by three others: Systems Engineering Management, Contract Management, and Risk Management. Visit the PM CoP at <http://www.pmcop.dau.mil>.