

## Senior Acquisition Course Description

The Senior Acquisition Course (SAC) is the preeminent course for members of the Acquisition Corps. The course is designed to prepare selected military officers and civilians for senior leadership and staff positions throughout the acquisition community.

The Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) has been designated by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology (USD [A&T]) to present the SAC for selected students as part of the Defense Acquisition University. ICAF conducts the Senior Acquisition Education Program for members of the Department of Defense's Acquisition Workforce. This program is required by the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (Title XII Public Law 101-310). Fifty-seven (57) acquisition professionals (24 military officers and 33 civilians) are being invited to participate in the 2002-2003 program. In order to fulfill the objectives of the course, your SAC nominee(s) must have senior level experience in one of the following career fields:

Program Management	Communication and Computer Systems
Auditing	Program Mgt Oversight
Contracting (incl construction)	Purchasing and procurement technician
Industrial Property Management	Systems Planning, Research,
Acquisition Logistics	Development and Engineering
Manufacturing and Production	Quality Assurance
Business, Cost Estimating	Test and Evaluation
and Financial Management	Education, training and career development
DLA Multifunction management	

Students completing the Senior Acquisition Course are considered graduates of both the Senior Acquisition Course (DAU-ACQ #401) and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. Completion of the course fulfills the Office of Personnel Management educational requirement for Senior Executive Service Status. All students successfully completing the Senior Acquisition Course are awarded a Masters of Science degree in National Resource Strategy.

ICAF has expanded the acquisition portion of its curriculum for Senior Acquisition Course students. They will be offered a wide choice of research and elective opportunities, as well as a common core curriculum and two mandatory Advanced Studies in Acquisition Policy. Students will be fully integrated into the ICAF student body for most of their studies. Separate attention will be provided in acquisition course work, while retaining the benefits of intermingling with students from the operational and other functional communities.

The Senior Acquisition Course consists of the entire ten-month ICAF curriculum, enhanced for designated acquisition students through four major elements:

## **1. CORE CURRICULUM**

The multi-disciplinary core curriculum includes major acquisition management issues distributed throughout studies in such courses as Strategic Decision Making, Political Science, History, Military Strategy, Economics, Elements of National Industrial Power, Joint Military Logistics, Mobilization, and Industry Studies. A concentrated course in acquisition management is conducted in the Spring in conjunction with the other core curriculum studies. Seminars, lectures and case studies have been designed to challenge the students to assess current acquisition policy and practices in the context of National Security Strategy, with an emphasis on acquisition management in a changing world. Students in the Senior Acquisition Course participate in the core curriculum with all other ICAF students.

## **2. MANDATORY ACQUISITION POLICY ADVANCED STUDIES**

Two mandatory Acquisition Policy Advanced Studies, for Senior Acquisition Students only, provide the students with focused, in-depth lectures, seminars, and field trips on key acquisition topics and policy issues. Students meet in small group settings with senior level policy makers from DOD, industry, and government, where they discuss issues face to face on a non-attribution basis. A short research paper on an acquisition topic is required.

## **3. ADVANCED STUDIES**

A wide array of elective courses covering all aspects of acquisition management are available. Students select one regional study, one industry study, and two other advanced studies (electives) courses during the 10 month ICAF program. Acquisition related electives include some 20 different offerings in such subjects as: Government-Industry Relations; Professional Ethics for Public Officials; Senior Leadership-Power and Politics; AIS Procurement Strategies; etc.

## **4. RESEARCH**

All students are afforded the opportunity to undertake a major research project and produce a fully documented, scholarly paper. Acquisition students are encouraged to work on projects which have current critical interest in the defense community. Each project is overseen by a faculty research advisor. Topics of timely interest are solicited from throughout the acquisition community and the national security community at large for student research. Acquisition students completing particularly exceptional research compete for an array of research awards -- both honorary and monetary-- to include an award sponsored and presented by the Defense Acquisition University.

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