

# Online Master of Defense and Strategic Studies

## Program Highlights

36 credit hours

In-state tuition: \$490/credit hour\*

Out-of-state tuition: \$575/credit hour\*

\* Tuition is based on 2023-2024 rates and is subject to change.

- Convenient 100% online format
- Flexible, asynchronous classes perfect for military and working civilian students
- Accelerated seven-week courses
- In-depth curriculum examines current defense and security challenges
- Ideally suited for students interested in intelligence and national security careers
- Financial aid and military benefits available



## Be a Key Player in National Defense

The Master of Defense and Strategic Studies provides a solid background for individuals who want to:

- Work within the U.S. government in intelligence or homeland defense
- Support foreign relations by working in the U.S. diplomatic corps
- Advance in the armed services
- Help influence defense policy by providing legislative support on Capitol Hill

The government is a big employer in this area; other employers include cyber security firms and big defense contractors who work with the government.

## Employers and Jobs

### Typical Employers

- Defense Intelligence Agency
- Department of Energy
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of State
- Department of Defense
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
- National Reconnaissance Office
- National Security Agency
- Office of the Director of National Intelligence
- Central Intelligence Agency
- U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines)
- Federal special agent
- Civil-military affairs specialist

### Types of jobs

- Legislative aide
- Defense budget analyst
- Military foreign area officer
- Foreign service officer
- Defense planner
- Research and development specialist
- Intelligence collector
- Military staff officer
- Defense program manager
- Strategic communication specialist
- Cyberwarfare specialist
- Defense consultant
- Homeland defense specialist
- Security operations manager



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Call **1-800-684-UTEP** to speak with an enrollment counselor today or visit us at **[utepconnect.utep.edu](https://utepconnect.utep.edu)**

# Online Master of Defense and Strategic Studies

## Admissions Requirements

To qualify for admission to the online Master of Defense and Strategic Studies program, you must:

- Complete and submit a graduate admissions application and application fee.
- Submit official transcripts in accordance with the requirements of the Graduate School.
- Have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
- Unless you already possess an accredited graduate degree, demonstrate academic achievement and potential as indicated by the results of the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). You may contact us for a possible waiver.
- Write a brief statement of purpose (1-2 pages) that outlines your educational and career goals, as well as your reasons for pursuing this degree.
- Provide three letters of recommendation from individuals that can evaluate your ability to succeed in a rigorous graduate program (letters from former instructors are preferred; letters from employers or work supervisors are also acceptable).

*Note: Admissions packages are evaluated utilizing all of the requirements listed above. There are no minimum scores required.*

**Students from the Sergeants Major Academy must call us directly at 1-800-684-UTEP for admissions requirements and tuition information.**

## Curriculum

As a student in the online Master of Defense and Strategic Studies program, you're required to successfully complete 12 courses (36 semester credit hours) from 16 class offerings. There are five required courses and a choice of seven electives to pick from, each with a duration of seven weeks. The program can be completed over a period of one year, if you take two courses at a time in each part of a semester across three semesters, including summer. However, it is a flexible program for those with professional and/or military careers. We can design schedules and graduation targets.

There are four courses focused on the theories and broad trends of strategy, conflict, and security in the modern world, and how the U.S. approaches these challenges. This is complemented by six courses outlining the strategic relevance and challenges of specific world regions such as the Middle East and Indo Pacific. There are also five classes examining key 21<sup>st</sup>-century areas of strategic competition such as cyberwarfare and space strategy. You will finish with a course focused on the likely character of future warfare.

### Required Courses (5 courses for a total of 15 hours)

DSS 5300	U.S. National Security
DSS 5301	Strategic Theory and Modern Warfare
DSS 5302	Global Security
DSS 5306	U.S. Grand Strategy
DSS 5320	Future Warfare

### Elective Courses (Select 7 courses from the following for a total of 21 hours)

DSS 5303	Low Intensity Conflict
DSS 5304	Information Operations
DSS 5305	Cyber Warfare
DSS 5310	Strategic Survey - Americas
DSS 5311	Strategic Survey - Africa
DSS 5312	Strategic Survey - Europe
DSS 5313	Strategic Survey - Middle East
DSS 5314	Strategic Survey - Indo-Pacific
DSS 5315	Strategic Survey - North America
DSS 5319	Space Strategy
DSS 5321	Selected Topics in DSS

**Total Credits: 36**

*Note: Curriculum is subject to change.*

