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 2021-2022 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

Ready to connect or have questions?
Call 1-800-684-UTEP to speak with an enrollment counselor today or visit us at utepconnect.utep.edu
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). It’s possible for you to complete the program entirely online and graduate in as few as 12 months.

Core Coursework

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DSS 5300</td>
<td>U.S. National Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSS 5301</td>
<td>Strategic Theory and Modern Warfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSS 5302</td>
<td>Global Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSS 5303</td>
<td>Low-Intensity Conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSS 5304</td>
<td>Information Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSS 5305</td>
<td>Cyberwarfare</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSS 5310</td>
<td>Strategic Survey of the Americas</td>
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<td>DSS 5311</td>
<td>Strategic Survey of Africa</td>
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<td>DSS 5312</td>
<td>Strategic Survey of Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSS 5313</td>
<td>Strategic Survey of the Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSS 5314</td>
<td>Strategic Survey of Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSS 5320</td>
<td>Future Warfare</td>
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Total Credits: 36

Note: Curriculum is subject to change.

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.