Invest in Yourself –

Pursue a Graduate Certificate from the College of Information and Cyberspace at National Defense University!

by Dr. Dorothy O. Potter and Professor David A. Harvey

With the ever-changing operating environment the Department of Defense (DOD) faces in meeting mission requirements, it is particularly important for ASMC members to continue developing their skill sets and enhance leadership capabilities.

The good news is that the College of Information and Cyberspace (CIC) at the National Defense University (NDU) stands ready to help you meet the challenges of today and tomorrow by offering opportunities to take graduate level courses that will support your academic and professional development goals.

You may remember our college by our previous names — **Information Resource Management College** or **iCollege**. We updated our name to the College of Information and Cyberspace a few years ago and offer a newly-updated master's degree that is focused on the dynamic information and cyberspace operating environment and its critical role in strengthening national security. For this article, we wanted to highlight the graduate certificates we offer at CIC – these certificates align particularly well with the business of government that ASMC members support every day:

- Chief Financial Officer
- Chief Information Officer
- Information Technology Program Management
- Cyber Leadership
- Cybersecurity
- Chief Data Officer

"When you take the time to earn a CIC graduate certificate, you are investing in yourself and your career."

When you take the time to earn a CIC graduate certificate, you are investing in yourself and your career. Our students benefit from the academic qualifications and professional experiences of our top-notch faculty, gain new knowledge through the completion of coursework and research, and further develop communication skills and leadership capabilities. They also learn from the diverse perspectives of our student body, and bring back best practices to their components and agencies. We help our students become better leaders and decision-makers.
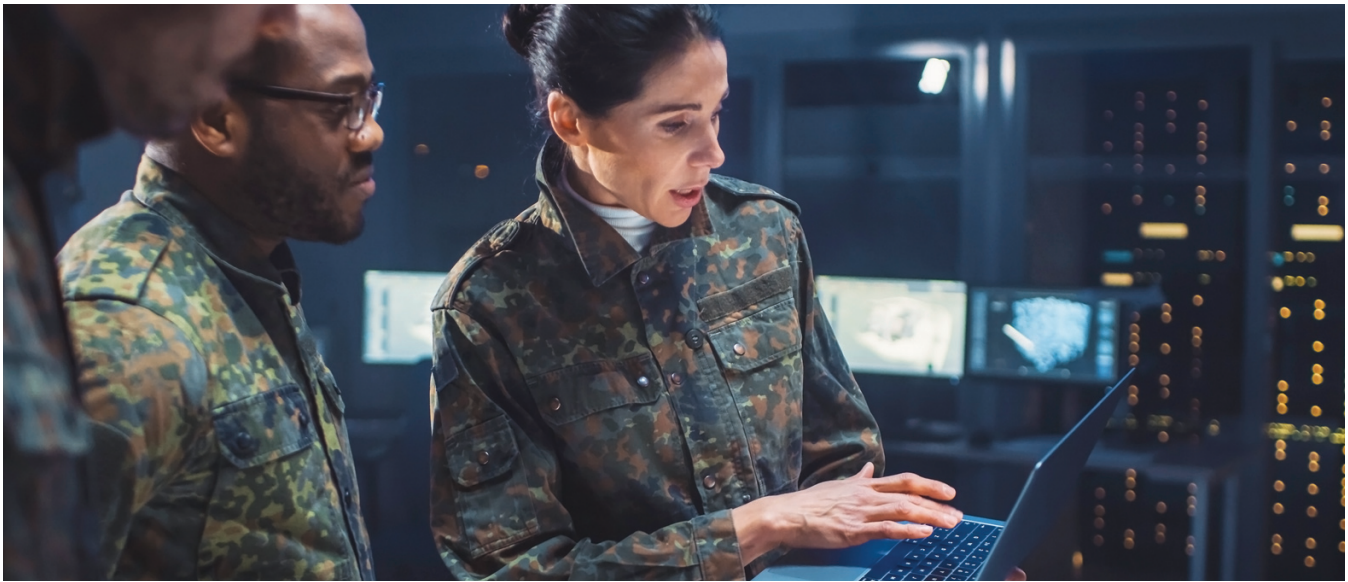
Our graduate courses may be completed by DoD personnel at no cost, are offered in online or hybrid formats, and are accredited by the Middle States Commission of Higher Education. Each graduate certificate requires the completion of five, three-credit courses. Let's review each graduate certificate in more detail.

- **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** The CFO Certificate is noted for a strategic leadership curriculum that is dynamic and relevant to the needs of the government financial management community, including personnel who work in accounting and finance, budget formulation and execution, cost analysis, auditing, and resource management. The program highlights the changing role of CFOs as organizational leaders of 21st century government and aligns with the financial management competencies specified in the DoD Financial Management Certification Program, which is managed by the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer.

Required courses include:

The White House, Congress, and the Budget

The Future of Federal Financial Information Sharing

Risk, Internal Controls, and Auditing for Leaders

Strategic Performance and Budget Management

Data Management Strategies and Technologies

Chief Information Officer (CIO)

The CIO certificate focuses on developing future leaders in the federal CIO community. It addresses the Clinger-Cohen Act and other relevant legislation mandates, as well as standard practices for interpretation and implementation of these legislative actions. The CIO Certificate is organized around subject areas directly related to CIO competencies identified by the Federal CIO Council. Required courses include:

Strategic Performance and Budget Management

Cybersecurity Fundamentals

CIO 2.0 Roles and Responsibilities

Strategic Information Technology Acquisition

Warfighting and Disruptive Technologies

Information Technology Program Management (ITPM)

The ITPM program is designed to meet the ever-increasing call for program managers across the federal government. The ITPM certificate is designed to assist agencies in complying with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) direction. The OMB requires that project managers qualified in accordance with CIO Council guidance manage all major information technology projects. The ITPM certificate requires successful completion of a graduate level curriculum to satisfy

competencies established by the Office of Personnel Management Interpretive Guidance for Project Management Positions and the CIO Council Clinger-Cohen Core Competencies. The certificate complements general project management training and the American National Standards Institute-recognized Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge. It also provides formal educational credit, one of the qualifications required for award of the Project Management Institute's Project Management Professional certificate. Required courses include:

Data Management Strategies and Technologies

Capital Planning and Portfolio Management

Information Technology Program Leadership

Strategic Information Technology Acquisition

Information Technology Project Management

Cyber Leadership (Cyber-L)

The Cyber-L program focuses on developing the skills and desired leadership attributes necessary to be an effective strategic leader in the cyberspace domain. The program achieves this through a rigorous curriculum that enhances the understanding of all aspects of cyberspace and how to best integrate cyberspace with the other elements of national power to achieve the nation's strategic objective. Required courses include:

National Security Strategy

Cybersecurity Fundamentals

Cyberlaw

Multi-Agency Information-Enabled Collaboration

Illicit Use of Cyber

Cyber Security (Cyber-S)

The Cyber-S program is geared to those serving or seeking to serve as Chief Information Security Officer, Senior Agency Information Security Officers, their respective staffs, and as cyber security managers. This program provides advanced education to respond to the requirements set forth in the Federal Information Security Management Act. Required courses include:

Cybersecurity for Information Leaders

Cybersecurity Fundamentals

Critical Information Infrastructure Protection

Risk Management Framework for Strategic Leaders

Illicit Use of Cyber

Chief Data Officer (CDO)

The CDO Certificate is geared to those involved in establishing, enabling, or running programs related to data strategies, data governance, data analytics, or data management. This certificate balances development of technical knowledge and skills fundamental for data analysis, as well as leader-oriented principles and techniques critical for data-empowered government organizations. The program is designed for students with diverse undergraduate backgrounds and work experience, enabling them to become strategic leaders skilled in building, developing, and running data mature organizations and leveraging data as a strategic resource for national security. Required courses include:

Data Management Strategies and Technologies

Data Analytics for Leaders

Data Strategy and Governance

Strategic Information Technology Acquisition

Warfighting and Disruptive Technologies

To be eligible for admission to our graduate certificate programs, applicants should possess a bachelor's degree with a minimum 3.0 GPA and hold a minimum officer pay grade of 0-4 or civil service pay grade of GS-13. Additional information is available at https://cic.ndu.edu, and our Office of Student Services can be reached at **(202) 685-6300** or via CICOSS@ndu.edu. If you are interested in applying, please access our online application at: https://cic.ndu.edu/Admissions/Apply-Online/

Remember, investing in yourself is a great investment. We hope to see you in class!

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