

# Master of Defense and Strategic Studies Online

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The Master of Defense and Strategic Studies is designed to provide an in-depth, critical examination of the major defense and security challenges facing the United States now and in the future. Particular attention will be placed on the development of strategy, both in theory and practice, to address defense-related problems. Offered in a distance-learning/online format, this will be a distinctive degree tailored to improving the competence of military and civilian personnel engaged in strategic planning, the inter-agency process, military operations, diplomacy, budgeting, legislative affairs, defense program management, research and development, and a myriad of other staff activities and specialties.

The program is offered online through UTEP Connect. (<https://www.utep.edu/extendeduniversity/utepconnect/>)

## Admissions Requirements

1. Completion and submission of a graduate admissions application.
2. Submission of official transcripts in accordance with the requirements of the Graduate School.
3. A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.
4. A brief statement of purpose (1-2 pages) that addresses educational and career goals and reasons for pursuing the degree.
5. Three letters of recommendation from individuals that can evaluate the ability to succeed in a rigorous graduate program, such as former instructors. Letters of recommendation from employers or work supervisors are also acceptable. Please contact the DSS Director for any questions regarding letters of recommendation.
6. Note: Admission packages are evaluated utilizing all of the requirements listed above, there are no "minimum scores" required for the test.
7. Applicants from countries where English is not the first language are required to demonstrate English proficiency. Please consult the graduate school (<http://catalog.utep.edu/admissions/graduate/graduate-student/>) website for required scores.

## Degree Requirements

Master of Defense and Strategic Studies - 36 semester hours

The online program consists of twelve (12) required courses (36 semester hours), completed over a period of approximately one year. Students are strongly advised to take two courses at a time, each with duration of seven weeks. There are six courses focused on strategy, conflict, and security in the modern world, complemented by five courses outlining the strategic relevance and challenges of specific world regions such as the Middle East and Asia. This sequence leads to a final seminar or finishing course focused on the likely character of future warfare. Educational goals include students gaining desired skills such as the ability to synthesize large amounts of information and credibly and persuasively present a concise analysis both verbally and written form. The curriculum fosters greater cross-cultural competence and an understanding of related U.S. strategic interest and capabilities.

## Academic Standards

Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better in order to earn the Master's degree. Students with a semester GPA below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation. Students will have only nine semester hours (three courses) to return to "good" academic standing with a GPA of 3.0 or better. Those students failing to return to good academic standing after nine semester hours may be dismissed from the program.

## Degree Plan

Required Credits: 36

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Defense &amp; Strategic Studies (All courses require a grade of C or better)</b>		
<b>Required Courses (15 hours):</b>		
DSS 5300 or DSSX 5300	U.S. National Security	3
DSS 5301 or DSSX 5301	Strategic Theory & Modern War	3
DSS 5302 or DSSX 5302	Global Security	3
DSS 5306 or DSSX 5306	U.S. Grand Strategy	3
DSS 5320 or DSSX 5320	Future Warfare	3

### Elective Courses

Select 21 hours from the following:

21

DSS 5303 or DSSX 5303	Low Intensity Conflict	3
DSS 5304 or DSSX 5304	Information Operations	3
DSS 5305 or DSSX 5305	Cyber Warfare	3
DSS 5310 or DSSX 5310	Strategic Survey-Americas	3
DSS 5311 or DSSX 5311	Strategic Survey-Africa	3
DSS 5312 or DSSX 5312	Strategic Survey-Europe	3
DSS 5313 or DSSX 5313	Strategic Survey-Middle East	3
DSS 5314 or DSSX 5314	Strategic Survey-Indo Pacific	3
DSS 5315 or DSSX 5315	Strategic Survey-North America	3
DSS 5319 or DSSX 5319	Space Strategy	3
DSS 5321 or DSSX 5321	Selected Topics in DSS	3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>36</b>