The Air Force Institute of Technology, with its main campus located at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, is the Air Force’s leader for advanced, multi-disciplinary academic education, as well as its institution for technical professional continuing education. A component of Air University and Air Education and Training Command, AFIT is committed to providing innovative, defense-focused graduate education and related research, and operationally-relevant professional continuing education, to sustain the technological supremacy of America’s air, space, and cyber forces. Since 2008, AFIT has been designated as the Air Force’s Cyber Technical Center of Excellence.

AFIT has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission since 1960. In addition, the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET accredits several of AFIT master’s engineering programs. Since graduate degrees were first granted in 1956, AFIT has awarded more than 19,570 Masters of Science and 873 Doctor of Philosophy degrees. In addition, Air Force students attending civilian institutions (as AFIT students) have earned more than 12,000 undergraduate and graduate degrees in the past 20 years. Currently, AFIT provides graduate and continuing education for nearly 30,000 students each year.

Mission

We help build America’s airpower, by educating military and civilian Airmen to innovatively accomplish the Air Force’s core missions, in support of joint, combined and coalition operations worldwide, more effectively, efficiently, sustainably and affordably.

We accomplish this mission by providing Airmen with world-class defense-focused and research-enabled advanced academic education, and career-long professional continuing education both on-command and on-demand. Through four schools and a non-resident civilian institution program, AFIT delivers graduate education to the Medical, Line, Legal and Chaplain Corps, professional continuing education to Civil Engineers, Space, Nuclear, Acquisition, and Logistics professionals, conducts cutting-edge research in many areas including cyber, directed energy, hypersonics, stealth, navigation and space, and provides consultation and analysis support services.
Vision
To be widely known, greatly respected and strongly supported as the Air Force’s premier institution for defense-focused, highly-relevant advanced academic education programs and for career-long, functional professional continuing education courses.

Organization, Personnel and Resources
AFIT is a wing-equivalent unit of about 3,700 military and civilian Airmen – students, faculty and staff. It accomplishes its mission through four schools: the Graduate School of Engineering and Management, the School of Systems and Logistics, The Civil Engineer School, and the School of Strategic Force Studies. Through its Civilian Institutions Program Office, AFIT also manages the educational programs of officers enrolled at 350+ civilian universities, research centers, teaching hospitals, and industrial organizations.

Advanced Academic Education

The Civilian Institutions Program Office manages the largest part of AFIT’s advanced academic education enterprise. Approximately 1,900 students enrolled in a variety of health profession programs (e.g., medical, dental, nursing, biomedical, etc.) and another 500 line, legal and chaplain officers enrolled in various programs at leading civilian universities and research centers. The office also manages the Air Force’s Education With Industry (EWI) program, through which about 40-50 military and civilian Airmen annually spend a year with companies to learn industry best-practices and bring those practices back to the Air Force. Contact Col Thomas Brown (thomas.brown@afit.edu) and/or Mr. Luke Whitney (luke.whitney@afit.edu) for more information.

The Graduate School of Engineering and Management is a nationally-recognized, Carnegie-classified High Research Activity doctoral institution. It is the sole degree-granting entity at AFIT. The Graduate School currently offers 25 research-based, STEM master’s degree programs, 14 Ph.D. programs, and 10 graduate certificate programs. It maintains a typical enrollment of over 750 in-residence students and about 120 students in various non-resident programs. As a graduate-only, research-based institution, the Graduate School provides its students with several significant advantages, including a more personalized educational experience, with a student-to-faculty ratio of approximately 5:1 in master’s degree programs; academic programs with a defense-related focus; and research on high-priority defense problems.

The Graduate School maintains a strong applied-research focus through its 7 multi-disciplinary research centers: Autonomy and Navigation Technology Center, Center for Directed Energy, Center for Cyberspace Research, Center for Operational Analysis, Center for Technical Intelligence Studies and Research, Center for Space Research and Assurance, and the Nuclear Events Analysis and Testing Center for Specialized Research. The Graduate School is also the home of the Office of the Secretary of Defense sponsored Center for Scientific Test and Analysis Techniques in Test and Evaluation, which supports more than 40 major acquisition programs in all four military services. All of AFIT’s research is sponsored by external organizations and is often done in partnership with other leading research universities, the Air Force Research Laboratory and other national laboratories, Federally Funded Research and Development Centers, and both large and small defense industry companies. Contact a3ps@afit.edu for more information about the Graduate School.
Professional Continuing Education

The School of Systems and Logistics is the Air Force's provider of professional continuing education courses in the areas of data analytics, acquisition management, contracting, financial management, logistics management, and systems and software engineering. With more than 120 courses and seminars, the school plans, develops, and conducts courses and programs to satisfy the technical management educational needs of acquisition, contracting, and logistics customers from the Air Force, DOD, and other federal agencies. More than 18,000 students receive education from the School of Systems and Logistics each year.

The school currently offers Air Force courses ranging in length from two days to five weeks. Classes are open to all DOD military and civilian personnel and DOD contractors. Courses are offered in-residence at Wright-Patterson AFB, as well as on-site at locations across the U.S. and around the world to DOD students everywhere, via distance-learning resources. The school is also the leader in web-based education for the acquisition and logistics workforce, providing Airmen with the tools, skills, and abilities to manage the entire spectrum of a systems life cycle. Additionally, the school annually provides the initial-skills education for about 800 newly-commissioned Acquisition and Contracting officers and newly-hired civilians. Contact AFIT.LSACourseManager@afit.edu for more information.

The Civil Engineer School provides technical and management oriented professional continuing education courses in a variety of subject areas to prepare our officer, enlisted, and civilian professionals to be more efficient and effective in current and future assignments in the CE fields. The school’s professional continuing education 70+ courses are designed to meet the specific needs of thousands of civilians, military, and contractors in the Air Force and joint services. The Civil Engineer School provides technical engineering, environmental, asset and engineering management, and expeditionary-focused instruction. To reach a world-wide audience, it offers in-residence courses, on-site courses, and various modes of distance learning, to include satellite, internet and video teleconferences at Air Force installations worldwide. The school also provides the Initial Skills Training for all newly-commissioned CE officers and PALACE ACQUIRE interns. Visit www.afit.edu/ce for more information.

The School of Strategic Force Studies manages the overall execution of space, nuclear and cyber PCE to more than 4,800 Air Force and DOD students annually. AFIT’s National Security Space Institute (NSSI), located at Peterson AFB, Colorado, provides the responsive and relevant professional continuing education component of the DOD’s various space professional development programs. Primarily serving the Air Force Space Command, the school also supports sister services, some unified commands, space-dependent military agencies, and select allied nations. NSSI graduates, numbering more than 800 each year, gain a unique understanding of the vital role space-based weapons systems and their operators play in the joint fight at both the operational and strategic levels of war.

AFIT’s Nuclear College, located at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico provides a comprehensive nuclear professional continuing education program to develop Airmen in the nuclear enterprise with an enhanced understanding and knowledge of nuclear deterrence and assurance, along with the critical-thinking skills needed to meet the nuclear deterrence and assurance challenges of the 21st century. Approximately 3,000 nuclear professionals have attended AFIT’s in-residence nuclear courses since 2008. The nuclear college
has reached over 6,000 additional personnel throughout the Air Force, DOD and other government agencies with its mobile training team-delivered nuclear enterprise orientation and nuclear certification process-related courses.

In support of AFIT’s mission as the Air Force Cyber Technical Center of Excellence, the School of Strategic Force Studies provides cyber-focused continuing education courses to nearly 1,000 Air Force and other DOD students annually, at the Wright-Patterson AFB campus. The courses help develop skilled cyber warriors capable of supporting joint, multi-domain operations and prepare them for intermediate and higher-level responsibilities. Contact Col Craig Narasaki (craig.narasaki@afit.edu) for more information about the School of Strategic Force Studies.

AFIT History
On November 10, 1919, Colonel Thurman Bane received authorization to begin instruction at the Air School of Application. The following year, the first class of seven officers graduated from the newly-named Air Services Engineering School. Now, 100 years later, the Air Force Institute of Technology has awarded more than 20,000 degrees and more than 750,000 people have gone through its continuing education courses.

Some of the most accomplished engineers and scientists in Air Force history are AFIT alumni. Air Force pioneers General George Kenney, General Jimmy Doolittle, and General Bernard Schriever attended AFIT programs prior to the time degrees were conferred. Major General Donald Lamberson, considered the “father” of high-energy laser weapons, earned his master’s and doctorate degrees at AFIT. Nearly 20 astronauts have earned degrees from AFIT, including U.S. space pioneers Gus Grissom and Gordon Cooper – chosen as part of NASA’s Mercury Seven, and Colonel Guy Bluford, the first African-American in space.

As the Air Force takes on the challenges of multi-domain operations in a complex, dynamic and uncertain national security environment, AFIT’s innovative education, research, and outreach programs are even more important and relevant today. Now in its 100th year of operation, AFIT’s continues to shape the ever changing world of air, space, and cyberspace technology. While the future promises to be even more challenging than the past, AFIT is prepared to deliver world-class defense-focused, and research-enabled graduate education, professional continuing education, and consultation to sustain the technological supremacy of the United States Air Force.

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