



This month's focus: Advancing security careers through education

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Did you know?

All of the CDSE Education courses have received credit recommendations from the American Council on Education (ACE).

Are you a security professional seeking to expand your knowledge and understanding of the security profession?

"Our goal was to build a cadre of people to handle the current challenges facing leaders of security programs and prepare them to handle the emerging issues of tomorrow from a leadership perspective. One of the key things about our courses that really adds value to the security community is that they focus on DoD issues and challenges."

~Scott Hill,
CDSE Education Division Chief

With increasing threats to critical infrastructure and U.S. national security, so too does the need increase for mid- to senior-level security professionals who are prepared to address the strategic security program issues of today and emerging issues of the future.

Advanced and graduate-level courses at CDSE position U.S. Government civilian personnel and military service members for leadership roles in the security community. This edition of CDSE *Pulse* focuses on the continuing education opportunities provided by our Education Program.

What is the CDSE Education Program?

In 2012, the Education Program was launched to support professional development for mid- to senior-level U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) security managers with graduate-level and advanced-level courses. The [Education Program](#) is flexible, tuition-free, and offers 17 courses and five [certificates](#). Each course takes 16 weeks to complete, representing one semester. Feedback from students surveyed indicates that for every class taken, a student could spend up to 10 hours per week on participation and assignments.

Requirements and recommendations for enrollment include the following:

- Registration is restricted to U.S. Government civilian employees and U.S. military service members
- Some courses require a Secret security clearance
- Some courses require the purchase of textbooks
- Security Fundamentals Professional Certification is recommended for all courses



CDSE – Center for Development of Security Excellence



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Where do I go to Take Courses?

Each semester, Education Program students take computer-based, asynchronous courses from the comfort of their homes or workplaces. This structure allows students the flexibility to access instruction and complete assignments within an allotted timeframe, without committing to scheduled blocks of time each day. The courses are delivered by seasoned instructors using a collaborative learning management system called Sakai, which facilitates online teaching, student engagement, and research.



Through Sakai, students can review their lessons and videos, upload assignments, and, most importantly, collaborate with other students in class, as well as their instructor.

A typical week consists of students completing the assigned reading, supplemented with a PowerPoint presentation. This is followed by a quiz, an online discussion forum, or a written assignment. Generally, the discussion forum will be based on instructor-provided discussion questions, with each student providing a response and then commenting on other student inputs.

For more information about the program and fall semester, visit the CDSE website and download the education catalog <https://www.cdse.edu/documents/education-catalog.pdf>

What Students are Saying

How has taking CDSE Education courses contributed to your security career?

It taught me steps and ways to look at security differently. I learned how security and budget is handled through Congress. Great depth of knowledge comes from these classes if you apply yourself.

Velvia, Security Officer, U.S. Navy



Which positions, that you know of, would benefit from taking one or more of these courses?

Any position would benefit from these courses. If you look at all the courses, they mirror what you would see in a master's certificate program at a major university.

Curtis, Information Systems Security Professional Team Lead, Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency

What's the Difference? Education vs. Training Courses

Category	Education	Training
What do you learn?	Concepts	Skills
Delivery mode	Virtual Instructor-led training (VILT)	Self-paced eLearning, Instructor-led training, and VILT
Course Length	16 weeks	30 minutes, up to two weeks
Audience	U.S. military service members and U.S. Government civilian employees	DoD military, civilian, cleared contractor security personnel, and anyone needing awareness-level security knowledge
Success Criteria	Complete reading, research, and writing assignments; and pass an exam	Pass a course exam
Credits towards a degree	All courses have ACE credit recommendations, which can be applied towards a bachelor's or master's degree at participating institutions	Some courses have ACE credit recommendations, which can be applied towards a bachelor's degree at participating institutions
Cost	Free, except for the cost of textbooks some courses require	Free

Register Now for Fall Classes

CDSE is currently accepting registrations for the fall semester, which begins on **August 24** and continues through **December 18**. Due to limited slots and increased interest, classes are anticipated to fill up quickly.

What the program offers:

- Tuition-free and flexible 100% virtual instructor-led courses
- Five Security Education certificate programs
- Highly qualified instructors
- 45 Professional Development Units per course earned toward SP&D Certification Program maintenance
- Transfer credits toward a degree at a participating university (American Council on Education (ACE) Credit approved)
- Preparation for security leadership roles
- Virtual networking with professionals in the security community



Learn more about the classes here: <https://www.cdse.edu/education>. For current students, you can easily register through email or the Sakai learning management system. New students can register by logging into STEPP via: <https://cdse.usalearning.gov/login/index.php>.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, contact the CDSE Education Division at: dss.ncr.dss-cdse.mbx.cdse-education@mail.mil.

2020
GOLD ORGANIZATION

CHIEF LEARNING OFFICER* **LearningElite**

CDSE Wins Gold

CDSE was selected as a gold award winner in the 2020 LearningElite awards program for its strategies, products, services, and talent across the organization. The Chief Learning Officer magazine's LearningElite program honors the best organizations for learning and development.

Finalists were selected from an applicant pool of several hundred that included major U.S. and international corporations, U.S. government agencies and departments, and universities. A virtual gala took place on April 22, and a CDSE "thank you" video was played following the winner announcements. For a complete listing of CDSE awards, past and present, visit www.cdse.edu/about/awards.html.

2020 Department of Defense
Virtual Security Conference
A VISION OF THE FUTURE OF SECURITY
JUNE 23 - 24, 2020



For more information, visit https://cdse.acms.com/vsc2020reg1/event/event_info.html

Restricted to DoD military and Federal Government civilian personnel with a .mil or .gov email address



Interview with Dustin Frazier

Dustin is a Security Specialist for the U.S. Army with a focus on the Insider Threat mission. Dustin completed all of the Education Program certificates last year.

Q1: How did you learn about CDSE and how long have you been a student?

A1: I started attending CDSE (then the DSS Academy) courses as part of the Army's security intern program in 2008. Last year, I completed the last of the 17 Education courses and earned all five certificates.

Q2: Do you have a specialty area or security focus? What stage of your career are you in?

A2: Yes, my focus is providing security support to the U.S. Army's Insider Threat program as a mid-career security professional. I've progressed from a GG-7 to GG-14 during my 11 years with the U.S. government as an Army civilian employee.

Q3: Did you register for the education program with a goal in mind?

A3: After completing the Army's two-year security intern program, I had maxed out all available security training opportunities from DIA, CDSE, and ODNI. I was looking for mid-level training and learned about the CDSE Education Program in 2012, the year it was launched. It piqued my interest and I registered for my first course shortly thereafter to see if it would assist in my progression from a security action officer to a mid-level security professional.

Q4: Can you describe the student experience in the Education Program?

A4: Yes, I was part of a collaborative learning environment that offered a lot of opportunities to network with students from other agencies and the military. We would ask questions like "I had this encounter, what did you do about it?" All of the courses were virtual with live instructors and discussion forums through Sakai. Each instructor was very knowledgeable and made the syllabus available the first day. I was able to access all lesson plans and grades, and converse with the instructor and classmates through the Sakai platform. We had mid-terms, finals, and weekly exercises, such as, reading lessons from a textbook. The lessons were PowerPoint-based, and sometimes included voice recordings. One of the hardest classes was Constitutional Law but it was also one of the most rewarding since it provided me a solid understanding of the governing statutes that many DoD security policies are derived from.

Q5: What would you tell a friend or colleague about CDSE's Education Program?

A5: I'm a big advocate of the program and I have recommended it to people that I mentor. Based on my recommendations, people are taking the education courses now. Speaking from my own experience, this is the only type of program that DoD has that prepares security pros from being action officers to transitioning to the management side of the house. It will expose you to topics that you're not going to get anywhere else - budgeting, leadership, risk management, cyber, communications, Constitutional Law, and other things you need to know. Thomas Jefferson stated long ago that "knowledge is power." That is the true testament to this program and why I would strongly recommend this curriculum to all interested DoD security professionals.

