
Continuous Learning Points for the Defense Acquisition Workforce

By

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Members of the defense acquisition workforce who complete DISAM courses are eligible to earn continuous learning points under the policy announced by Dr. Jacques S. Gansler, Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology) (USD(A&T)), in December 1998. Dr. Gansler's policy, entitled "Reform Through Learning: USD(A&T) Policy on Continuous Learning for the Defense Acquisition Workforce," applies to employees who have completed Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act (DAWIA) certification requirements for the positions they hold, as well as to employees who are presently working to achieve certification. The basic DAWIA certification program, established in 1991, applies to employees in the following career fields: program management, communications-computer systems; contracting, including construction; purchasing; industrial/contract property management; systems planning, research, development and engineering; test and evaluation; manufacturing, production and quality assurance; acquisition logistics; business, cost estimating and financial management; and auditing. For more information on acquisition workforce training and certification, see <http://www.acq.osd.mil/ar/education.htm>.

The "Reform Through Learning" policy requires all defense acquisition personnel to earn eighty "continuous learning" points (representing eighty hours) every two years by participating in a number of professional development activities, including formal training, college courses, conference attendance, and job rotations/internships in functional areas related to acquisition. DISAM courses fall under the "Other Continuing Acquisition Training" category. We have reviewed the acquisition content of each of our courses. Points were awarded to each course based upon the number of hours of instruction relevant to one of the acquisition career fields listed above.

For example, we reviewed the content of our CONUS (SAM-C) Course and determined that it included twenty-nine hours of acquisition-related instruction. Accordingly, we have determined that graduates of the CONUS course will earn twenty-nine Continuous Learning Points towards their required eighty point total. Beginning in June 2000, graduates of the relevant DISAM courses will receive letters signed by the DISAM Commandant stating the number of continuous learning points earned through course completion. As explained in Part IX of the "Reform Through Learning" policy referenced above, it is the responsibility of each defense acquisition workforce member and his or her supervisor to maintain records to verify the individual's attainment of the continuous learning standards. DISAM will provide the course completion letters to serve as source documents.

However, not every DISAM course is eligible for award of continuous learning points. See the table on the next page for a list of the eligible courses and points to be awarded upon course completion. This information will also be available from the DISAM website (<http://disam.osd.mil/Courses.htm>) or the *DISAM 2001 Catalog*. Members of the defense acquisition workforce who wish to document continuous learning points for DISAM courses completed in the past may copy this page, or the relevant pages from the DISAM website or the *DISAM Catalog*, and file them with their DISAM course completion certificates.

Other DISAM courses tailored for specific organizations or locations may be eligible for award of continuous learning points on a case-by-case basis. For additional information, you may

contact the DISAM POC for continuous learning, Lt Col Karen Currie at (937) 255-8194 or kcurrie@disam.wpafb.af.mil.

DISAM Course		Continuous Learning Points
CONUS	SAM-C	29.0
CONUS Orientation	SAM-CO	11.8
Advanced	SAM-A	12.7
Financial Management	SAM-CF	20.6
Case Management	SAM-CM	19.3
Logistics Customer Support	SAM-CS	21.2
Executive	SAM-E	13.0
Overseas	SAM-O	8.8
On-Site	SAM-OS	14.3

About the Author

Lieutenant Colonel Karen Williams Currie is a supply officer in the United States Air Force. She is presently serving as the Deputy Director of Management Studies at the Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management (DISAM). Prior to her assignment at DISAM, Lt. Col. Currie spent six years as a graduate faculty member at the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT). She holds a Ph.D. in Business Analysis from Texas A&M University, an M.S. in Logistics Management from AFIT, and an M.A. in Diplomacy from the University of Kentucky.