

United States Air Force

Acquisition Instructor Course

Curriculum Overview



November 2021

Prepared by: AQIC Cadre

Table of Contents

<i>Mission</i>	2
<i>Vision</i>	2
<i>Background</i>	2
<i>Attributes and Core Competencies</i>	3
<i>Course Flow and Organization</i>	3
Block 1 – Core Fundamentals Training	3
Block 2 – Phased Training	3
<i>Course Level of Effort</i>	4
<i>Service Commitment</i>	5
<i>The End Result</i>	5
<i>Appendix A: Course Detail</i>	6
<i>Appendix B: Nominee Criteria</i>	8

Mission

Train highly skilled acquisition instructors and leaders in tactical and strategic knowledge to meet the operational needs of tomorrow's multi-domain battlespace

Vision

Enhance integration between acquisition, industry, and operational communities through instruction, collaboration, and innovation to accelerate the kill chain

Background

The Acquisition Instructor Course (AQIC) was established under the USAF Vice Chief of Staff's direction to integrate acquisitions into the USAF Weapons School. AQIC was developed under AFMC to cultivate military and civilian instructors within the acquisition force who are skilled in tactical acquisition, instructorship, and operational integration. AQIC is intentionally designed to mirror the training methodology, organization, and rigor of the United States Air Force Weapons School (USAFWS) curriculum.

The purpose of AQIC is to develop acquisition officers as expert instructors and integrators who are deliberately and strategically placed throughout the acquisition enterprise to tackle the Department of the Air Force's (DAF) toughest problems.

Accelerate the Kill Chain

Attributes and Core Competencies

An AQIC graduate should embody and fully leverage **6 attributes** inside their sphere of acquisition influence:

- ♦ **Humble:** *Not threatened by being corrected or afraid to admit mistakes. Aware of their own blind spots*
- ♦ **Credible:** *Speak honestly, be an authority in your trade & actively seek knowledge to advance your sphere of influence*
- ♦ **Approachable:** *Generous with your time to assist others with their challenges and open to ideas of others in your unit & across the DAF*
- ♦ **Creative:** *Perpetually suspicious of doing things the way that they have always been done*
- ♦ **Collaborative:** *Effectively build a powerful, effective, and efficient coalition in any environment*
- ♦ **Influential:** *Leverage your network & credibility to become a force multiplier across the defense acquisition community and industry*

To produce graduates modeling these attributes, the AQIC curriculum is designed around **11 core competencies**, representing a combination of measurable skills and behaviors that define an AQIC student and future graduate. These competencies include:

- Problem Solving • Critical Thinking • Develop Others • Communication • Accountability • Flexibility
- Relationship Management • Business/Political Acumen • Operational Acumen • Cross-functional Savvy • Technological Savvy

Course Flow and Organization

Core I						Phase A			Core II	Phase B			Phase C		Phase D			Phase E		Core III	W SINT				
	Core IA					Phase A				Phase B		Phase C			Phase D		Phase E								
CF	CF					PT			CF	PT													CF	PT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23			

- Integration/Partnering
- Academics/Research
- CF Core Fundamentals
- PT Phased Training

Block 1 – Core Fundamentals Training

The first portion is designed to provide a level set across acquisition and operational functional domains.

Core I,II,III (2.5 weeks)	Weapons School Core I, II, III – Operations-focused academics and introduction to the USAFWS methodology
Core IA (3 weeks)	DAF Acquisitions Core IA – Introduction then deep-dive into acquisition cross-functional disciplines: program management, engineering, contracting, finance, logistics & sustainment

Block 2 – Phased Training

Block 2 consists of six phases and are organized to 1) develop tradecraft via tactics, techniques, & procedures (TTPs) for each functional area through academics and exercises, 2) partner with organizations across the acquisition community

to learn unique or tailored practices, and 3) study and document emerging TTPs specific to core functional areas to cement and enhance specific learning objectives.

Phase A (3 weeks)	Sustainment & Depot	Focused on the current state of the acquisition life cycle in sustainment, supply chain management and logistics with experientials at sustainment program offices, depot lines and supply chain organizations.
Phase B (3 weeks)	The Power of Money	Focused on the processes, programmatic impacts, stakeholders and execution of the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) cycle & Program Objective Memorandum (POM).
Phase C (3 weeks)	Digital Enterprise & Software in Acquisition	Focused on learning and observing the utilization of emerging tactics and state of the art capabilities to deliver in the new age of technology. Discussions on Intellectual Property and data rights, artificial intelligences, and organic/industry software development along with Kessel Run and PEO Digital experientials provide real world examples of best practices.
Phase D (3 weeks)	Integration across Air, Cyber & Space Ops	Focused on integration with operators in the air, cyber and space domains. Syncing with air, space and cyber operators to gain perspective on daily challenges and cast a wide net to create a network with Weapons Officers. Also leveraging interactions AFWERX, Capital Factory, tech transition orgs and program offices to deliver rapid capability to ops.
Phase E (3 weeks)	Operational Acceptance	Focused on the execution of developmental, operational, integrated and automated test across air, space, and cyberspace systems. Topics include Space Systems Command (SSC), Air Force Operational Test & Evaluation Center (AFOTEC), Test Pilot School (TPS) and F-35/F-22 Combined Test Force.
Phase F (2 weeks)	Integration	The overall objective of the INT phase is integration familiarity. Accomplish this by planning and debriefing composite force operations in an established mature theater incorporating an ATO/Intel-driven exercise. Students should demonstrate Weapons Officer-caliber instruction at every opportunity during operations. Students should focus on mission execution (in exercise) during this phase.

Course Level of Effort

Expected Hours

Rigorous schedule does not afford many activities outside of the AQIC curriculum. Scheduled events often begin at 0700 and end 1800. Evening hours and some weekends are typically spent in study, review, research, or briefing preparation for course assignments. It is recommended to complete or defer carryover work from home duty station, ACSC, advanced degree, etc. prior to commencement of the course.

AQIC does not plan syllabus events for weekends, federal holidays, or AFMC family days. Student TDYs often use weekends as travel days, so these must be considered when planning weekend activities (ex: students will travel the Sunday after Thanksgiving). Students may be permitted to travel away from WPAFB during these periods with AQIC/DO approval, however, TDY schedules change frequently and without regard to students' personal weekend plans. Students are encouraged to manage their leave balance leading up to course attendance as leave may not be used to miss syllabus events. Graded Events

There are numerous graded events throughout the course. These events include completion of a Pre-Attendance Workbook, formal/informal briefings, academic exams, leading/assisting Mission Case Exercises (MCXs), creating a MCX, and a graduate-level research paper and presentation. Failure of two or more graded events is subject to withdrawal from the course.

The formal research paper is a 15-20 page paper (longer must be approved by CC) which includes a problem statement with objectives or purpose of the study. It must state the significance of the study and methods of research conducted with conclusions, appendices, sources and endnotes. The paper may include figures and tables which counts towards page count but cover and disclaimer page, list of references and appendices do not count towards the page count. Paper topics are derived from requests within AFMC and other MAJCOMs, and are normally assigned to students before they arrive at AQIC.

Service Commitment

Active Duty Service Commitment (ADSC) or Civilian Mobility Agreement Requirement

- ◆ Military: All AQIC selects shall complete and sign an AF Form 63, Active Duty Service Commitment (ADSC) Acknowledgement Statement, and incur an ADSC upon entry into the AQIC. Following AQIC graduation, graduates shall incur a 36-month ADSC in accordance with AFMAN 36-2100. Upon formal withdrawal or elimination from the program, the member will incur a 2-year ADSC using Reason Code 33.
- ◆ Civilians: This program requires a 36-month Continued Service Agreement. This time requirement is based on the overall cost of the program. This time does not start until after the participant finishes the program. The CSA can be transferred, if the participant leaves the Air Force to enter the service of another Federal agency or other organization in any branch of the Federal government. If a participant leaves government service, but is able to complete a portion of their CSA, the amount of reimbursement will be reduced on a pro-rated basis for the percentage of completion of the obligated service.

The End Result

An AQIC Graduate is an:

- ◆ Integrator: A mission focused leader versed in cross-domain acquisitions and operations Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures. Operational Integrators, who are networked officers, aligning Acq and Ops Enterprises.
- ◆ Instructor: A unit instructor facilitates tactical acquisition skill development to acquirers and operators. They create and focuses training opportunities to advance a unit's professional development.
- ◆ Acquisition Tactician: A commander's primary tactical advisor, problem solver, and unit mentor. They Lead crosscutting Air Force, Joint, Inter-agency teams in support of high-priority requirements and are vanguards of innovative acquisition processes, procedures, and authorities.

An AQIC graduate will:

- ◆ Embody AQIC attributes to drive the Air Force and Space Force missions forward
- ◆ Directly enhance integration between DAF and private sector partners to collaboratively incorporate emerging technologies and encourage win/win acquisition strategies between government and industry

Accelerate the Kill Chain

- ◆ Attend and participate in integration/planning events as necessary (eg: WEPTAC, SAVAGE FUTURE)
- ◆ Leverage vast exposure to serve as the unit's lead integrator and translator between operational and acquisition communities
- ◆ Serve as a mentor and organic instructor within the unit to promote cross-functional and cross-stakeholder cooperation, understanding and communication

The community of AQIC graduates populate the acquisition workforce with high quality instructors, leaders, and mentors equipped with the skills, knowledge, and attributes to influence others to **accelerate the kill chain**.

Appendix A: Course Detail

Course Number: USAF ETCA Course ID: 5377; Course ID: AQIC; Course Title: Acquisition Instructor Course.

Course Description: AQIC is a VCSAF-sponsored school under the C2 of the Commander, Air Force Materiel Command, that provides Officer and Civilian graduates for the Materiel Enterprise. This page lists generic information for AQIC conducted and administered under the command of HQ AFMC. Active duty officers and Civilian personnel are eligible (where applicable) to compete for and attend AQIC. This ATCA is informational only and does not constitute the basic authority for the approval, activations, or changes in the duration of AQIC courses.

Course contact: AFMC/A3/6/AQIC POC: Col Kenneth "Chops" Boillot / Comm 937-255-4165 / AFLCMC.AQIC.Workflow@us.af.mil.

Overview: AQIC teaches graduate-level courses that provide advanced training in Program Management, Contracting, Finance, Systems Engineering, and Sustainment/Logistics as they apply to the Acquisition Life Cycle. AQIC is headquartered at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH.

AQIC Schedule and Courses: AQIC conducts two 108-training day classes annually (160 Day TDY). Class A (Alpha): Jan – Jun; Class B (Bravo): Jul – Dec. Current Syllabi can be obtained by contacting HQ AFMC/A3/6/AQIC. **Course Length:** 160 days

[JTR: "The scheduled duration is the actual period a Service member receives instruction, including weekends, but not counting holiday periods when the Service member is not attending classes, or incidental time spent at the duty station before classes begin or after they end] From day 1 of USAFWS class through last day are 160 continuous days (including weekends and 5 holidays). Class duration calculation is as follows:

- Total days at AQIC = 160
- Subtract 2 incidental days for pre-class in-processing and post-class graduation (where students receive no instruction) = 158 days
- Subtract 5 holidays per class = 153 days
- Class duration = 153 days, where students are receiving instruction, including weekends, but not counting holiday periods when the students are not attending class, and not counting the incidental time spent at AQIC before classes begin or after they end

School Location: AQIC is located at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

Specific service of each attendee: Department of Air Force. There are no plans to expand to other Departments.

Number of attendees who traditionally return to the previous permanent duty station (PDS):

Typically 90+% of students return to their previous PDS to fulfill a 3-year active duty service commitment.

Justification for TDY instead of PCS: AQIC is the AFMC counterpart to ACC's USAF Weapons School (USAFWS).

Historically, USAFWS has always been an all TDY school, due to the best interests of the AF. The current, long-standing ('98) SECAF JTF waiver for the USAFWS (attached), directs all students, not permanently stationed at a School location, to attend USAFWS in TDY status. The reasons making AQIC a TDY school are the same for AQIC today as they were for USAFWS in '98:

- Prohibitively expensive, impractical, and large family burden to uproot and PCS families from their current assignment, to attend AQIC, only to PCS them back again 5 ½ months later to the same base they just left.

Depending on assignment timing when selected for USAFWS, some students could actually end up PCSing three times in one year

- Faced with attending a PCS-based school, and the strain it would place on their families, it is most probable that our talented warfighters would simply choose not to compete for AQIC – a serious situation we can avoid by holding AQIC attendance in TDY status.

Appendix B: Nominee Criteria

1. Baseline Requirements:

- AFSC/Grade: 61X, 62E, and 63A, O-3/O-4, with between 7 to 11 years TAFCS at Course Start Date.
- Series/Grade: 13XX, 08XX, 1101, GS-12/13/NH-03/DR-3 (non-supervisory), with between 5 to 11 years of acquisition coded experience at Course Start Date.
- AFSC/Grade: 64P and 65F/W, O-3, with between 5 to 9 years TAFCS at Course Start Date.
- Series/Grade: 1102, 0501, 1515, GS-12/13/NH-03 (non-supervisory) with between 5 to 9 years of acquisition coded experience at Course State Date.
- Nominees must possess a Final Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI) clearance at the course start date and remain valid through course end date.
- AQIC Commandant holds the waiver authority for all baseline requirements

2. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: <https://www.milsuite.mil/book/events/92069> (For Class 22A only)