

MHEC
Creating a state of achievement

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor


Anwer Hasan
Chairperson

Elisabeth A. Sachs
Interim Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 28, 2011

TO: Ms. Tina M. Bjarekull
Dr. William E. Kirwan
Ms. Elizabeth Kulbicki-Hepler
Dr. Joseph R. Urgo
Mr. H. Clay Whitlow
Dr. David Wilson
College and University Chief Academic Officers

FROM: Elisabeth A. Sachs 
Interim Secretary of Higher Education

SUBJECT: Request for Academic Program

Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) has asked the Maryland Higher Education Commission (the Commission) to circulate the attached Request for Proposals to all Maryland institutions of higher education. APG has conducted an analysis of the needs their active duty personnel and civilian employees and has determined that there is a requirement for a **Master of Science in Software Engineering**.

Institutions have 30 calendar days in which to respond, therefore responses will be due **by May 27, 2011**. Copies of any proposal should be forwarded to both:

Email to: Michael.skurla@us.army.mil Email to: Acadprop@mhec.state.md.us

Michael Skurla, Director
Software Engineering Directorate
RDECOM
Aberdeen Proving Grounds
443-861-9154

Dr. Sue A. Blanshan
Director of Academic Affairs
Maryland Higher Education Commission
410-260-4533

After the May 27, 2011 closing date, APG will consult with the Commission as to whether or not a proposal has been accepted. If none of the in-state higher education institutions submit an acceptable response to the RFP, APG may submit the Request for Proposals to one or more out-of-state higher education institutions. The Commission will need to approve any program from any institution, in-state or out-of-state, utilizing the application and procedures found in COMAR 13B.02.01 and 13B.02.03.

EAS:SAB:ct

Request for Academic Program (RFAP) - APG

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) is working in support of anticipated training requirements at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) is soliciting proposals on the following academic program:

Master of Science **In** **Software Engineering**

GOAL: To establish a program to serve the local needs of engineers at Aberdeen Proving Ground and a Maryland institution of higher education that will provide academic opportunities in support of the BRAC and future educational needs.

PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

- I. Overview: This program will serve a diverse number of organizations at APG that require the skills associated with an advanced degree in Software Engineering. A diverse set of missions and organizations at APG will benefit from a program in software engineering. Software engineering is an emerging, interdisciplinary field that combines the disciplines of computer science and engineering. The Master of Science in Software Engineering program should encompass the skills needed to specify, implement, and manage large software system projects using best practices. The program will focus on meeting the career development needs of professionals practicing in fields related to software systems.

Students enrolling in this program will include government employees who have a Bachelors Degree in Computer Science or engineering and who are pursuing the MS Degree to enhance their technical capabilities. The majority of the students will have several years of experience as an Computer Scientist or Engineer in the Government but may include employees who have recently graduated from an undergraduate program (less than 2 years). It is likely that employees of companies providing software engineering or sustainment support services to the APG community would also take advantage of a local program.

- II. Design:
- It is desired that the Software Engineering program be accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) or encompass software engineering principles of the Software Engineering Institute.
 - The partnering institution should provide the students with academic support services
 - The partnering institution shall provide textbook purchasing and registration services at APG
 - Distance learning programs would also be acceptable and provide some degree of flexibility to employees who must balance frequent travel for work with the academic program.

- III. Location: It is desired that programs be conveniently accessible to the workforce at APG and in the APG area (either on the installation or no more than a few miles from the installation)

Institutions requesting any additional information may contact:

Michael Skurla
Director of Software Engineering Directorate, RDECOM
443.861.9154
Michael.skurla@us.army.mil

Maryland Higher Education Contact Person:

Dr. Sue A. Blanshan
Director of Academic Affairs
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