

FINAL ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION FOR NDU

Meeting Date: 07/15/2023

Type of Submission:
Degree Granting Report

Criteria: 7(a)(1)

Description of Criteria

"That the conferring of the authority to grant the graduate degree in question is essential to the accomplishment of the program objectives of the applying agency."

-- Explain how the requested degree-granting authority is essential to achieving program objectives.

-- Discuss in detail the need for students to hold the degree for which authorization is being sought.

Narrative:

The College of Information and Cyberspace (CIC) educates national security leaders and the cyber workforce on the cyber domain and information environment to lead, advise, and advance national and global security. The revised degree title is directly aligned with CIC's MS GIL concentration of National Security and Cyberspace Strategies (CIC's existing JPME II concentration).

Document(s) for this Section

No files uploaded

Analyst Worksheet- Narrative

Analyst Review Status:

Meets the requirements of this section

Analyst Remarks to Narrative:

As noted in the narrative and supporting documentation from the accrediting agency, the institution has established an essential need for degree granting authority for national security leaders to lead, advise, and advance national and global security. The institution meets the requirements of this section.

List of Document(s) Uploaded by Analyst - Narrative

Exhibit Title**File Name**

DoD Approval and MSCHE Accreditation Documentation NDU - DoD and MSCHE Documentation.pdf

Analyst Worksheet - Response**Analyst Review Status:**

Not Reviewed

Criteria: 7(a)(2)**Description of Criteria**

"That the graduate program in question and/or the graduate degrees proposed cannot be obtained on satisfactory terms through the facilities of existing non-Federal institutions of higher education."

-- Explain the need for this government agency (rather than an existing non-Federal institution) to provide the education/training leading to the degree.

Narrative:

Over the lifetime of the MS GIL degree, CIC has maintained a unique and non-duplicative degree program that satisfies critical gaps in senior level national security education in cyber and information. The degree prepares graduates to lead government organizations and other organizations and to formulate policies and strategies to respond to the changing character of war, and to advance national and global peace. The targeted curriculum and classified components of the degree address specific concerns and educational needs for national security leaders unlike that provided by existing non-federal institutions.

Document(s) for this Section

No files uploaded

Analyst Worksheet- Narrative**Analyst Review Status:**

Meets the requirements of this section

Analyst Remarks to Narrative:

As noted in the narrative and supporting documentation from the accrediting agency, the institution has demonstrated that the MS GIL degree cannot be satisfactorily obtained elsewhere due to the targeted curricula and classified content. The institution meets the requirements of this section.

List of Document(s) Uploaded by Analyst - Narrative

Exhibit Title

File Name

DoD Approval and MSCHE Accreditation Documentation NDU - DoD and MSCHE Documentation.pdf

Analyst Worksheet - Response

Analyst Review Status:

Not Reviewed

Criteria: 7(a)(3)

Description of Criteria

"That the graduate program conducted by the applying agency meets the standards for the degree or degrees in question which are met by similar programs in non-Federal Institutions of higher education."

-- Submit evidence to show comparability between this institution or program and similar programs in non-Federal institutions of higher education.

-- Focus on the comparability of such indices as:

Faculty qualifications

Level of academic content

Core requirements

Major requirements

Cognate or minor requirements

Thesis

Comprehensive examination

Residence requirements

Statute of limitations (for degree completion)

Transfer credits accepted

Extension credits accepted

Narrative:

National Defense University is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). NDU's MSCHE accreditation was most recently reaffirmed in 2013 and the MS GIL was within the scope of this institutional accreditation. CIC continues to operate under and meet all MSCHE standards for accreditation. Middle States has been informed of the proposed change to the degree name and has determined that changing the name does not constitute a substantive change. Thus, the renamed degree will remain within the scope of NDU's MSCHE accreditation. NDU is scheduled to submit a MSCHE Self-Study describing how its degree programs meet accreditation standards in the fall of 2022, with reaffirmation expected in 2023.

Document(s) for this Section

No files uploaded

Analyst Worksheet- Narrative

Analyst Review Status:

Meets the requirements of this section

Analyst Remarks to Narrative:

As noted in the narrative and supporting documentation from the accrediting agency, the institution was found in compliance with the standards, policies, and procedures for a substantive change approval from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education which are the degree standards applied for accreditation at non-federal institutions. The institution meets the requirements of this section.

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Analyst Worksheet - Response

Analyst Review Status:

Not Reviewed

Criteria: 7(a)(4)

Description of Criteria

"That the administration of the graduate program concerned is such that the faculty

and students be free to conduct their research activities as objectively, as freely, and in as unbiased a manner as that found in other non-Federal institutions of higher education. The existence of an advisory committee of educators from regularly-constituted institutions shall be regarded as some evidence of the safeguarding of freedom of inquiry. Accreditation by an appropriate accrediting body, if such exists, shall be regarded as another safeguard."

-- Does the institution have a formal policy on academic freedom in the classroom and in research? If so, please state it. If not, indicate what other mechanisms are used to assure that the accepted principles of academic freedom are understood and observed by faculty, students, researchers, and administrators.

-- What provisions are there for the periodic review and modification of the institutional policy on academic freedom?

-- List the current members of the Advisory Board (or other comparable body) giving their titles, mailing addresses, telephone numbers and expiration of term.

-- State the official purpose or charge under which the Advisory Board operates.

-- Give the major accomplishments or actions of the Advisory Board in the last two years.

-- If any major changes are contemplated for the Advisory Board in the near future (such as mission, membership composition, term of service, etc.), please list them.

-- Has the institution, or any of its major programs, received accreditation from an accrediting agency listed by the U.S. Secretary of Education? If so, please list the granting agency(s) and the current terms of any accreditation(s) received.

Narrative:

NDU subscribes to the American Association of University Professors' statement on academic freedom, which declares that teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results and in the classroom in discussing their subject. Additionally, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, under provisions and requirements of Title 10, United States Code, has directed that the President of the National Defense University establish a climate of academic freedom within the University that fosters and properly encourages thorough and lively academic debate and examination of national security issues. Academic freedom at the National Defense University is defined as follows: Providing the climate to pursue and express ideas, opinions, and issues relative to the University purpose, free of undue limitations, restraints, or coercion by the organization or external environment. It is the hallmark of an academic institution. CIC values and protects academic freedom both inside and outside of the classroom. Open sharing of ideas and approaches,

critical analysis, creative thinking, and the ability to synthesize and then argue and defend new concepts, are at the heart of every seminar discussion. Beyond the seminar room, CIC grants faculty and students the freedom to explore ideas, conduct research, publish findings, discuss relevant material candidly and openly surface problems and potential solutions for consideration by the leadership. CIC holds both faculty and students responsible for the pursuit of excellence, intellectual honesty, objectivity, toleration of free discussion and inquiry, open-mindedness, and innovative thinking. Advisory Committee The National Defense University Board of Visitors, under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, as amended, shall provide the Secretary of Defense, through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the President of the National Defense University, independent advice and recommendations on accreditation compliance, organizational management, strategic planning, resource management, and other matters of interest to the National Defense University. The Board shall be composed of not more than 12 members who are eminent authorities in the fields of defense, management, leadership, academia, national military strategy or joint planning at all levels of war, joint doctrine, joint command and control, or joint requirements and development. Board members appointed by the Secretary of Defense who are not full-time Federal officers or employees shall serve as experts and consultants under the authority of 5 U.S.C. § 3109. Board membership shall be renewed on an annual basis for either the appointment of new members or the reappointment of standing members as approved by the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Office of the White House Liaison. In January 2021, the Secretary of Defense suspended the operations of all Department of Defense advisory boards, to include NDU's Board of Visitors. The University is actively working to reconstitute the Board in accordance with the zero-based review procedures set forth by Secretary Austin. Accreditation National Defense University is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). Accredited institutions must demonstrate continued success and commitment in each of these seven areas to achieve and maintain accredited status. The Middle States standard on Ethics and Integrity requires that institutions demonstrate "a commitment to academic freedom, intellectual freedom, freedom of expression, and respect for intellectual property rights."

Document(s) for this Section

No files uploaded

Analyst Worksheet- Narrative

Analyst Review Status:

Meets the requirements of this section

Analyst Remarks to Narrative:

As noted in the narrative and supporting documentation from the accrediting agency,

the institution has demonstrated that there is academic freedom among faculty and students as found in other non-Federal institutions of higher education as confirmed by the institution's accreditor. In addition, the accreditation by an agency recognized by the Secretary and with an appropriate accrediting body serves as a safeguard for the continuous application of this requirement. The institution meets the requirements of this section.

List of Document(s) Uploaded by Analyst - Narrative

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DoD Approval and MSCHE Accreditation Documentation	NDU - DoD and MSCHE Documentation.pdf

Analyst Worksheet - Response

Analyst Review Status:

Not Reviewed

3rd Party Written Comments

Document Title	File Name	Pro/Con
-	-	CON

Staff Analysis of 3rd Party Written Comments

The Department received one written comment regarding National Defense University but all of it is unrelated to regulations pertaining to military degree granting institutions. The comment stated that the Department's solicitation of written third-party comments occurred without access to the institution's petition to change the name of its Master of Science in Government Information Leadership to the Master of Science in Strategic Information and Cyberspace Studies or its materials. The Department's solicitation of written third-party comments sought comment on the institution's compliance with the regulation(S) in question pursuant to 34 C.F.R. §§ 602.32(c) and (l), not on the institution's petition or related materials. The purpose of the call for written third-party comment is to allow anyone who has any knowledge of a military degree granting institution undergoing review by the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) and compliance or non-compliance with Department of Defense (DoD) guidance as noted in The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) letter of authorization dated December 23, 1954 and the DoD document of Instruction, Number 5545.04, dated April 7, 2011, to provide that information and/or documentation so that Department staff can utilize it in the comprehensive analysis of the National Defense University. The comment also stated that complaint processes used by accrediting agencies should be more accessible to complainants. However, since the National Defense University is a military degree granting institution and not an accrediting agency, and not subject to the requirements of 34 CFR Part 602 this particular issue noted by the commenter is not applicable to the National Defense University. The Department's recognition review process for military degree granting institutions assesses whether or not an institution meets the DoD document of Instruction, Number 5545.04, dated April 7, 2011. Therefore, only information and documentation concerning actions or examples in The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) letter of authorization dated December 23, 1954 and the DoD document of Instruction, Number 5545.04, dated April 7, 2011 would be applicable to this analysis.

Response to 3rd Party Comments

No response to 3rd Party Written Comments

Document(s) Uploaded in response to 3rd Party Comments

No files were uploaded in response to 3rd Party Comments.

3rd Party Request for Oral Presentation

There are no oral comments uploaded for this Agency.
