

Duke

Cohort 3, 2026



Duke | PRATT SCHOOL of
ENGINEERING

Duke
MASTER of
ENGINEERING
MANAGEMENT



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to Apply by
March 15th



WHAT

Advanced innovation leadership training
Make real progress on critical DoW needs
Learn to craft the mission, funding & stakeholder alignment that drives success
Graduate Engineering Management course (3 credits)

WHEN

11 May - 17 July 2026
Durham, NC (3wks) + on-line (7wks)

HOW

Creativity meets rigor
Taught by experts
Coached by successful, hand-selected military innovators

Student Requirements

Undergraduate degree
Passion for DoW innovation
Must attend all three 1-wk in-residence sessions on Duke campus (details on next page)
All ranks and service branches welcome! Join alums from the USAF/ANG, Army/USASOC & Marine Corps/MARSOC
Obtain funding to cover ~\$8500 tuition

Commanding Officer Requirements

Support student's participation and utilization of innovation skills upon return to unit

Support TDY for three in-residence wks

Contacts

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In-residence Logistics

Dates:	Week 1: 11 May (In residence @ Duke)
Times:	Week 2: 8 June (In residence @ Duke)
9a-4:30p M-Th	Week 3: 13 July (In residence @ Duke)
9a-1p Fridays	
Locations:	Class: Duke Campus, Durham NC, Wilkinson Building 126
	Final Pitches: Wilkinson 132, 16 July, 1200-1600 EDT
	Hotel: Residence Inn, 1108 W Main St., Durham, NC 27701

On-line Logistics (between in-residence weeks)

Students:	Individual and team work 15-20 hours/week
Faculty:	1 hour/week with each team
Coaches:	2 hour/week with each team

Part of the Duke Defense Innovation Curriculum

Est. Summer 2024

Design Defense Studio

Est. Summer 2025

Certificate for Defense Innovation

Coming 2027

Design Defense Studio 2

Website



Article



Interviews



Who is this for? Applicants must be serving military members from the US or allied nations or their spouses. Applicants must have a *passion* for creating big positive change and *experience* in attempting innovation inside the military. Deep curiosity, strong work ethic, teambuilding, and the ability to handle uncertainty are required. Students must be able to attend 3 in-residence sessions at Duke University Summer 2026 as well as devote significant non-resident time to course requirements. An undergraduate degree is required. Rank is not important and has ranged from E4 to O5. Selection is competitive.

Outcomes: Each team will advance an *innovative solution* to *key DoW needs* on the *path to warfighter adoption* with a clearly defined *fundable next step* & industry partners. Each student will also join the *Design Defense Studio Alumni Innovation Network* and participate in on-going skill building and networking.

Costs and Funding: ANG students may receive tuition funding from ARCWERX. Others must arrange to cover tuition costs of approximately \$8500 USD. Home units must cover TDY expenses for the 3 in-residence weeks.

Support: Commanding Officers must explicitly support the participation of their students, and plan for the best ways to utilize their new innovation leadership skills upon return to their unit.

Certificate Option: Design Defense Studio can be taken as a single graduate course, or as the first of four courses in the Duke Certificate for Defense Innovation, offered by the Master of Engineering Management Program. To date, four military member students have transitioned to the certificate or full Master of Engineering Management degree, building advanced skills & making powerful new professional connections.