The American University/MCR
Senior Program Manager Certificate program

The American University Key Executive Leadership Certificate Program, in partnership with MCR, LLC, is offering a Senior Program Manager Certificate Program that:

- Addresses all of the Federal Acquisition Institute’s (FAI) senior program management Federal Acquisition Certification for Program and Project Managers (FAC-P/PM) competencies and aligned skills, and
- Helps participants move from a project and functional staff position to a leadership position within the federal acquisition structure by increasing their substantive knowledge, confidence, and ability to lead.

What does the program consist of?
The six, 4-day courses in the 192-hour program are:

- Course 1 - Leading People for Strategic Execution in the Acquisition Environment
- Course 2 - Federal Acquisition Strategy Environment
- Course 3 - Federal Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Acquisition Policies
- Course 4 - Senior Integrated Program Management and Key Federal Acquisition Topics
- Course 5 - Program Performance Measurement and Federal Acquisition Reporting
- Course 6 - Putting It All Together: Acquisition Cases

When are courses offered?
The program begins February 8, 2010 with an Orientation. Classes are 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays on the following dates:

- February 22-23, 2010
- March 8-9, 2010
- April 19-20, 2010
- May 10-11, 2010
- June 7-8, 2010
- July 19-20, 2010
- August 9-10, 2010
- September 20-21, 2010
- October 4-5, 2010

Who is the program for?
Participants should be within the program acquisition disciplines within government or industry who:

- have defined leadership responsibilities and are on the career path to Senior Executive Service (or equivalent) appointment
- are looking to expand their organization’s use of integrated program management
- are willing to work in a collaborative training environment
- are able to participate fully in all six courses
- hold a GS-13 grade or above, or equivalent military rank, or equivalent senior position within industry
- are or will be supporting the formulation and/or development of federal government programs
- have at least four years of program and project management experience on federal projects and/or programs
How is the program unique?
The Senior Program Manager Certificate Program is unique in six ways:

1. **Focus on the student.** American University’s Key Executive Programs provide students with substantive knowledge and increased leadership capacity to implement what they learn. In addition to substantive knowledge about acquisition strategy, budgeting and acquisition policy, understanding and applying systems level thinking to program management, and measuring program performance, the new Senior Program Manager Certificate Program provides students with the leadership capacity to successfully implement their new technical and leadership knowledge—the critical difference between success and failure for Program Managers.

2. **Substance of our program.** FAI awarded the courses its highest rating of “5.” The program will also help agencies meet the new Administration’s requirements for training and developing the acquisition workforce, as outlined in the “Acquisition Workforce Development Strategic Plan for Civilian Agencies – FY 2010-2014,” released by the Office of Management and Budget in October, 2009.

3. **Our faculty.** Faculty have been selected both for their prominent reputations in public administration, executive education and adult learning. Our partnership with MCR enables us to provide the foremost thinkers in integrated program management capabilities as adjunct faculty.

4. **Cohort approach.** The cohort approach is designed to build an integrated community of learners who take a prescribed number of courses in unison, and work together in a collegial environment.

5. **Coaching option.** In addition to the six-course program, students may choose the Coaching Option including six executive coaching sessions and two 360-degree evaluations, one the beginning and one at the end of the program, to measure progress in the emotional intelligence (EI) competencies of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, and relationship management. The EI instrument is from the prestigious Hay Group and is the only EI assessment tool that has been validated using federal managers. Participants who sign up for this option are assigned an executive coach who “co-creates” an individual development plan based on the results of the EI survey.

6. **Our philosophy.** To help students develop the skills necessary to succeed in tomorrow’s rapidly changing acquisition environment, we:
   - Create a safe and respectful environment where students can practice their leadership and acquisition management skills
   - Involve students in the learning experience using real-life case scenarios
   - Provide feedback to enhance students’ leadership strengths, and
   - Provide cutting-edge course content relevant to the leadership and major acquisition program issues students confront on a daily basis.

**Program Cost:**
Tuition is $9,000 for all six courses including all course materials. For an additional $5,000, students may elect the Coaching Option.

**Contact information:**
For more information on the program and the application process, please visit our Website: [www.american.edu/spa/keycertificate](http://www.american.edu/spa/keycertificate) or contact:
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