
WELCOME TO THE GRADUATE STUDENT ACQUISITION RESEARCH PROGRAM

Hello!

We are thrilled that you are considering the Acquisition Research Program (ARP) this year. The purpose of this cover letter is to give you some historical information about the ARP and to call your attention to required deliverables and the services we provide to support your research efforts.

Why a Defense Acquisition Research Program?

Historically, the operating forces of the U.S. military look to the past for lessons learned when developing new strategies. With evolving technologies, world events and increased collaborative efforts globally, the challenge is to apply lessons learned to produce a coherent and executable framework for continued success in military operations.

In achieving this end state, the process followed is important. The emerging strategy should be developed in a free and open forum that invites innovation and debate while maintaining intellectual rigor. An approach such as this is also of value to the business processes of the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Navy (DON). Specifically, the DoD acquisition system would benefit from an ongoing dialogue among practitioners, scholars and students of the process.

A full spectrum of research is envisioned for NPS faculty, graduates students and collaborating partners ranging from scholarly efforts published in relevant peer reviewed journals to articles in acquisition related periodicals and more application oriented student projects. This range of research will contribute to the dialogue of the DoD acquisition community, be an important element in continued accreditation and ground the future DOD acquisition workforce in the issues of the day.

Acquisition Research Program Established

Established in 2003, the Acquisition Research Program in the Graduate School of Business & Public Policy (GSBPP) at the Naval Postgraduate School has grown to a \$4M annual reimbursable research program with over 1,800 published research product to date (see www.acquisitionresearch.net).

Funding for the program comes from multiple DoD/DON sponsors interested in stimulating and supporting relevant acquisition research. Specifically, ARP sponsors are interested in graduate student research and scholarly research in academic disciplines that bear on public procurement policy and management at NPS and a variety of research organizations through a grants program.

Specific goals for the APR were established at the inception of the program; they continue to be relevant today. These goals are:

1. Position NPS as a recognized leader in defense acquisition research.
2. Establish NPS acquisition research as an integral part of policy-making for Departments of Defense and Navy officials.
3. Create a stream of relevant information concerning the performance of DoD/DON acquisition policies with viable recommendations for continuous process improvement.
4. Prepare the DoD/DON workforce to participate in the continued evolution of the defense acquisition process.
5. Collaborate with other universities, think tanks, industry and Government in acquisition research.

Annual Acquisition Research Symposium

Each year, the ARP hosts an annual acquisition research symposium to provide a forum for the presentation of scholarly acquisition research, as well as for dialogue between scholars and acquisition policy-makers and practitioners. Research papers and presentations are given on recently completed and on-going Departments of Defense and US Navy (DoD/DON)-sponsored projects conducted by researchers at a variety of research institutions. Senior DoD/DON acquisition officials serve as panel chairs and present their critiques and comments on research papers and priorities.

Although attendees come from many U.S. locations, as well as from some international locales, a large number are from Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) where faculty members and graduate students engage in acquisition-related research. In particular, NPS graduate students are an integral component of the research and dialogue. The Symposium serves an essential part of their graduate learning experience and provides them the opportunity to meet with senior policy-makers, practitioners, and distinguished scholars.

Your Contributions Matter!

NPS faculty and graduate students are particularly well positioned to make a major contribution to the dialogue of the DoD acquisition community. Through your research and creative problem solving on defense related topics, NPS provides a major source of analytical capability for the DoD/DON. Without you, the ARP would not exist.

The ARP provides an infrastructure to support you through your MBA Project / Thesis research effort; so that you can focus on critical thinking, methodologies, analysis and results.

Graduate Student Acquisition Research Program

The Acquisition Research Program (ARP) seeks quality graduate student research. The following list indicates the range of potential research areas of interest; acquisition and procurement policy; contract, supply chain, cost, project, logistics or engineering management; acquisition workforce; public budgeting and finance; outsourcing; performance measurements; collaboration; small business; human systems integration; and more. **Choose a sponsor topic or create one of your own.**

Acceptance into ARP graduate student research program will provide the following at no cost to you;

1. **Travel funding** (if needed)
2. **Professional editing** (when you complete 3 chapters and again when all chapters are complete).
3. **Transcription** support for digital recordings.

Program Expectations:

1. **Produce publishable research** (Public Release, Unlimited Distribution)
2. **Meet ARP milestones and stay on schedule**
3. **Set a goal** to complete your thesis/MBA project 2 months prior to graduation
4. **Deliverables:**
 - a. Submit final WORD copy of your research report, and
 - b. Submit a poster of your research methodologies and findings. (ARP provides the template and has samples for review.)
5. **Present a poster** of your final results or planned research at the 16th Annual Acquisition Research Symposium, 8 May 2019 in Monterey, CA. **Due: 17 April 2019**
 - a. June graduates will present their final results poster.
 - b. December graduates will present their topic/planned research poster.

Application: (See sample at <https://my.nps.edu/web/acqnresearch/student-program>). Submit your application via email to ARP@nps.edu.

- a. Submit a cover email and attach your program application materials in a single PDF.
- b. Program Application attachment must include;
 - a. Signed MBA/Thesis Project Plan from Python
 - b. Signed IRB Check List
 - c. Signed ARP Advisor Endorsement Form
 - d. Travel Estimate from DTS (if applicable)

Resources:

Acquisition Research Program, www.acquisitionresearch.net, email: arp@nps.edu

Thesis Processing, <https://my.nps.edu/web/thesisprocessing>, email: thesisdraft@nps.edu

Institutional Review Board (IRB), www.nps.edu/research/IRB.htm, Mrs. Rikki Nguyen, HRPP Specialist, email: ranguyen@nps.edu. Submit paperwork to IRBChecklist@nps.edu