

# LEARNING the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FARs)

Let's start by listing relevant links:

Defense Acquisition University home page:

<http://www.dau.mil/default.aspx>

FAR Fundamentals Course (4 weeks, in person):

[http://icatalog.dau.mil/onlinecatalog/courses.aspx?crs\\_id=1684](http://icatalog.dau.mil/onlinecatalog/courses.aspx?crs_id=1684)

Computer specifications for DAU online learning:

<https://myclass.dau.mil/bbcswebdav/institution/Courses/Deployed/01CurriculumDocumentation/Student%20Info%20and%20Policy/Technology%20Requirements%20for%20Online%20Coursework>

Online Training (in blocks of hours):

<http://icatalog.dau.mil/onlinecatalog/tabnavcl.aspx>

## BACKGROUND

Several ATA members have inquired about FAR training. This is the first attempt to begin meeting that need.

FARs and acquisition in general are so complex that the DOD has established the Defense Acquisition University (DAU) to provide uniform instruction on the FAR labyrinth as well as the Defense Acquisition Regulations (DARs). DAU has hundreds of courses. Learning is either by classroom attendance or via online (distance learning). For us the distance learning online is the most practical.

Most classroom offerings are only for government employees. Of the few classroom offerings that are marginally publicly available, there is stiff competition for entrance. Government personnel are 99+% of attendees but a **very few** large contractor procurement professionals *may* be granted attendance. However, there are some online offerings that are 1-5 hours long that you – the public – can do online.

Educating the trucking industry on FARs is truly a huge undertaking. So for today, please consider this as a cross between a progress report and an inaugural installation with more resources to come.

## HOW DO I START ?

1. Go to [www.dau.mil](http://www.dau.mil) and browse.
2. At the home page for [www.dau.mil](http://www.dau.mil), look at the blue header across the top of the page; it horizontally displays several drop-down lists. The second one is "Training." Click on "Training" and then select "Training Courses." Study this page.
  - a. The most basic course shown on this page is "C'090, Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Fundamentals"
  - b. This is a 4 week, in-person course. Each day involves 8 hours of classroom lectures and test. The commitment also involves up to 3 hours of homework every night.
  - c. Very few industry persons are admitted to this offering, and obviously it is a nonstarter for freight sales reps. What you need to understand is that this is the foundation for training for both DOD procurement professionals and a tiny number of major defense contractor personnel.
3. By default, this means we need to focus on the online offerings that are most germane to trucking.
  - a. Courses offered online are found here:

- ii. At the top of your view you will see a table of categories with acronyms, e.g. “**CON**Contracting” or “**LOG**Logistics”
- iii. Below that is a much larger table of courses for you to examine. In the first column of this table, acronyms like “CON” or