



Public Statement of Institutional Commitments to Rigor, Value, and National Service Academy of Applied Technology LLC d/b/a Applied Technology Academy (ATA)

Florida Commission for Independent Education, License No. 7734

Applied Technology Academy (ATA) publishes this statement in response to U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon's National Call to Action of August 3, 2026, and Florida Commissioner of Education Henry Mack's letter of August 18, 2026.

Our commitments are concrete: to train students to a measurable professional standard, price that training transparently, and direct it toward the security of the United States.

ATA is an SBA-certified woman-owned training institution. We teach offensive and defensive cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, AI security, IT, Cloud Security and cyber range operations, primarily for working professionals in the Department of War, federal agencies, and the enterprises that support them. We are a training and workforce institution, not a research university. Each commitment below is stated in terms of how ATA operates, and we report against it publicly.

1. Transparent, merit-based admissions

Admission to every ATA program is based on readiness to succeed in the course and nothing else. Enrollment decisions are made on published prerequisites from our vendor content partners such as prior experience and attained certifications. They are the same for every applicant. ATA does not grant preferences on the basis of race, sex, or any other characteristic prohibited by federal or Florida law.

- Prerequisites for each course are listed on its catalog page in the course outline before a student enrolls.
- Applicants who do not meet a prerequisite are directed to the foundational course that will prepare them.

2. Free inquiry and orderly operations

ATA classrooms, virtual and in person, are places where students may question instructors, challenge conclusions, and argue technical and policy positions on their merits. Cybersecurity depends on adversarial and critical thinking; we teach students to test every assumption, including ours.

That freedom is protected by firm conduct rules. Harassment, threats, and conduct that disrupts instruction, lab environments, or cyber range exercises are prohibited. Violations are addressed under ATA's published student conduct policy [appliedtechnologyacademy.com/student-code-of-conduct/], up to removal from the course, applied without regard to the viewpoint of the student involved.

3. Intellectual pluralism in curriculum and hiring

ATA's curriculum is built from job tasks/KSATs from our ISO Accredited vendor partners, not ideology. Course content maps to recognized professional standards - the DoD Cyber Workforce Framework (DCWF), the NICE Framework, and industry certifications from partners such as CompTIA, ISACA, OffSec and others.

Instructors are hired for their demonstrated expertise, degrees, current industry certifications and 5+ years of hands-on practice in the field they teach. Political or ideological views play no part in hiring, evaluation, or retention. Where a topic involves legitimate professional disagreement, such as AI governance or offensive-operations policy, instructors present the competing positions and their evidence.

4. Affordability, price transparency, and measurable outcomes

ATA publishes the full price of every course before enrollment, including exam vouchers, lab access, and materials. There are no hidden fees. Courses are short and intensive, so students gain job-ready skills in days or weeks rather than semesters, and most tuition is paid by employers or government agencies. ATA does not participate in federal Title IV student aid, so no student takes on federal student loans to attend. Eligible Floridians may fund their training through Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grants awarded by their local CareerSource Florida board. Refund terms are published in our Student Enrollment Agreement.

5. Academic rigor and honest assessment in an AI environment

An ATA credential means the student can do the work.

- **Performance-based testing and virtual machines/labs.** Students are assessed on live tasks in isolated observed cyber range environments and virtual labs - i.e. finding and exploiting a vulnerability, hardening a system, responding to an intrusion.
- **Clear AI rules.** Each course states when AI tools are permitted. Because AI is now part of the job, our AI and AI security courses teach students to use, evaluate, and attack AI systems; outside those exercises, submitting AI-generated work as one's own is an integrity violation.
- **Proctored certification exams.** Industry certification exams are administered under the issuing body's proctoring rules. The certification exams that adjoin our courses are

delivered at a PearsonVUE testing center or via a proctored Pearson onVUE exam in which generative AI is prohibited.

6. Safeguarding programs from malign foreign influence

ATA does not conduct sponsored research, but we teach offensive cyber techniques that must not reach adversaries. We protect them accordingly.

- ATA accepts no funding, gifts, or partnerships from foreign governments or entities of concern.
- Course materials and range environments are handled in compliance with U.S. export control regulations (EAR and ITAR, where applicable).
- Select advanced offensive and defense-specific courses are restricted to vetted US citizen students, with eligibility verified before enrollment.

7. American students, American interests, and urgent workforce needs

ATA exists to close one of the nation's most urgent workforce gaps: the shortage of skilled cyber and AI security professionals defending U.S. networks, weapons systems, and critical infrastructure. Our students are the US government, DoW service members, federal civilians, and contractor personnel who do that work, and our programs are designed with their missions in mind.

In Florida, home to major military installations and a growing defense and technology sector, ATA trains the workforce those employers need now. We align new courses to demand signaled by our defense, federal, and Florida employer partners, and we retire courses that no longer lead to work. Through CareerSource Florida, ATA also gives WIOA-eligible Floridians a direct path into these careers.

We will review this statement annually and update the outcomes published here. Questions may be directed to operations@appliedtechac.com

- Lynn Fisher, Chief Executive Officer, Applied Technology Academy