

Addendum 2 to the 2025 Sonoran Desert Institute Catalog

Effective 6/17/2025

Page 7 under Academic Calendar add at the end of the first paragraph the following:

There is a one-week break between each semester during which no classes are scheduled. Students can review their term dates and class schedules on the Student Portal.

Page 7 under 2025 Start Dates remove the current start dates and replace with the following:

| Start Dates for ASFT and CFTG Program | | Start Dates for ASUT, CFTHS, and CUTAS |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 7/7/2025 | | 7/7/2025 |
| 8/4/2025 | | 8/18/2025 |
| 9/1/2025 | | 10/27/2025 |
| | | 12/1/2025 |

Page 15 under Self Pay remove the following:

Private Loan Option: SDI offers students enrolling in the Certificate in Uncrewed Technology – Aerial Systems, the option to apply for private loan funds with various lenders through the Meratas lender marketplace.

Requirements:

- Students must complete the loan application through the Meratas Loan Marketplace and accept an offer from a private lender. If the private loan does not cover the full cost of the program, the student must cover the remaining balance using one of the student payment plan options.
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Page 15 under Self Pay add the following:

No Interest Payment Plan

SDI offers students the option to make interest-free payments during their program when other funding options are unavailable. This option is available to full and partial cash-pay students, and all payments must be completed before the program ends.

Early payments are permitted without penalty.

Extended Payment Plan (Interest-Bearing)

SDI offers full and partial cash-pay students an extended payment plan with interest for lower monthly payments. This plan requires a minimum monthly payment of \$400 and allows payments beyond program completion. This payment option is serviced by a third party provider. Students selecting this option must sign a separate agreement with the third-party servicer outlining repayment terms and interest.

Early payments are permitted without penalty.

General Payment Requirements

- An initial payment is required before the program start date.
- Students utilizing the no interest payment plans must authorize automatic payments via the SDI Student Payment Plan Agreement.
- Credit card payments are securely processed through a third-party provider.
- All payments must be completed before receiving program credentials.
- Accounts with unpaid balances may be sent to collections.

| | No Interest Payment Plan | Extended Payment Plan (Interest-Bearing) |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Eligibility | Full and partial cash-pay students | Full and partial cash-pay students |
| Interest Charged | No | Yes |
| Payment Duration | Payments must be completed by program end | Payments can extend beyond program completion |
| Minimum Monthly Payment | Varies | \$400 |
| Initial Payment Required | Yes | Yes |
| Automatic Payment Authorization | Required | No |

Page 20 under SDI Waivers and Scholarships add the following:

Master Gunsmith Kip Carpenter Memorial Scholarship

Born on April 11, 1963, in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, Kip Carpenter was a devoted gunsmith, instructor, and mentor whose expertise and passion left a lasting impact on the firearms industry and the students he taught.

Kip's journey into gunsmithing began at the age of 14 under the guidance of his godfather, a competitive shooter and professional gunsmith. Over the course of his career, he mastered firearm repair, machining, welding, and refinishing, accumulating over 35 years of experience. His commitment to the craft led him to establish American Gunsmithing in Columbia, Tennessee, which quickly became one of the premier gunsmithing shops in the state.

Beyond his career in gunsmithing, Kip served as a Constable and worked in high-risk security and dignitary protection, where he also acted as a team armorer. In 2015, Kip joined Sonoran Desert Institute as an instructor and ultimately became the Staff Master Gunsmith and a lead instructor. His mission was to help SDI build the finest gunsmithing program in the United States, sharing his knowledge and experience with future generations of gunsmiths.

Kip's passions extended beyond firearms. He was an avid outdoorsman, musician, and gemology enthusiast, bringing joy and inspiration to those around him. His legacy lives on through the students he mentored, the firearms he masterfully crafted, and the scholarship created in his honor at Sonoran Desert Institute.

Overview

The Master Gunsmith Kip Carpenter Memorial Scholarship honors the legacy of Kip Carpenter, a revered master gunsmith who dedicated his life to craftsmanship, education, and mentorship. This scholarship supports and inspires the next generation of gunsmiths pursuing their education at Sonoran Desert Institute. The scholarship provides full tuition and fees each semester for two recipients, one in the fall and one in the spring.

Initial Eligibility Requirements:

The Master Gunsmith Kip Carpenter Memorial Scholarship is a full academic scholarship for SDI's Certificate in Firearms Technology – Gunsmithing or Associate of Science in Firearms Technology degree program. All candidates must:

- Submit a regular SDI application for enrollment with all relevant supporting documentation.
- Meet eligibility requirements for their selected program of study as outlined in Sonoran Desert Institute's Catalog.
- Demonstrate a passion for gunsmithing through personal experience, apprenticeship, professional involvement, or related activities by answering essay questions.

- Highlight any community involvement or volunteer work, particularly in craftsmanship or technical trades by answering essay questions.
- Submit a letter of recommendation from an instructor, employer, professional mentor, or a non-family member.
- Submit a portfolio showcasing gunsmithing projects, technical achievements, or related craftsmanship.

This portfolio is required and should demonstrate your skills, attention to detail, and commitment to the craft. It may include photos, videos, and documentation of completed projects, in-progress work, or related technical accomplishments.

Acceptable submission formats include:

- A single PDF file with embedded images, descriptions, and links
 - A PowerPoint or Google Slides presentation
 - A link to a hosted video (e.g., YouTube or Vimeo)
- Please ensure your portfolio is clearly labeled with your full name. If submitting a link, make sure it is publicly viewable without login or special access permissions. Your portfolio must be uploaded as part of the scholarship application.

Continuing Eligibility: Recipients of the Master Gunsmith Kip Carpenter Memorial Scholarship must:

- Comply with SDI's Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements and be free of any financial holds on their accounts.
- Maintain eligibility requirements for their selected program of study as outlined in Sonoran Desert Institute's Catalog.
- Remain continuously enrolled to maintain scholarship eligibility and achieve a 3.0 Cumulative GPA.

Application

Applicants must complete an SDI Enrollment Application and the Master Gunsmith Kip Carpenter Memorial Scholarship Application with all relevant supporting documents by the deadlines below. If you have any questions, please contact scholarships@sdi.edu.

- By Noon Mountain Standard Time on November 30 for the spring award.
- By Noon Mountain Standard Time on May 31 for the fall award.

Essay: Applicants must answer the prompt (maximum 1,000 words). The essay will be based on quality, content, organization, and proper formatting, grammar, and spelling.

- The essay prompt will be published on the application and is subject to change during each scholarship cycle
- The essay should be submitted as a .pdf file that contains a cover page, is double-spaced, and in 12-point Times New Roman font. Your viewpoint and the essay's purpose should be clearly established and sustained. The essay should follow the conventions of Standard American English (correct grammar,

punctuation, etc.).

Award Procedures: Applicants will receive an email notification regarding their award status approximately 30 days after the scholarship application deadline.

- The chosen recipient must respond within 30 days, indicating their intent to accept the scholarship.
- Students who are awarded an SDI Scholarship are responsible for the charges obtained within the semester in which they are currently enrolled. The SDI Scholarship will be awarded at the start of the next full semester after the approval date.
- Scholarship recipients may only be awarded this scholarship once.. This policy ensures that the available funds can support a broader range of students in achieving their educational goals.

Page 30 under Tuition, Fees, and Completion Time by Program remove the current chart and replace with the following chart:

| Program | Credit Hours | Tuition Per Credit Hour | Education Resource Fee per Semester* | Optional Materials Fee | Total Program Cost | CA STRFF** | Total Program Cost (CA Only) | Expected Completion Terms *** |
|---|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Associate of Science in Firearms Technology | 60 | \$360.00 | \$700.00 | N/A | \$24,400.00 | \$0 | \$24,400.00 | 4 |
| Associate of Science in Uncrewed Technology | 60 | \$360.00 | \$700.00 | N/A | \$24,400.00 | \$0 | \$24,400.00 | 4 |
| Certificate in Firearms Technology - Gunsmithing | 32 | \$360.00 | \$700.00 | N/A | \$12,920.00 | \$0 | \$12,920.00 | 2 |
| Certificate in Firearms Technology - Handgun Specialist | 16 | \$455.00 | \$700.00 | \$1,200 | \$7,980.00 or \$9,180.00 | \$0 | \$7,980.00 or \$9,180.00 | 1 |
| Certificate in Uncrewed Technology - Aerial Systems | 16 | \$360.00 | \$700.00 | N/A | \$6,460.00 | \$0 | \$9,180.00 | 1 |
| Individual Courses | 1-4 Varies | \$360 per credit hour | \$700.00 | N/A | Varies | \$0 | \$6,460.00 | 4-,5-or 8-weeks |

* The Associate of Science in Firearms Technology and the Associate of Science in Uncrewed Technology Educational Resource Fee is billed at \$700 per semester, not to exceed 4 semesters. The Certificate in Firearms Technology – Gunsmithing Educational Resource Fee is billed at \$700 per semester, not to exceed 2 semesters. The Certificate in Uncrewed Technology – Aerial Systems and Certificate in Firearms Technology – Handgun Specialist Educational Resource Fee is billed at \$700 per semester, not to exceed one semester.

** California law mandates the collection of a Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF) fee: \$0 per \$1,000 of institutional charges. Only California residents were required previously to pay the fee. See California Students Only section for more information.

*** Students may complete the program in less time based on year-round enrollment opportunities. Part-time students may take longer to complete.

Page 50 under Grievance Procedure there is a change to the first paragraph and the Grievance Procedure now reads as follows:

STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A student is encouraged to discuss academic progress, suggestions, or concerns with Sonoran Desert Institute staff, faculty, or administration. It is suggested that the student contact the staff by email or telephone. For concerns related to Satisfactory Academic Progress or academic standing, please refer to the SAP appeals process for more details. For matters related to grade disputes or corrections, please refer to the Grade Disputes and Corrections section of the current SDI Catalog. For any other concern, grievance, or complaint that is not satisfactorily addressed through informal conversation, the student may submit a formal complaint relating to the following unresolved areas:

- Administration
- Finance
- Technical issues
- Faculty performance
- Program content

The formal complaint must be in writing and submitted online using the form available at <https://sdi.edu/about-us/student-grievance-procedures/>. The student should include information regarding any informal conversations about the issue.

When the Institute receives an SDI Student Grievance Form, the Grievance Committee will contact the staff/faculty members directly involved and attempt to reach a resolution. Within 15-business days after receipt of the SDI Student Grievance Form, the Grievance Committee will provide the student with a written response of the Institute's decision.

If not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal that decision in writing, to the Institute's president. The president will respond to the student within 15-business days after receipt of the appeal. The decision of the president is final, and the Institute will conclude the investigation regarding the grievance. If the student's complaint cannot be resolved after exhausting the Institute's grievance procedure, the student may file a complaint with the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education. The student must contact the State Board for further details. The State Board mailing address and contact information is listed below. The Grievance Committee will keep a log of all formal complaints.

Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education
1740 W. Adams, 3rd Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Phone: 602-542-5709
Website: <https://ppse.az.gov/student-complaint-procedure>

The student may also file a complaint with the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC). Their contact information is listed below.

Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC)
1101 17th Street NW, Suite 808
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-234-5100
Fax: 202-332-1386
Website: www.deac.org

California Students Complaint Policy

An individual may contact the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education for review of a complaint. The bureau may be contacted at:

P.O. Box 980818
West Sacramento, CA 95798-0818
Phone: 916-574-8900 | Fax: 916-263-1897
Website: <https://www.bppe.ca.gov/enforcement/complaint.shtml>

Page 59 under Associate of Science Uncrewed Technology Program, Page 68 under Certificate in Uncrewed Technology, and Page 71 under Course Descriptions remove the prerequisite requirements from the following courses:

- UAS202: UAS Aviation Management
- UAS205: Geospatial Information Systems
- UAS234: sUAS Thermography Level 1

Page 67 under Tools and Equipment remove the following:

Tools and equipment are provided to students by the Institute at no cost to the student. These items are shipped to the student with other learning materials and will belong to the student. Please visit <https://sdi.edu/sdi-lab-tools-list> for a comprehensive list of supplies required for the completion of assignments, per current course offerings.

Replace with:

Sonoran Desert Institute offers an optional, non-refundable materials fee assessed each term for the Certificate in Firearms Technology - Handgun Specialist program. This fee is designed to streamline students' access to required materials by providing a convenient and cost-effective option. All materials covered by the fee will be shipped directly from SDI to the student, with the exception of firearms, which will be shipped to the student's selected Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) in accordance with federal regulations.

During the application and enrollment process, students must choose whether to opt into or out of the materials fee. This selection will remain in effect for the duration of enrollment.

Students who opt in will receive all the required materials for their registered courses and the per term charge will be posted to their account ledger.

Students who opt out are fully responsible for acquiring all required materials independently, prior to the start of classes, and at their own expense. SDI assumes no responsibility for delays or errors related to students who opt out. Students who opt out of the materials fee must ensure that all tools and materials meet SDI specifications. Incorrect or incompatible materials may delay impact a student's ability to complete assignments.

If a student withdraws from SDI, no further materials will be shipped. The optional materials fee is non-refundable once supplies are shipped, even if the student subsequently withdraws or discontinues from the program.

A list of required materials is available [HERE](#)
