



AIR FORCE ROTC

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

https://www.afrotc.com https://www.afrotc.umn.edu





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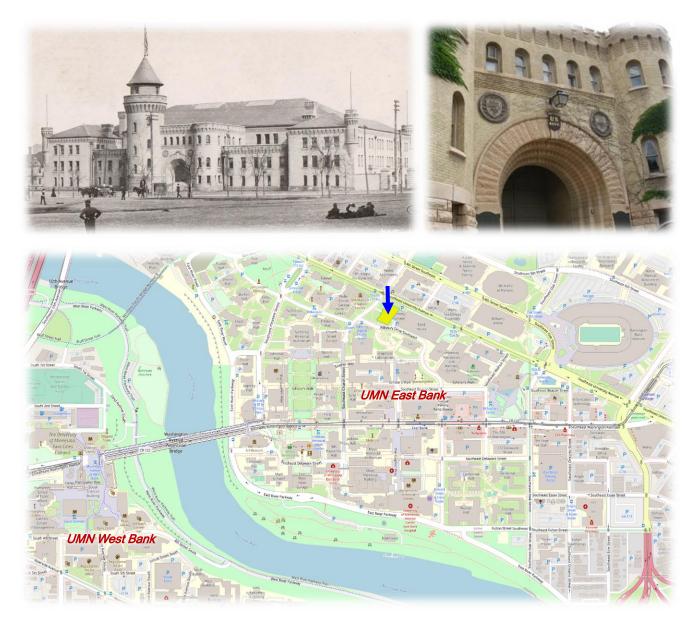
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Preface

Greetings from Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 415 at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities! Our mission is to develop quality leaders for the Air Force and Space Force and we accomplish this through an integrated training program that combines academics, physical fitness, military training, and character development. Air Force ROTC has a strong tradition at the University of Minnesota as it stood up its first cadet corps in July 1949.

We are located in the historic Armory building built in 1896 that has trained officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines for over a century.

Address: 15 Church St SE, Minneapolis, MN



Program Overview and Requirements

1.1 What is AFROTC?

Air Force ROTC develops the leaders of tomorrow by preparing students to become officers in the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force while earning a college degree. In AFROTC, you will not only build lifelong friendships, but you may also have the opportunity to pay for school through our scholarship programs. Most importantly, unlike many other college students, you will have a rewarding career waiting for you after graduation.

1.2 How do I join AFROTC?

All you need to do to join AFROTC is be enrolled as a full-time student at the University of Minnesota and register for the Aerospace Studies elective class (AIR 1104 for Fall or AIR 1105 for Spring) and Leadership Laboratory (AIR 1000).

<u>Note</u>: Our Detachment does not have a cross-town agreement with other universities, so if you are attending a different college and want to participate in AFROTC, you should find out if your school offers AFROTC or has a cross-town agreement with another university. Go to <u>https://www.afrotc.com/college-locator/</u> to find universities with AFROTC!

1.3 What will be my time commitment in the program?

Your initial time commitment joining AFROTC will be a minimum of 5-7 hours during the week on top of your normal academic schedule. This will encompass a 1-hour Aerospace Studies (AS) elective class for <u>underclassmen</u> (typically your first 2 years); 3 hours per week for <u>upperclassmen</u> (your last 2 years), a 2-hour leadership laboratory, and two 1-hour physical fitness training sessions each week. Occasionally, there may be weekend training but most often that is optional and morale based.



1.4 What is Aerospace Studies?

Aerospace Studies (AS) is the academic portion of AFROTC. Each AS class is designed to cover a specific area of Air Force instruction like basic leadership principles, theories of air warfare, communicating effectively, national security, and preparations for life on active duty. Cadets are required to take the AS class of their corresponding year group (AS100 for freshmen, AS200 for sophomores, AS300 for juniors, AS400 for seniors).

If you join the program your sophomore year (we have many do this each Fall), then you will take both the AS100 and AS200 classes at the same time. This adds only 1 additional hour per week and 1 credit to your course load.

1.5 What is Leadership Laboratory (Lead Lab)?

Lead Lab is the hands-on portion of AFROTC military training which is specific to the year group or phase of the program each cadet is in.

The General Military Course (GMC) is the foundational phase of Lead Lab for cadets in their freshman or sophomore year. The GMC will be learning the very basics of the Air Force from drill & ceremonies, customs & courtesies, and group leadership problem solving. During the spring semester of sophomore year, they will enter Field Training Preparation (FTP) which is a more focused training phase to prepare cadets to attend Field Training that summer.

After successfully completing Field Training, the next phase is the Professional Officer Course (POC) for cadets in their junior and senior years. During Lead Lab, the POC are in training positions to plan and conduct training for the GMC or they have hands-on roles in the management of Detachment operations such as uniform and supply logistics, recruiting, or public communications.



1.6 What is Field Training?

Field Training is a 17-day cadet basic training event at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, and traditionally occurs the summer between a cadet's sophomore and junior year (halfway through AFROTC). Cadets in their sophomore year of the program will have their records (academic, military, physical fitness) reviewed before a board to compete nationwide for an Enrollment Allocation (EA) to go to Field Training. For Summer 2023 Field Training, selection

was approximately 75%. The selection rate changes each year based on the needs of the Air Force and Space Force.

At Field Training, cadets are evaluated on their leadership and teamwork skills, physical fitness, and Air Force/Space Force knowledge.

1.7 Does AFROTC offer any other training opportunities?

Yes, AFROTC offers a variety of specialized opportunities called Professional Development Training (PDTs). These PDTs are primarily held over the summer but occasionally occur during the year. They are also fully funded, meaning your travel costs, lodging, and most of your meals are covered by AFROTC. These are competitive and available to all cadets, whether you are on scholarship or not. See highlighted PDTs below:

- Project Global Officer (GO) travel abroad for foreign language immersion
- <u>Field Training Capstone</u> Air Force or Space Force base visits immediately following Field Training to experience active duty officer careers, flying operations, missions, and base life
- <u>U.S. Air Force Academy</u> freefall parachute training, glider flight training, space program training, multi-domain warfare training ... all at USAFA
- <u>Exposure to flight and space operations</u> helicopter/tilt-rotor, RED FLAG exercise, global strike/bombers, space operations, and NATO orientation
- <u>Air Force Research Laboratory</u> internships (multiple)
- <u>Cyber warfare</u> internships (multiple)
- <u>Air Force & Space Force Senior Leader</u> conferences and leadership seminars (multiple)
- ... and many more!



https://afrotc.umn.edu/

1.8 Are there any special clubs or programs at the detachment?

Yes, Detachment 415 offers several organizations that cadets can be a part of outside of regular training. These programs are <u>not mandatory</u> but enhance a cadet's level of involvement and leadership in the Detachment. Specific organization info below:

- <u>Arnold Air Society</u> professional, honorary, nationally recognized service organization advocating the support of air and space power
- <u>Eagles Drill Team</u> select group of cadets who perform rifle drill routines at various events; a great way to attend local sporting games and represent the military
- <u>Flying Gophers Running Club</u> promotes running, camaraderie, and self-improvement through weekly practices and national competitive races during the year
- <u>Special Warfare Airmen Prep</u> (dependent on numbers) highly motivated cadets interested in or preparing for the Air Force's special operations career fields

1.9 Will I need to purchase uniforms for AFROTC?

No, all required uniforms will be provided to cadets in AFROTC at no cost. Cadets enrolled in the program must complete all in-processing actions and paperwork prior to being issued uniforms.

1.10 Do cadets have any special living arrangements?

Yes, there are optional, designated dorms for AFROTC students at the ROTC Living and Learning Community (LLC). It is located at 17th Hall Avenue dormitories across the street from the Armory building. Cadets who are interested in living in these dorms must coordinate their preference with the University housing office. Living in these dorms is <u>not mandatory</u>.

Enrollment Standards

2.1 What standards do I have to meet while in the program?

While in AFROTC, you must maintain academic, military, physical fitness, and medical accessions standards. Below are the requirements for each cadet:

- Maintain minimum 2.0 GPA (non-scholarship); 2.5 GPA (scholarship)
- Must receive at least a C- in your Aerospace Studies courses
- Complete 17-day Field Training at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
- Pass one official Physical Fitness Assessment every term (cadets not on contract yet are required to only attempt the Physical Fitness Assessment each term)
- Must take the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT) by 31 December of your AS200 year and pass the AFOQT within their first 2-3 attempts
- Meet height and weight standards
- Must be at or below a set body mass index (BMI) to activate scholarship, attend Field Training, and commission

- Be medically qualified via a Department of Defense Medical Evaluation Review Board (DoDMERB) or Medical Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) physical and have no adverse changes in your medical condition during the program
- No adverse involvements with civil authorities
- Maintain good character and adjust to a military environment

2.2 What is the AFOQT?

The Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT) is the Air Force's standardized examination (similar to an ACT or SAT) which measures the aptitudes of officer candidates. The minimum scores required to contract and commission are a Verbal score of 15 and a Quantitative score of 10. The AFOQT also contains sections for each rated (flying career) category - Pilot, Remotely Piloted Aircraft, Combat Systems Officer, and Air Battle Manager. Cadets who want to apply for rated careers (e.g. flying careers) must score a minimum of 25 in the rated category they want to apply for.

2.3 What are the medical qualifications?

All cadets must have a certified medical examination from the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DoDMERB) or Medical Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) before they can activate a scholarship, attend Field Training, contract and enter the POC, and commission.

In the event of an injury or other change in medical status, a previously certified physical is no longer considered "qualified/certified." When this occurs, depending on the injury or medical matter, a cadet is typically entered into a Medical Recheck Status (MRS). MRS allows a cadet who is temporarily not medically qualified to continue receiving AFROTC stipend and scholarship benefits while seeking treatment and recovering.

2.4 How do I pass the fitness test?

Cadets will be officially tested at least once a term using the Air Force fitness test comprised of a 1.5-mile run, 1 minute of push-ups, and 1 minute of sit-ups. There is also a height and weight measurement to determine BMI. If a cadet fails BMI, a waist measurement and neck measurement may be required. Below are the male and female fitness standards for ages 29 and under:

Event	Max	Min	Max	Min
Lvon	(Male)	(Male)	(Female)	(Female)
Run 1.5 mile	9:12	13:36	10:23	16:22
Push-ups	67	33	47	18
Sit-ups	58	42	54	38
Waist Measure	<u><</u> 35.0"	39.0"	<u><</u> 31.5"	35.5"

2.5 Can I still join AFROTC after my freshman year?

Yes, you can still join AFROTC after your freshman year. If you join as a traditional sophomore, you will take <u>both</u> the freshmen (AS100) and sophomore (AS200) classes and prepare to go to Field Training the following summer. This adds only 1 additional hour per week and 1 credit to your course load. It is designed to catch you up to your peers who joined as traditional freshmen.

Although AFROTC is designed for a 4-year undergraduate program, you can join at any point as long as you have a <u>minimum of 3 years remaining in your academic plan</u> which can also include some or all graduate courses. <u>Note</u>: AFROTC will not fund scholarships for a second undergraduate degree or for those students who enroll in AFROTC while in a graduate program. Scholarships are for undergraduate coursework leading to a conferred bachelor's degree—scholarship use for graduate work is rare, by exception, and requires special request and approval (e.g. not guaranteed).

2.6 Can I enter the program with enlisted military experience?

Yes, students with prior enlisted military experience from any branch can enter AFROTC. Having enlisted military experience may also allow you to be waived from the initial first-year training requirements.

If you are currently enlisted in the Air Force, you can apply for the Airman Scholarship & Commissioning Program (ASCP) or the Scholarships for Outstanding Airmen and Guardians to ROTC (SOAR) programs. These programs allow you to separate from service and receive a scholarship (up to \$18,000 per year) to pursue your bachelor's degree and commission through AFROTC. Contact your base education office for more information on these programs.

2.7 Can I enter the program if I am currently in the Guard or Reserves?

Yes, students who currently serve in the Guard or Reserves can enter AFROTC. However, we will need a signed conditional release from your Guard or Reserve unit in order for you to compete for a Field Training EA. The conditional release memorandum authorizes your release from the Guard or Reserve and into active duty Air Force service NLT 30 days before your commissioning date. The conditional release is a requirement. There are opportunities to commission into the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve and that is a separate application process within AFROTC.

Scholarships

3.1 Are there any scholarships available through AFROTC?

3.1.1 For High School Applicants

Yes, high school students (or those without full-time college experience) may apply for 4-year scholarships through the High School Scholarship Program (HSSP). The HSSP window is open from July - January each year. Applicants must submit an online application through https://www.afrotc.com/apply. The application will be followed by an interview at your local AFROTC Detachment that will be scored and submitted as part of your scholarship application.

Eligibility requirements for HSSP:

- Be a United States citizen or obtain U.S. citizenship by the last day of the first term of their freshman year (for 4 year offers)
- Minimum SAT score of 1240 or ACT score of 26
- Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.0 or higher
- Complete the Physical Fitness Assessment consisting of three events: push-ups, situps, and a 1.5-mile run
- Must pass a Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB) medical exam

HSSP scholarship awardees are offered:

- Full tuition and fees, \$900 for textbooks
- Usable at any school with an AFROTC program (including cross-town schools)

2019 National stats for HSSP awardees:

- SAT: 1463
- ACT: 33
- GPA: 3.96

3.1.2 For Current College Students

Yes, freshman and sophomore students may be eligible for the In-College Scholarship Program (ICSP). The program awards scholarships based on merit during one selection phase (Spring semester). Availability of these scholarships changes from year-to-year based on Department of Air Force funding.

ICSP scholarships awardees are offered:

- <u>Type 1 Commander's In-College Scholarship</u> (one per Detachment Commander)
 - Pays full tuition and fees, \$900 for textbooks
 - Must stay at the same Detachment it is awarded from
 - <u>Type 2 In-College Scholarship</u> (from selection phase)
 - Pays up to \$18,000 tuition and fees per year, \$900 for textbooks

- <u>Charles McGee Leadership Award</u> (CMLA)
 - If not already on scholarship, all cadets are automatically awarded this once they complete Field Training
 - Pay up to \$18,000 tuition and fees per year
 - Used for undergraduate coursework only
- <u>DoD Flagship Language Program</u>
 - Automatic to cadets who gain entry to the University of Minnesota's Chinese Flagship Program (as a freshman/sophomore/GMC), have that language as their primary major for AFROTC, and meet the qualifications for a scholarship: GPA, PFA, DODMERB qualified, have a passing AFOQT (if taken)
 - Cadets admitted into a Flagship program will be awarded a Type 2 in-college scholarship starting the semester admitted and is good for 2.5-4 years or through the cadet's senior year; the 5th year of the program is covered by the DoD's Language and National Security Education Office
 - More information about UMN's Flagship Program can be found at the following link: <u>https://cla.umn.edu/chinese-flagship</u>

3.2 Are room and board provided as part of an AFROTC scholarship?

No, room and board are not provided as part of an AFROTC scholarship. For some scholarships, there is an option to convert the \$18,000 per year for tuition/fees to \$10,000 per year for dormitory or university-contract housing, but eligibility varies.

Beginning in Fall 2023, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities has started offering \$6,000 per year housing scholarships to a <u>very limited number</u> of high school (HSSP) awardees. Cadets are selected for this scholarship by the Detachment cadre based on their HSSP applications. This funding is new, exciting, and we hope to expand this opportunity with the University in the future.

3.3 Are there other stipends available in AFROTC?

Yes, any cadet on scholarship or in the POC will be entitled to a monthly stipend. Amounts differ by year group:

- Freshmen \$300
- Sophomore \$350
- Junior \$450
- Senior \$500

Careers

4.1 How will I know what my job is in the Air Force or Space Force?

During your junior year, you will complete a survey and submit a list of your top jobs in order of preference by Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSCs) or Space Force Careers which will be

submitted to the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) for matching. Jobs will be matched based on Air Force and Space Force needs, academic degree (to an extent), a cadet's qualifications, class standing, and preferences. Once you are matched to a job, you will follow a similar process to be matched to the base you will go to for your first assignment. This may be your initial skills training base (e.g. your job) or a temporary base while waiting for a class spot to open at your initial skills training base.

4.2 What career fields are available for my degree program?

Although academic degrees are not a guarantee of any specific career field, there are some degrees that have a stronger application to certain jobs. Below are several degree programs and the jobs that most closely apply. <u>Note</u>: Some jobs have no direct correlation to a degree such as pilot, combat systems operator, or special operations; those jobs often consider any degree of study. An asterisk (*) indicates both Air Force and Space Force careers.

Aerospace, Aeronautical, Astronautical Engineering Developmental Engineer*

Architectural Engineering Civil Engineer

Biomedical Engineering Bioenvironmental Engineer Developmental Engineer*

Business, Management, Accounting, Finance <u>Airfield Ops</u> <u>Aircraft Maintenance</u> <u>Contracting</u> <u>Financial Manager</u> <u>Acquisitions</u>* <u>Logistics Readiness</u> <u>Personnel</u>

Communications, Journalism Public Affairs Information Operations

Chemistry, Biochemistry Chemist Bioenvironmental Engineer

Computer Science Cyberspace/Cyber Warfare Operations* Acquisitions* Space Operations*

Criminal Justice, Criminology Security Forces







Office of Special Investigations

Engineering

Developmental Engineering* Acquisitions* Aircraft Maintenance Civil Engineering Space Operations* Cyberspace/Cyber Warfare Operations*

History, Economics, Political Science, Geography

Public Affairs Information Operations Intelligence* Logistics Readiness

Foreign Languages

Public Affairs Intelligence* Information Operations Contracting

Mathematics

Operations Research Analyst Acquisitions Manager* Contracting

Physics, Nuclear Engineering Physicist/Nuclear Engineering

Psychology Information Operations Intelligence*

Sociology Security Forces

... along with many other degrees-to-career alignments.

4.3 How can I join the Space Force?

The U.S. Space Force (USSF) is the newest branch of the Armed Forces. It was established on December 20, 2019. Air Force ROTC is a direct pathway into the Space Force if you are a cadet who applies for and receives a Space Force EA before attending Field Training. Those cadets are classified as Space Operations Officers or another Space Force career such as Intelligence, Cyber Operations, Developmental Engineer, and Acquisitions depending on the needs of the Space Force and their career preferences.







Students that want to enter the Space Force can identify that interest during the High School Scholarship Program process. In the future, the Department of the Air Force intends to award HSSP scholarships to Space Force applicants so they enter AFROTC under the Space Force construct (whereas now, students enter as Air Force cadets and transition to Space Force cadets between their sophomore and junior years).

To learn more about USSF careers, please visit the <u>U.S. Space Force page</u> on the U.S. Air Force website.

4.4 How can I become a pilot?

Cadets interested in becoming a pilot or other flying career field, such as Combat Systems Officer, Remotely Piloted Aircraft, or Air Battle Manager, will compete in an annual rated board separately from the other career fields. Cadets must nominate themselves for the board and have a completed Pilot Candidate Selection Method (PCSM) score which is calculated based on their Test of Basic Aviation Skills (TBAS) score, any flight hours they have accumulated, and their AFOQT rated category score. AFROTC will make rated selections based on a cadet's PCSM score, Commander ranking, Field Training ranking, cumulative GPA, and Physical Fitness Assessment. The rated board is considered competitive and cadets thinking about flying or desiring to fly should work towards maximizing these components from the start of the program.

<u>Note</u>: When cadets nominate themselves for the board, they will be subject to selection for any/all rated positions based on the order of their preferences.

4.5 How can I become an officer in healthcare professions?

<u>Nursing</u>: All cadets majoring in Nursing, must compete for a nursing EA to Field Training. They must also pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) after graduation before they are commissioned as a nurse.

<u>Other Health Professions</u>: Cadets interested in a health profession careers such as doctor, dentist, or other healthcare professional must apply for the Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP). HPSP is an Air Force initiative designed to provide financial assistance to students who are physically and academically qualified to become Air Force officers and are interested in attaining one of several types of health-related degrees. In exchange, these officers serve an active duty service obligation in the United States Air Force Medical Service.

To be eligible for HPSP, cadets must:

- Complete an Application and Interview Process to include a medical examination
- Meet a scheduled selection board
- Have a high undergraduate GPA (minimum 3.2)
- MCAT of 494 or over, with all scores at least 8
- Applicants with a 505 MCAT and a 3.5 GPA may be eligible for automatic selection without having to compete

The HPSP process typically occurs during the summer before the cadet's senior year. Cadets who are selected for the HPSP <u>must be *independently* accepted into a medical school</u> to fulfill the scholarship program (e.g. the cadet's responsibility) or they will commission into a non-medical Air Force career field.

4.6 How can I become a Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer?

Cadets who want to become a JAG or lawyer in the Air Force can apply for the Educational Delay Program. The Educational Delay Program is a 3-year program for officers commissioned through AFROTC who want to delay their entry onto active duty in order to study law. In order to apply, cadets must:

- Be in good academic standing
- Have applied and ultimately be admitted to a daytime J.D. program at an ABAapproved law school
- Complete the AFROTC program and obtain a commission as a Second Lieutenant

Additionally, there are options to apply to the JAG corps upon acceptance to the University of Minnesota's Law School via the Graduate Law Program or One-Year College Program. For more information visit: <u>https://www.airforce.com/careers/specialty-careers/jag/entry-programs/student</u>

Life after AFROTC

5.1 How long will my service commitment be after completing AFROTC?

The majority of Air Force careers require a 4-year commitment upon entering active duty; however, there are rated (flying) career fields which require the following commitments:

- Pilot: 10-year commitment after completion of pilot training
- Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA): 6-year commitment after completion of RPA training
- Combat Systems Operator (CSO): 6-year commitment after completion of CSO training
- Air Battle Manager (ABM): 6-year commitment after completion of ABM training

5.2 How much will I be paid in the Air Force?

As of July 2023, a Second Lieutenant's salary ranges from approximately \$55,000 - \$82,000 a year (before taxes and including BAS & BAH, your food and housing allowance respectively) depending on the location of your first duty station and the nature of your job. Your job may also offer incentive or bonus pay (rated careers, medical professions, etc). Additionally, your pay will increase three ways: incrementally for <u>every 2 years</u> of service, <u>annually each January</u> if approved by Congress in the military budget, and <u>as you are promoted</u> to the next higher rank.

Yes, there are variety of special benefits and pay that an officer may be entitled to but some standard entitlements are:

- 30 days of leave (paid time off) per year
- TRICARE medical coverage (includes vision) and dental coverage
- Free on-base housing or a housing allowance for living off base (correlated to the cost of living in the zip code you are assigned)
- Subsistence/food allowance (correlated to the annual food cost index)
- Up to 100% of advanced education tuition and certifications covered through the Tuition Assistance Program or G.I. Bill
- Automatic retirement plan contributions with employer/DoD matching (called the Thrift Saving Plan (TSP) which is equivalent to a civilian 401k)
- Retirement pension eligible at 20 years of service

5.4 How often will I deploy in the Air Force?

Your deployment schedule will depend on your career field. For example, there are career fields that have a much higher deployment tempo due to their operational nature. Most support career fields follow a 1:3 dwell ratio which means they are eligible to deploy (although not guaranteed) for a 6-month period followed by a 18-month non-deployable period. The benefit of the Air Force is that all members know their eligible window which enables them to better prepare family, friends, and life for potential deployments. Outside this predictability, short notice deployments and temporary duties (TDYs) are always a factor in the military given the nature of responsibilities and evolving challenges to national security.

Contact Information for More Questions

Please reach out to our Recruiting Officer, Major Stephanie Servi

at afrotc@umn.edu or (612) 626-2279.



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