

Pittsburgh Air Force ROTC Overview for Prospective Students



The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) provides you the opportunity to become a United States Air Force officer while completing your college degree. The program, combining traditional undergraduate education with military instruction, will prepare you to tackle the leadership challenges awaiting the Air Force in the 21st century. Your AFROTC program is hosted by the University of Pittsburgh; however, nearly every university in the Pittsburgh area allows you to participate in AFROTC at Pitt. We are confident you can find a program tailored to your abilities and goals.



Scholarships

Although you do not need a scholarship to join the AFROTC program, two-, three- and three-and-a-half year scholarships are available to qualified undergraduate and graduate students who join the AFROTC program.

Scholarships pay up to \$18,000/year towards tuition, plus \$900 for books/year and a tax-free monthly allowance that ranges from \$300-\$500/month during the academic year.

Along with the traditional AFROTC scholarship, we also offer Express Scholarships in specific fields of study and year groups. The list of approved fields of study and year groups varies from time to time and may change at any time without notice. Currently, certain Engineering, Foreign Language and Nursing majors with a 2.5 cumulative GPA or above are eligible for this scholarship. To obtain a list of qualified languages or additional scholarship information, contact our Unit Admissions Officer at (412) 624-6358.



Curriculum

As an AFROTC cadet, you may pursue any of the academic opportunities available at your school. Along with your other university courses, you enroll in one AFROTC course per semester through the Department of Aerospace Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. These courses, along with a four- or six-week summer field training, provide the framework for your officer training.

General Military Course: The first two years of the program, the General Military Course (GMC), require one hour of classroom work and two hours of leadership laboratory each week. This one-credit class introduces how the Air Force is structured, what it means to be an officer, Air Force history, and military customs and courtesies. It presents a solid overview of military life without demanding excessive time during your adjustment to university life. You will also be taught many skills that will help you succeed in college and beyond - time management, communication, and team-building skills. Unless you are an Air Force scholarship recipient, you do not incur a military commitment while in this course. Though the General Military Course is an outstanding opportunity to try out the Air Force at no obligation, it is also your opportunity to prove that you can be a leader in the Air Force. Everything you achieve during this time--your GPA, physical fitness, and performance as a cadet will be evaluated. Everything you demonstrate--your leadership, dedication, and commitment will be assessed. By the end of your second year, you will be ready to compete for entry into the next phase of the program--Field Training.

Field Training: An intensive, four- or six-week program you attend the summer after your second year gives you a first-hand look at the active-duty Air Force and develops your military leadership and discipline. You will participate in sport competitions, junior officer education, marksmanship, survival skills, and physical fitness training. When you finish, you will be ready to return to your school and assume a position of leadership within AFROTC.

Professional Officer Course: The Professional Officer Course (POC) requires three hours of classroom work each week in addition to two hours of leadership laboratory. During your two years in this course, you will focus on leadership and management training, communication skills, and national defense policy. **All students who enroll in the POC receive a monthly, non-taxable \$450-\$500 allowance, whether on scholarship or not.**

Leadership Lab: In AFROTC, we do not simply teach you about leadership, we give you a chance to put learning into action. The weekly leadership laboratory is a cadet-run activity, planned and carried out by POC cadets. Activities can include drill and ceremony instruction, physical fitness training, sports competition, and guest speaker presentations. Besides conducting leadership laboratories, you will help lead and manage the cadet wing to prepare yourself for your future responsibilities as a Second Lieutenant.

Physical Training: In addition to your weekly Aerospace class and Leadership Lab, you are required to participate in two hours of Physical Training each week. These sessions are cadet-led, or on your own depending on how far your university is from Pitt, and are intended to help you maintain excellent physical condition and pass the required AFROTC Physical Fitness Assessment.

Optional Summer Programs (besides Field Training): You will also have the option to compete for many of the exciting optional summer training programs AFROTC offers. You can shadow a junior officer in a career field of your interest, attend a Foreign Language Immersion in several countries throughout the world, complete Army Airborne Training, or experience Combat Survival School. Also, you can return to field training as a cadet training assistant, work at NASA as a research assistant, visit the Pentagon to see how the Air Force operates, or even to England under the Royal Air Force's British Exchange Program. Whichever activity you choose, the Air Force provides your transportation, meals, lodging, and a daily expense allowance.

Other Activities: Throughout the year, optional activities take place to help students learn more about the Air Force and to have fun. These activities may include a visit to an active-duty Air Force base, aircraft orientation rides, paint ball, rock climbing, a Dining Out (a formal ball, rich in Air Force tradition), and many more.

Qualifications

You don't need to be on scholarship to join Air Force ROTC. As long as you meet the requirements below you can join AFROTC within your first two years of college.

To enroll in the **GMC**, you must be:

- a full-time student and
- at least 14 years old (17 for scholarship recipients)
- in good physical condition and of good moral character

To enroll in the **POC**, you must also:

- be a United States citizen
- be at least 18 years old (17 with parental consent)
- be physically qualified
- have two academic years remaining
- pass the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test
- complete field training

Air Force Benefits

The Air Force offers you an opportunity to serve your country in a challenging career. Some of the many available career fields include pilot, navigator, developmental engineer, intelligence, communications, security forces, acquisitions, civil engineer, mechanical engineer, logistics, test pilot, scientist, missile officer, chemist, physicist, space operations officer, nurse, physician, pharmacist, aircraft maintenance, personnel, attorney, comptroller, and public affairs.

We also provide fantastic benefits:

- Starting salary of around \$45K, increasing to approximately \$75K in four years (salary varies depending on location and dependent status)
- 30 days vacation with pay each year
- Free medical and dental care
- \$400,000 low-cost life insurance
- Up to 100% of postgraduate tuition paid
- Worldwide travel opportunities
- Full retirement benefits after 20 years of service

What's The Obligation?

After graduating from college and successfully completing all Air Force ROTC requirements, you receive a commission as a Second Lieutenant, with an obligation of four years service in the active duty Air Force. However, Pilots incur a ten-year commitment, and Navigators and Air Battle Managers incur a six-year commitment. Normally, you will enter active duty within thirty days after graduation.



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