Air Force ROTC: WVU Division of Aerospace Studies

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Benefits
Enrolling in AFROTC provides the opportunity to:

• Compete for entry into the Professional Officer Course (POC) and earn an air force commission.
• Earn academic elective credit that can be applied toward the requirements for any undergraduate major at WVU, as well as the leadership studies minor program.
• Compete for AFROTC in-college scholarships that pay up to full tuition, fees, and required textbooks, and provide a tax-free monthly stipend between $250 and $400 based on academic year.
• Receive free career counseling from full-time AFROTC representatives.
• Try AFROTC during freshman and sophomore years without obligation (unless you accept an AFROTC scholarship).
• Develop leadership and managerial skills.

Curriculum
The curriculum in aerospace studies is divided into three distinct areas: leadership laboratory, general military course (GMC), and professional officer course (POC).

Distinguished AFROTC Graduate
The professor of aerospace studies may designate as a distinguished graduate a POC member who:

• Demonstrates superior academic and field training performance
• Possesses outstanding qualities of leadership and high moral character
• Demonstrates clearly exceptional leadership in recognized activities

General Military Course (GMC)
The U.S. Air Force course of study offered during the freshman and sophomore years is the General Military Course (GMC). This is composed of one class hour and two leadership laboratory hours per week. Two credit hours are awarded for each semester course successfully completed. General military courses are open to all WVU students who:

• Are United States citizens (to receive a scholarship)
• Are in good physical condition
• Have good moral character

Leadership Laboratory
Leadership laboratory takes an average of two hours per week, every semester, throughout the student’s enrollment in AFROTC. Instruction is conducted in an organized cadet corps with a progression of experiences designed to develop each student’s leadership potential. Leadership laboratory involves a study of air force customs and courtesies, drill and ceremonies, physical fitness, career opportunities, and the life and work of an air
force junior officer. Students develop leadership potential in a practical, supervised training laboratory, which typically includes field trips to air force installations.

**Nature of Program**

The U.S. Air Force officer education program at WVU has been in existence since 1948 and is designed to provide training that will develop leadership, managerial, and interpersonal skills vital to a professional U.S. Air Force officer. Its purpose is to qualify you for commissioning in the U.S. Air Force. WVU has the only Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) detachment in West Virginia.

**Professional Officer Course (POC)**

The professional officer course (POC) corresponds to the junior and senior years of your academic program. The POC is designed to provide highly qualified junior officers for the U.S. Air Force. Admission is based on such factors as leadership, scholarship, physical qualifications, and academic major. Successful completion of the POC qualifies you for appointment as a second lieutenant in the air force upon college graduation. Instruction averages three hours per week throughout the four semesters, plus leadership laboratory. Three hours of credit are awarded for each of the four semesters of work in the POC program. To qualify for the POC, you must meet all the qualifications for the GMC and:

- Have two academic years remaining
- Be a United States citizen
- Be 18 years old, or 17 with a parent or legal guardian’s consent
- Be physically qualified
- Be selected by a board of U.S. Air Force officers
- Complete a four-week field training course
- Complete all graduation and commissioning requirements as follows:
  - scholarship recipients before age 31 as of December 30 of the year you plan to be commissioned (typically the year you graduate)
  - pilot or navigator candidates before age 29
  - non-flying, non-scholarship students before age 35

**Scholarship Program**

Outstanding students from any academic discipline may be eligible to compete for an in-college scholarship. Each year a number of scholarships are made available for cadets in their Freshman and/or Sophomore year. A large number of scholarships are available for students majoring in engineering, scientific, mathematical, or nursing fields. If you are selected for an AFROTC scholarship, AFROTC will pay up to 100 percent toward tuition, fees, and textbooks, as well as provide a tax-free monthly allowance between $250 and $400 based on academic year. Scholarships are available for two, three, and four years, depending on USAF funding availability.

**Uniform Wear and Deposits**

Air Force ROTC students will be provided and are required to wear a uniform to ROTC classes and leadership laboratories. Air Force ROTC cadets may purchase their uniforms upon successful completion of the ROTC program.

**U.S. Air Force Academy**

The president of WVU may annually nominate five outstanding AFROTC students to the U.S. Air Force Academy. A nomination does not guarantee acceptance into the Air Force Academy. Applicants are recommended by the professor of aerospace studies to the WVU president during January of each year.