

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY AFROTC



DISCLAIMER. Hopefully this document will give you a better understanding of the Air Force ROTC Program. As Air Force needs change, the program specifics also change. This is NOT an "official" Headquarters ROTC document and the information in this document is subject to change without notice at any time.

WHAT IS ROTC?

ROTC is one of three officer commissioning source for the Air Force. We train students during their college years to become Air Force officers, who will enter **active duty** upon graduation- We are different from the ROTC programs you see in high schools. Those are junior ROTC programs with a focus on producing good citizens, not producing military officers.

IS ROTC LIKE THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY? OTS?

In addition to ROTC, there are two other officer commissioning sources: Officer Training School (OTS), and the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA). All three produce the same final product, an Air Force officer on active duty. USAFA is a four-year college, **but** it is run as an intensive, structured military environment 24 hours a day. OTS is a three-month program for those who already have earned a college degree- OTS is also a 24-hour-a-day intense military environment- In ROTC, cadets experience a "normal" college experience while attending Physical Training, a weekly Aero **Space** class, and a weekly Leadership Lab.

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR ADMITTANCE TO AFROTC?

This is not an all-inclusive list, but it hits the areas that concern most people:

Do I have to be a freshman to participate? We can "easily" take students up to the beginning of the second semester of the sophomore year. Beyond that you must meet certain qualification standards. Call us to see if you are eligible.

Do I have to be accepted to Rutgers? To participate in AFROTC you must be a full time student at a school that offers AFROTC or has a cross town agreement with a AFROTC detachment. If not, you must transfer to an AFROTC-affiliated school by the beginning of your junior year. Det 485 has a host agreement with Rutgers University and has cross town agreements with Princeton, Monmouth, TCNJ, Brookdale, DeVry, Embry Riddle, Mercer, Middlesex, Raritan Valley, and Union County.

What if I am not a U.S. Citizen? As a non-U.S. citizen you can participate in the General Military Course (GMC) freshmen and sophomore years. However, you can not be accepted into the Professional Officer Course (POC) junior and senior years of ROTC, commission, or activate scholarship money if you're not a US citizen

What are the age requirements? The minimum age is 14; maximum, it depends. Normally, 30, waived up to 35 years old, but there are opportunities depending on your degree and career field - Call **us**.

Weight? We have fairly stringent height and weight standards but if you are over the maximum weight for your height you can receive a body fat measurement. Men must be under 20% body fat and women must be under 28% body fat.

What if I have an existing medical condition? You will receive a **DoDMERB** (The Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board) and must be medically qualified to activate a scholarship and to commission.

Can I participate if I am a single parent or have custodial care? You can participate but, you'll have to work out dependent care arrangements, in the event that you get deployed in the future.

What if I used illegal drugs in the past? We evaluate applicants using the total person concept. Experimental marijuana may be waived by the detachment commander. Almost everything else will require a waiver from Headquarters AFROTC.

Involvement with law officials or school officials? Any serious involvements will disqualify you: minor infractions might be waived.

What type of grades do I need to be accepted? You must be above 2.0 grade point average to be considered a non-contract cadet. You must have a 2.5 GPA or higher to activate a scholarship.

What if I am in the ANG or AFRES? You can be a GMC (freshman/sophomore), but must get a conditional release from ANG/AFRES before contracting (going into POC).

What if I have prior ROTC/military experience? You must have left on good terms.

What is the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT) minimums? It is a standardized test similar to the SAT or ACT. You can get study guides on line or through a bookstore. You must pass the AFOQT before you can go to field training. To pass you must receive a 15 on verbal portion and 10 on quantitative portion.

Physical Fitness Test? You don't have to pass our physical fitness test right off the bat, but you will have to pass it to attend field training or to activate a scholarship. You will be scored on pushups, sit-ups, a 1.5-mile run, and your waist measurement. Don't worry, we are experts at getting you in shape!

Academic Major? Contrary to a popular misconception, **you don't have to major in science and engineering to participate in AFROTC? You can major in anything**, as long as it leads to a bachelors or masters degree.

What degree is best if I want to be a pilot? Again, it does not matter! When competing for selection as a pilot your GPA will be evaluated not your degree. Engineering, Political Science, and Physical Education majors all have the same opportunity to be selected as a pilot.

WHERE CAN I PARTICIPATE IN AFROTC?

Over 1400 colleges and universities nationwide participate in Air Force ROTC. Approximately 144 colleges are "host" units-that is, the ROTC unit is on that campus. Many colleges are "cross-towns." Students at cross-towns may have to travel to the host university to take their ROTC classes, so keep in mind that there may be travel involved. Usually there are cadets with cars who are willing to help with transportation. Be sure to check with the college you're interested in, to find out whether they are a host or cross-town university for Air Force ROTC and check www.afrotc.com

NOTE: You have to at least have a 4-year bachelor's degree to become an Air Force Officer. If you're attending a two-year college, you'll have to transfer to an AFROTC-affiliated 4-year college for at least your junior and senior years.

DO YOU TEACH ANYWHERE BUT RUTGERS?

We mainly teach at Rutgers but we support several cross-town universities, with whom we have contractual agreements. On occasions, we have taught some classes at Princeton, if warranted. This is an exception, not the rule. Below are our cross-town universities:

Four-Fear Schools

Princeton University
The College of New Jersey
Monmouth University
DeVry University (North Brunswick Campus)
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (McGuire AFB)

Two-Year Schools

Brookdale Community College

Mercer County Community College
Middlesex County College
Raritan Valley Community College
Union County College

Be advised that if you're at one of our "smaller" cross-town schools, such as our community colleges, you'll have to travel to Rutgers for your AFROTC classes. Our cadets are very good about giving each other rides to class, but if you are the only cadet at a particular campus, it does require a certain level of commitment on your part.

CAN AFROTC ACCOMMODATE NON-4-YEAR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS?

College programs longer than four years

We try to work with non-four-year programs. We can generally work with five-year engineering programs. Six-year and longer programs (such as pharmacy or combined undergraduate school programs) are difficult to accommodate, but we try where possible. There are other opportunities for individuals pursuing a professional degree such as pharmacy or law. Contact a local Air Force recruiting office for more details on these specialized programs.

Students with less than 4 years remaining in college

Our program is SUPPOSED to be a 4-year program; however, we can usually accept anyone with 5 semesters of college remaining. If you meet all the eligibility requirements, we may be able to accept you with as little as 4 or even 3 semesters remaining before graduation.

Yes, we can accept grad students as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. It's possible to complete ROTC during a combination of undergrad and grad years.

WHAT'S THE ACTIVE DUTY COMMITMENT?

Cadets do not incur a commitment to the Air Force until either 1) they sign a "contract" for a scholarship, or 2) They enter the Professional Officer Course (POC) the junior and senior years of ROTC. The Active Duty Service Commitment is generally 4 years on active duty after graduation for most career fields. Pilots will incur a 10 year Active Duty Service Commitment upon completion of undergraduate pilot training.

Bottom Line: You can participate in AFROTC with absolutely no commitment until you sign a contract for a scholarship, or you enter the POC (normally the beginning of your junior year), whichever comes first.

WHAT DO AIR FORCE PEOPLE "DO" WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY?

Believe it or not, only a small percentage of Air Force Personnel are pilots or navigators – less than ten percent of the total officer corps. Everyone else supports various Air Force missions

Some AF career fields are as follows: Developmental Engineering, Acquisition, Personnel, Security, medical, Special Operations, Intelligence, Public Affairs, Finance, Air Traffic Control, Logistics, Weather, Communications/Computer, Contracting, Aircraft Maintenance, Space and Missiles, Air Battle Manager, Civil Engineering, etc.

DO I GET TO CHOOSE MY FIRST DUTY ASSIGNMENT?

You will have the opportunity to request your base of preference during your senior year, and the Air Force will try to accommodate you but the AF needs come first. Take advantage of the opportunity to see the U.S. and the world!

DO I HAVE TO BUY ANYTHING TO PARTICIPATE?

ROTC provides your uniforms and ROTC textbooks free of charge, You will have to pay a \$50 deposit on the uniforms; its refundable if you return them when you leave our program.

If you are a non-Rutgers cadet (at one of our crosstown universities) and you're not on an AFROTC scholarship, you'll have to pay tuition for our classes as a visiting student.

DO I HAVE TO WEAR A UNIFORM ALL THE TIME WHILE A CADET?

No. Cadets are only required to wear the Air Force uniform at the following times:

- 1) for one specified weekday per week, during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 2) to any AFROTC class, and LLAB (PT uniform during physical training)
- 3) to AFROTC functions where wear of the uniform is appropriate

Cadets are required to meet Air Force grooming standards and to maintain required standards of physical fitness and weight.

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A CADET?

Let's take it chronologically:

Pre-ROTC:

We conduct a New Student Orientation Program (NSOP) each year, during which our staff and cadets talk with new cadets and their parents about various aspects of AFROTC. The NSOP is held the day before the "normal" Fall Term move-in day at Rutgers. We have permission from the university to allow new Rutgers AFROTC cadets to move into the dorms on that day. We hope NSOP gives parents and students the opportunity to get questions and concerns answered.

The date we conduct NSOP varies year-to-year, according to the Rutgers/New Brunswick calendar. If you do not receive a letter from us by 15 August and would like to attend NSOP, call us and we'll give you the exact date/time/location. Non-Rutgers students and parents are also encouraged to attend.

Freshman Year (AS 100):

You will sign up for the normal sequence of courses for your major. But at the same time, you'll take two AFROTC courses each term.

1. **AS 100** is a 1hr credit course that meets 1 hour/week. It covers AF pay and benefits, what bases are like, military rank structure, etc. You can use AS 100 for elective credit at Rutgers. (*While most colleges accept AFROTC classes for elective credit, some do not--you still have to take them as part of our program*).

Note: When scheduling your classes, keep Friday mornings open--that is when we conduct our Lead Labs.

2. **Leadership Lab (Applies to All AS Courses)** is where you receive "practical" military training. There is no cost to register for LLab and you will not receive academic credit for LLAB. It is held Friday mornings from 0700 - 0900. You will get the opportunity to do different things every week; examples are:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| - Drill and Ceremony | - Team Sports | - Deployment/AEF Familiarity |
| - Water Survival Training | - Career Day | - Self-Defense & Combative Training |
| - Dining In- Base Visits | - Military Ball | - Paintball |

LLAB is developed and implemented by members of the POC. As a GMC you will have the opportunity to learn a lot of skills. As a POC you will develop a semester long syllabus, coordinate all aspects of the training, and lead the events every week. This is your opportunity to develop yourself as a future Air Force Leader!

Physical Conditioning Sessions (Applies to All Cadets)

You'll be required to participate in a group Extra Physical Training (EPT) session two times each week for 1 hour each time. The session can involve running, calisthenics; ply metrics, combative training, and competitive sports.

Cross-town cadets (those attending one of the 10 cross town universities) may be allowed to participate in a self paced (on your own or in a small group) physical training program after passing the Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA). All the details will be worked through your cadet wing and the Commandant of Cadets (COC).

A scored Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) will be offered every semester and all cadets must attempt the PFA. Contracted cadets are required to pass the PFA with a score of 75 or higher. Don't worry, we are experts at getting you into shape!

Cadet Corps Participation (Applies to All Cadets)

The Cadet Wing is organized functionally like an AF "Wing". Since we need to teach followership and leadership, we assigned juniors and seniors (called the "POC") to leadership positions within the corps. The cadets are responsible to plan and run the Leadership Labs. The Commandant of Cadets (COC) will advise and evaluate the Cadet Wing. You, as a GMC cadet (freshmen and sophomore) will be assigned to a squadron with a POC cadet as your Squadron Commander. If you are interested you can volunteer to a part of the recruiting team, public affairs staff, be the Plans Officer, or numerous other opportunities. This gives the cadre a great opportunity to evaluate and mentor cadets. Most cadets feel that they get more practical real world leadership experience through positions in the cadet wing than in through any other aspect of their college experience.

Sophomore Year (AS 200):

You will sign up for the normal sequence of courses for your major. But at the same time, you'll take two AFROTC courses each term.

AS 200 is a 1hr credit course that meets 1 hour/week. It covers Air Force heritage and missions of the AF. You can use AS 200 for elective credit at Rutgers. (*While most colleges accept AFROTC classes for elective credit, some do not--you still have to take them as part of our program*). You will continue to attend LLAB.

Summer after Sophomore Year:

FIELD TRAINING

Field Training (FT) is a 4- or 5-week intensive military training, which each ROTC cadet must complete once, normally during the summer after the cadet's sophomore. FT is ROTC's version of basic training, but for officers. At FT you will receive junior officer training, aircraft and aircrew orientation, survival training, weapons familiarization, combative training, AEF training, and physical training. You'll be expected to lead a group of your fellow cadets to accomplish a task or tasks. Teamwork is key at FT.

Once you complete FT, you can enter the Professional Officer Course (POC)

Junior Year (AS 300)

You will sign up for the normal sequence of courses for your major. But at the same time, you'll take two AFROTC courses each term.

AS 300 is a 3hr credit that meets 3 hour/week. It piggybacks on your field training experience to enhance your leadership skills. It focuses on leadership, management, communication, military law, ethics, and other officer skills. You will continue to attend LLAB, but in more demanding cadet leadership positions. (*While most colleges accept AFROTC classes for elective credit, some do not--you still have to take them as part of our program*).

Senior Year (AS400)

You will sign up for the normal sequence of courses for your major. But at the same time, you'll take two AFROTC courses each term.

AS 400 is a 3hr credit that meets 3 hours/week. It preps you for active duty. You will be assigned a leadership role in LLAB. (*While most colleges accept AFROTC classes for elective credit, some do not--you still have to take them as part of our program*).

Commissioning

At the end of your senior year you will graduate and commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force.

AFROTC SCHOLARSHIPS

Note: *You do not have to be on scholarship to participate in AFROTC--many cadets are in the program just because they want to become AF officers.*

In College Scholarship Programs

Most AFROTC scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis. We look at the "whole person concept". Our ranking system includes such things as GPA, physical fitness, leadership potential, and ROTC involvement.

Express Scholarships

Depending on your major you may qualify for a guaranteed scholarship. The AF offers non-competitive scholarships for students in certain academic majors including certain engineering programs, nursing, and certain languages. These can be adjusted each semester so call us for more details.

Note: *In addition to the tuition/fee benefits outlined below, while a student is on scholarship they are also entitled to the following:*

- *a cash stipend during the academic year (\$300/month for freshmen, and up to \$500/month for seniors)*
- *\$900/year in textbook reimbursement*

AFROTC scholarships will not pay for room and board

Type 1. Pays full tuition and fees at any school offering AFROTC in the nation.

Type 2. Pays tuition and fees UP TO \$15K per year.

Type 3. Pays tuition and fees UP TO \$9K per year.

Type 6. Pays up to \$3K per year in tuition and fees.

Type 7. Pays up to \$9, per year in tuition and fees, but **only** at colleges whose annual tuition/fees are **less than \$9K per year**. The idea here is that the AF can give a lot more scholarships at low-cost (mostly state) universities. A student **cannot** attend a high-cost school and apply the \$9K scholarship and pay the difference out-of-pocket.

Type 8 Upgrade. Converts a Type 2 to a scholarship that pays 80% of a college's tuition and fees. Designed to help student at higher cost universities.

Scholarship Programs

HIGH SCHOOL

High School Scholarship Program (HSSP). Geared toward HS students. HS Seniors must apply (online at www.afrotc.com) no later than December 1st of their senior year. HSSP can be Type 1, 2, or 7 scholarships. Students are ranked according to major, GPA, SAT scores, and an in-person interview.

Commander's Leadership Scholarship (CLS). This is an extension of the HSSP (above) and is meant as a recruiting tool. Each AFROTC detachment commander has a scholarship in his/her "hip pocket" If the commander becomes aware of a really outstanding HS student, the commander can offer that student a Type 1 or 2 scholarship ON THE SPOT, if that student will commit to attending that commander's university.

Did you know that you can participate in AFROTC as an HSSP winner with absolutely no service commitment for your first year? **If at the end of your first year you are in good standing and meet all requirements as a cadet, you can opt out of the AFROTC program and you will not have to pay back any scholarship money.**

IN-COLLEGE

In-College Scholarship Program (ICSP) Phase I and II. There are two scholarship boards that students can meet as college freshmen and sophomore. If you meet the qualification requirements and your grades, fitness scores, and det rankings meet the mark, AFROTC may offer a Type 2 or 3 scholarship.

ICSP Phase II--Type 1 Upgrade. Applicable students can compete to have their Type 2 scholarship upgraded to a Type 1, under a central selection board.

Historical Black Colleges and University (HBCU). Any qualified student (of any race) attending a HBCU (example: Howard University in D.C.) will automatically be awarded a Type 2 scholarship.

Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI). Any qualified student (of any race) attending a HSI (virtually all in the southwestern states: NM, AZ, CA) will automatically be awarded a Type 2 scholarship.

Nursing. If a qualified sophomore nursing student walks into the office, we can offer him/her a Type 2 scholarship on the spot.

ENLISTED

Applies to active duty airmen who want to pursue becoming an officer through AFROTC.

Airman Education and Commissioning Program (AECPP). Airmen remain on active duty while attending the program; so, they receive all pay and benefits while attending school. Plus, they get a Type 2 scholarship.

Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program (ASCP). Airmen must leave the service while pursuing their degree; however, they receive a Type 2 scholarship.

Professional Officer Course-Early Release Program (POC-ERP). Airmen must leave the service. They may compete for a Type 6 scholarship, but there's no guarantee. They can use their Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits, if eligible.

WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER AIR FORCE ROTC?

Air Force ROTC is an opportunity to earn an officer's commission while pursuing your 4-year college degree. Cadets join for many reasons:

- Leadership and management training along with hands-on experience
- Scholarship aid to help pay the ever-increasing expense of undergraduate education
- Guaranteed job after college--with excellent pay and benefits;
- Lasting friendships and camaraderie

WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER THE AIR FORCE?

- The biggest reason: to be part of the world's most respected air and space force. To be part of an institution that's vital to our national security. In other words, to do something important.
- Well-respected profession that offers the experience civilian employers seek
- Work with leading-edge technology on the world's premier aerospace team
- Opportunities for post-graduate educational degrees
- Free space-available flights anywhere in the world
- 30 days vacation with pay each year
- Medical and dental care
- Retirement pension and benefits after only 20 years

Note: The specifics of the above information are subject to change. Hopefully we have answered some questions and concerns. We invite you to visit Detachment 485 and observe one of our Leadership Laboratories to see what really goes on.

For more information:

- see <http://web.rutgers.edu/rotc485>
- give us a call at 732-932-7706,
- or send email to rotc485@rci.rutgers.edu