



AIR FORCE ROTC DET 415 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) Guide

Greetings from Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Detachment 415 at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities! Our mission is to develop quality leaders for the Air Force and we accomplish this through an integrated training program that combines academics, physical fitness, 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 of 1949.

We are located at the historic Armory building - 15 Church St. SE, Minneapolis, MN



AIR FORCE ROTC DET 415 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) Guide

Table of Contents

1. Program Overview and Requirements

- 1.1 [What is AFROTC?](#)
- 1.2 [How do I join AFROTC?](#)
- 1.3 [What will be my time commitment in the program?](#)
- 1.4 [What is Aerospace Studies?](#)
- 1.5 [What is Leadership Laboratory \(Lead Lab\)?](#)
- 1.6 [What is Field Training?](#)
- 1.7 [Does AFROTC offer any other training opportunities?](#)
- 1.8 [Are there any special clubs or programs at the detachment?](#)
- 1.9 [Will I need to purchase uniforms for AFROTC?](#)
- 1.10 [Do cadets have any special living arrangements?](#)

2. Enrollment Standards

- 2.1 [What standards do I have to meet while in the program?](#)
- 2.2 [What is the AFOQT?](#)
- 2.3 [What are the medical qualifications?](#)
- 2.4 [How do I pass the fitness test?](#)
- 2.5 [Can I still join AFROTC after my freshman year?](#)
- 2.6 [Can I enter the program with enlisted military experience?](#)
- 2.7 [Can I enter the program if I am currently in the guard or reserves?](#)

3. Scholarships

- 3.1 [Are there any scholarships available through AFROTC?](#)
 - 3.1.1 [For High School applicants](#)
 - 3.1.2 [For In-College Scholarships](#)
- 3.2 [Are room and board provided as part of an AFROTC scholarship?](#)
- 3.3 [Are there other stipends available in AFROTC?](#)

AIR FORCE ROTC DET 415 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) Guide

4. Careers

[4.1 How will I know what my job is in the Air or Space Force?](#)

[4.2 What career fields are available for my degree program?](#)

[4.3 How can I join the Space Force?](#)

[4.4 How can I become a pilot?](#)

[4.5 How can I become an officer in healthcare professions?](#)

[4.6 How can I become a Judge Advocate General \(JAG\) officer?](#)

5. Life after AFROTC

[5.1 How long will my service commitment be after completing AFROTC?](#)

[5.2 How much will I be paid in the Air Force?](#)

[5.3 Are there other benefits available in the Air Force?](#)

[5.4 How often will I deploy in the Air Force?](#)

Program Overview and Requirements

What is AFROTC?

Air Force ROTC develops the leaders of tomorrow by preparing students to become officers in the U.S. Air Force while earning a college degree. In AFROTC, you'll 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'll have a rewarding career waiting for you after graduation.

How do I join AFROTC?

All you need to do to join AFROTC is be enrolled as full-time student at the University of Minnesota and register for the Aerospace Studies elective class (AIR 1104) and leadership laboratory (AIR 1000).

Note: 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 <https://www.afrotc.com/college-locator/> to find universities with AFROTC!

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 class schedule. This will encompass a 1 hour Aerospace Studies (AS) elective class for **underclassmen**; 3 hours per week for **upperclassmen**, a 2 hour leadership laboratory, and 2 hours of physical fitness training during the week.

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 from basic leadership principles to entering active duty. Cadets are required to take the AS class of their corresponding year group (AS 100 for freshmen, AS 200 for sophomores, AS300 for juniors, AS 400 for seniors).

What is Leadership Laboratory (Lead Lab)?

Lead Lab is the hands-on portion of AFROTC 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 a cadet's sophomore year, they will enter Field Training Preparation (FTP) which is a more focused training phase to prepare cadets for the Field Training in the summer.

AIR FORCE ROTC DET 415 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) Guide

The next phase of the training is for the Professional Officer Course (POC) cadets who have completed Field Training and are in their junior and senior years. During Lead Lab, the POC are either in training positions that plan and conduct training for the GMC or they have hands-on roles in the management of detachment operations and training such as uniform and supply logistics, recruiting, or public communication.

What is Field Training?

Field Training is a two-week cadet basic training event at Maxwell AFB, Alabama and traditionally occurs during the summer between a cadet's sophomore and junior year. Cadets in their sophomore year in the program will compete nationwide for an Enrollment Allocation (EA) to go to Field Training. The selection rate changes each year based on the needs of the Air Force.

At Field Training, cadets are evaluated on their leadership and teamwork skills, physical fitness, and Air Force knowledge. Once cadets complete Field Training, they will enter into the Professional Officer Course (POC) which is the upperclassmen phase of AFROTC in which they will hold various detachment leadership positions.

Does AFROTC offer any other training opportunities?

Yes, AFROTC offers a variety of specialized trainings called professional development training (PDTs). These PDTs are primarily held over the summer but are also available throughout the year. See highlighted PDTs below:

- ***Project Global Officer*** – travel abroad to another country for language immersion
- ***Operation Air Force*** – Air Force base visits to experience active duty officer life
- ***U.S. Air Force Academy*** - freefalling, prep-school training, space program training at USAFA
- **..many more!**

Are there any special clubs or programs at the detachment?

Yes, Det 415 offers several different organizations that cadets can be a part of outside of regular training. These programs are not mandatory but enhance the cadets' level of involvement and leadership in the detachment. Specific organization info below:

- ***Arnold Air Society*** - professional, honorary, service organization advocating the support of aerospace power
- ***Eagles Drill Team*** - elite group of cadets who perform armed drill routines at various events
- ***Flying Gophers Running Club*** - promotes running, camaraderie, and self-improvement through weekly practices and national competitive races during the year
- ***Special Tactics Prep*** - highly motivated cadets interested in or preparing for careers in special Operations

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.

AIR FORCE ROTC DET 415 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) Guide

Do cadets have any special living arrangements?

Yes, there are designated dorms for AFROTC students at the ROTC Living and Learning Community (LLC). It is located at 17th Hall Avenue dormitories. Cadets who are interested in living in these dorms must coordinate with the university housing office.



Enrollment Standards

What standards do I need to meet while in the program?

While in the AFROTC, you must maintain military, academic, and physical fitness retention 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 13-day Field Training at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama
- Pass one official Fitness Assessment every term (cadets not yet on contract must only attempt the Fitness Assessment each term)
- Must take the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT) by 31 Dec of AS200 year and pass the AFOQT within their first 2-3 attempts.
- Meet height and weight standards
- Must be at or below 25.0 BMI to activate scholarship/attend Field Training/Commission
- Pass a Department of Defense Medical Evaluation Review Board (DoDMERB) or Medical Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) physical and have no adverse changes in medical condition
- No adverse involvements with civil authorities
- Maintain good character and adjustment to military environment

What is the AFOQT?

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

AIR FORCE ROTC DET 415 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) Guide
What are the medical qualifications?

All cadets must have a certified medical examination from the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DoDMERB) 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 a “qualified/certified” physical. When this occurs, a cadet will be entered into a Medical Recheck Status (MRS). An MRS allows a cadet temporarily not medically qualified to continue receiving monetary benefits while healing.



How do I pass the fitness test?

Cadets will be tested once a term using the Air Force fitness test comprised of a 1.5-mile run, 1 minute of push-ups, 1 minute of sit-ups and a waist measurement. Below are the male and female fitness standards for ages 19 and under:

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

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 both the freshmen and sophomore AS classes and prepare to go to field training in the following summer.

Although AFROTC is designed for a traditional 4-year undergraduate program, you can join at any point as long as you have a minimum of 3 years remaining in your academic plan which can also include some or all graduate courses. **Note:** AFROTC will not fund scholarships for a second undergraduate degree or for those students who enroll in AFROTC while in a graduate program.

AIR FORCE ROTC DET 415 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) Guide

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 qualify you to be waived from 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 to (SOAR) programs. These programs allow you to separate from and receive a scholarship (up to \$18K per year) to pursue your bachelor's degree and commission through AFROTC. Contact your base education office for more information on these programs.

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 authorizing your release into active duty Air Force service NLT 30 days before your commissioning date. The conditional release is a requirement to compete for a Field Training EA.

Scholarships

Are there any scholarships available through AFROTC?

***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 June – 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 of 3.0 or higher
- Complete the Physical Fitness Assessment (consisting of three events: push-ups, sit-ups, and a 1.5-mile run.)
- Applicants must pass a Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB) medical exam.

AIR FORCE ROTC DET 415 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) Guide

HSSP scholarships are offered by the following types:

Type 1

Pays full tuition, all fees, \$900 textbooks
Any AFROTC school
Only 5-10% of all scholarships offered

2019 National Stats:

SAT: 1463

ACT: 33

GPA: 3.96

Type 2

Pays up to \$18K tuition, all fees, \$900 textbooks
Any AFROTC school
About 15% of all scholarships offered
Primarily technical majors

2019 National Stats:

SAT: 1376

ACT: 30

GPA: 3.819

Type 7

Pays full tuition at the in-state tuition rate, all fees, \$900 textbooks
Must attend AFROTC school and qualify for in-state tuition rate at any public school
About 80% of all scholarships offered
May be converted to 3-year, Type 2 scholarship
Must remain in academic major unless you receive AFROTC approval

2019 National Stats:

SAT: 1330

ACT: 29

GPA: 3.737

**The University of Minnesota offers in-state reciprocity to out of state students who receive a type-7 scholarship.*

AIR FORCE ROTC DET 415 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) Guide

***For In-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 two selection phases (fall and spring semesters). Availability of these scholarships changes from year to year based on Air Force funding.

ICSP scholarships are offered by the following types:

Type 1

****Reserved for Commander's In-College Scholarship***

Pays full tuition, all fees, \$900 textbooks

Type 2

Pays up to \$18K tuition, all fees, \$900 textbooks

Nursing

AFROTC also offers the Nursing Scholarship Program on a competitive basis to undergraduate sophomores and juniors. Applicants must be accepted to a nursing program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC) or Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

DOD Flagship Language Program

Flagship Scholarships are automatic to cadets who gain entry to the University of Minnesota's Chinese Flagship Program (as GMCs), 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 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:
<https://cla.umn.edu/chinese-flagship>

*All cadets are also eligible for university endowments which vary in amount each year.

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

No, room and board are not provided as part of an AFROTC scholarship.

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

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

During your junior year, you will submit a list of your top jobs or Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSCs) in order of preference which will be submitted to the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) for matching. Jobs will be matched based on Air Force needs, cadet's qualifications, class standing, and preferences in AFSC. 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.

What career fields are available for my degree program?

Although academic degrees are not a guarantee of any particular career field, there are some degrees that have a stronger relation to certain jobs. Below are several degree programs and the jobs that most closely apply (**Note:** some jobs have no direct correlation to a degree such as pilot or special operations):

Aerospace, Aeronautical, and Astronautical Engineering [Developmental Engineer*](#)

Architectural Engineering [Civil Engineer](#)

Biomedical Engineering [Bioenvironmental Engineer](#) [Developmental Engineer*](#)

Business/Management, Accounting, Finance

[Airfield Ops](#)
[Aircraft Maintenance](#)
[Contracting](#)
[Financial Manager](#)
[Acquisitions](#)
[Logistics Readiness](#)
[Personnel](#)

Communications, Journalism [Public Affairs](#) [Information Operations](#)

Chemistry/Biochemistry [Chemist](#) [Bioenvironmental Engineer](#)



AIR FORCE ROTC DET 415 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) Guide

Computer Science

[Cyber Warfare Operations*](#)

[Cyberspace Operations*](#)

[Acquisitions*](#)

[Space Operations*](#)

Criminal Justice/Criminology

[Security Forces](#)

[Office of Special Investigations](#)

Engineering

[Developmental Engineering*](#)

[Acquisitions*](#)

[Civil Engineering](#)

[Space Operations*](#)

[Cyberspace Operations*](#)

[Aircraft Maintenance](#)

Foreign Languages

[Intelligence*](#)

[Contracting](#)

Mathematics

[Operations Research Analyst](#)

[Acquisitions Manager*](#)

[Contracting](#)

Physics/Nuclear Engineering

[Physicist/Nuclear Engineering](#)

Psychology

[Information Operations](#)

[Intelligence*](#)

Sociology

[Security Forces](#)



[*How can I join the Space Force*?](#)

The U.S. Space Force (USSF) is a new 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 is classified as a Space Operations Officer upon graduation. Other career fields in the Space Force include Intelligence, Cyber Operations, Developmental Engineer, and Acquisitions.

To learn more about USSF careers please visit the [U.S. SPACE FORCE](#) page on the U.S. Air Force website.

AIR FORCE ROTC DET 415 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) Guide

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, 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 accumulate, 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 Fitness Assessment score.

Note: When cadets nominate themselves for the board, they will be subject to being selected for all rated position based on the order of their preference.

How can I become an officer in healthcare professions?

Nursing: 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) before they are commissioned as a nurse.

Other Health Professions: Cadets interested in a health professions careers such as a 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 within 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
with-out having to compete.

The HPSP process typically occurs during the summer before the cadet's senior year. Cadets who are approved for the HPSP must be **independently** accepted into a medical school to fulfill the program or they will commission into another non-medical Air Force career field.

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 three-year program for officers commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC)

AIR FORCE ROTC DET 415 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) Guide

who want to delay their entry on extended 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 ABA-approved law school
- Be in good academic standing
- Complete the AFROTC program and obtain a commission as a second lieutenant.

Life After AFROTC

How long will my service commitment be after completing the program?

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

How much will I be paid in the Air Force?

As of January 2020, a 2d Lt's salary ranges (before taxes and including BAS & BAH) from \$54,500 - \$85,000 a year, depending on the location of your first duty station and the nature of your job. Additionally, your pay will incrementally increase every 2 years of service and as you are promoted to higher ranks.

Are there other benefits available in the Air Force?

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

- 30 days of leave per year
- Tricare medical coverage
- On-base housing or housing allowance (correlated to cost of living) for living off-base
- Up to 100% of tuition covered through Tuition Assistance Program or G.I. Bill
- Retirement eligible at 20 years of service

How often will I deploy in the Air Force?

Your deployment schedule will be dependent 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 fit into a 1:2 dwell ratio which means they are vulnerable to deploy for a 6 month window followed by a 12 month non-deployable period. The benefit of the Air Force is that all members will know their window which enables them to better prepare for potential deployments.

AIR FORCE ROTC DET 415 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) Guide

More Questions?

Please contact our Recruiting Officer, Captain Drew Wacker and let us know at afrotc@umn.edu or (612) 624-2279.

