



## **AEROSPACE STUDIES**

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Barrow Hall

Air Force Reserve Officer Training Course (ROTC) offers students a course of study designed to complement their individual academic major. This program is designed to commission young men and women as second lieutenants into the active duty Air Force upon completion of a bachelor's degree and ROTC requirements. Students take one academic aerospace studies course and a leadership laboratory to receive hands-on leadership and management practice each semester during the program. Cadets enrolled in the program represent a broad cross-section of the student body. Enrollment in either the two-year or the four-year program offers each cadet an additional future career option. The student/cadet has an opportunity to explore and evaluate Air Force career opportunities while earning a college degree. Completion of the ROTC curriculum is the initial step in the education of the professional officer and provides a firm understanding of aerospace concepts, the Air Force mission, organization, and operation. A commission as an officer in the United States Air Force is tendered at the time Valdosta State University grants the bachelor's degree.

### **General Program**

The Air Force ROTC program consists of two phases: the General Military Course (GMC) and the Professional Officer Course (POC). Each phase requires four semesters of study on campus. The GMC courses taken during the freshmen and sophomore classes deal primarily with the various Air Force organizations and their missions, as well as the history of the Air Force. GMC courses meet two and one-half hours each week: one hour in the classroom and one and one-half hours in Leadership Laboratory. During the junior year, the POC courses emphasize student involvement in learning and practicing leadership and management techniques. The senior year courses deal extensively with the political, economic, and social factors relating to the formulation and implementation of national security policy. Communicative skills are stressed throughout the entire ROTC curriculum. The junior and senior cadets meet for four and one-half hours each week: three hours in the classroom and one and one-half hours in Leadership Laboratory. All cadets wear uniforms to one class per week and to Leadership laboratory.

All students must complete a field training course conducted at an active Air Force base during the summer months. There are two types of courses available, depending on whether the student anticipates entering the two- or four-year program. The four-year program requires a four-week field training course to be completed normally between the sophomore and junior years. The two year program is for those students who have not

completed the GMC, including transfer students and other students unable to participate in the on-campus GMC program. The two-year program requires a five-week field training course prior to entering the POC. Veterans can be awarded full credit for the freshman and sophomore courses and may enter the POC, based on their active military experience. Application for the two-year program and extended field training session should begin by October 1 preceding the fall semester in which the student becomes a junior. Students interested in Air Force ROTC should contact the Aerospace Studies Department to determine eligibility.

## **Selection for the POC**

Selection for the POC is based on the best interests of the Air Force together with achievement records of academic ability, observed leadership traits, and the results of an officer aptitude qualification test and physical examination. Schedules for the tests are announced through normal student advisory media.

Other requirements for POC entry are:

- \* Be a full-time student with at least two academic years remaining of undergraduate and/or graduate studies
- \* Qualify on the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT)
- \* Qualify on the Air Force medical examination
- \* Be at least 17 years old and have parent or legal guardian consent
- \* Be a United States citizen
- \* Be interviewed and accepted for enrollment
- \* Be of good moral character
- \* Be in good academic standing
- \* Complete all commissioning requirements as follows:

**Pilot & Navigator Candidates:** Before age 30

**Scholarship Recipients:** Before age 27 as of June 30 in the eligible year of commissioning. (Before age 29 for prior active duty service personnel with appropriate waiver.)

**Non-Flying, Non-Scholarship Students:** Before age 30

## **Placement Credit**

Students who completed ROTC courses in essentially military preparatory schools or junior colleges may be given appropriate credit. Students who have taken high school ROTC should contact the Professor of Aerospace Studies for placement. Individuals with prior service may also be given placement credit.

A non-taxable allowance of \$200 per month is paid to POC cadets during two academic years. This sum is in addition to any other scholarship benefits held by students. When attending either field training course, cadets are furnished transportation or payment for travel plus pay. Free medical and dental care and all uniforms are provided while at field training.

## Scholarships

Scholarships are available to highly qualified students participating in Air Force ROTC programs. This scholarship consists of up to \$15,000 toward tuition, \$480 toward books, and the monthly allowance of \$200 mentioned above for each scholarship year. Scholarship consideration is predicated on student ability, performance, and potential. Contracted POC students may be eligible for a \$3,450 incentive scholarship provided they are not receiving any other scholarship monies.

## Student Obligations

When entering the Professional Officer Course, students must have at least two full academic years remaining to complete their college requirements for an undergraduate or a graduate degree or a combination of the two. Each POC student is required to enlist in the Air Force Reserve and to execute a written contract with the government. This contract requires a student to complete the POC and to accept a commission as a second lieutenant if tendered. General Military Course students are under absolutely no obligation. All POC cadets must demonstrate proficiency or successfully complete a course in mathematical reasoning before commissioning. A college-level credit course in math, statistics, or computer science leading toward a specific skill or demonstrated proficiency as required by each department will fulfill this requirement. Students interested in this program leading to a commission should contact the Professor of Aerospace Studies.

## The Minor in Aerospace Studies

The minor in aerospace studies is offered to any student completing the courses of study listed below. The minor not only prepares cadets for active duty service but also provides students the opportunity to study one of our country's major instruments of power, the U.S. military. Students will gain a broad perspective of the Air Force and its use as an instrument of national power by studying its history, organizations, missions, and operations.

### Requirements:

**Lower Division Courses. .... 4 hours**

AS 1001, AS 1002, AS 2001, AS 2002 ..... 1 hour each

**Upper Division Courses. .... 12 hours**

AS 3001, AS 3002, AS 4001, AS 4002 ..... 3 hours each

Recommend one elective selected from the following:

HIST 4100, HIST 4404, HIST 4500,  
POLS 4410, POLS 4420, POLS 4430

**Total semester hours required for the minor ..... 16 semester hours**