Great question! College is expensive, and AFROTC provides a number of ways to make it considerably less expensive for cadets who participate in our program:

- **Scholarships** – We have Type 1 full-tuition scholarships which cover all tuition and fees as well as Type 2 scholarships that cover 100% of instate tuition for Ohio residents, plus an annual $900 stipend for books and a monthly tax-free payment right to your checking account of $300-$350 that you can use to cover food and other living expenses. Better yet, eligible cadets in our program are automatically put in for these scholarships—you don’t have to fill out another scholarship application. So who is eligible for these scholarships? The standard varies based on available funding, but in general you need:
  - A cumulative GPA over 3.0
  - A previous-term GPA over 2.5
  - An ACT score of at least 24 or an SAT score of at least 1100
  - Pass our physical fitness assessment
  - Complete a medical review process

...these requirements take one semester to complete, so if you get started in the Fall you’d generally be eligible for a scholarship in the Spring semester, if you decide to continue with our program. It’s worth noting that our scholarships are retroactive to the period that they’re awarded, so if you get the scholarship this Fall then the Spring 2020 semester would be paid for as well as subsequent semesters!
  - **Out of state students:** Our scholarships are available to you, too! The only difference is that instead of paying 100% of in-state fees, you would receive $18,000 per year off your school tuition. The other benefits (annual book stipend, monthly stipends) also apply, which make this a very valuable benefit if you receive a scholarship. It won’t cover 100% of your tuition, but it sure helps out a lot…!

- **Stipends** – Even if you never get a scholarship with us, Juniors and Seniors in our program are automatically given $5,400-$6,000 per year just to participate in Air Force ROTC (through twelve monthly $450-$500 tax-free payments for Juniors and Seniors, respectively). This can dramatically reduce the amount of student loans you need to take out to keep going in school.
  - Note that the contract stipend is independent of the scholarship (i.e., students not on scholarship receive this stipend for their last two years of AFROTC), but if you have the scholarship then you already receive the stipend, so you don’t receive both.
This is crucial, because so many students are just focused on college and don’t really think about what will happen after college. Maybe you’ve got a family connection with a business you’d like to work for, or you’ve done an internship for a company that will definitely hire you after you graduate... but if you’re like most students, you don’t have any concrete plans—and that’s where things can get pretty tough after finishing college. A recent article in Money magazine suggests that one quarter of college graduates are underemployed, with many working in positions that don’t require a college education. With Air Force ROTC, you’re guaranteed a great job in an interesting career field upon completing our program, putting you well-ahead of your peers who may very well be struggling to find traction in the workplace after school.

So while your peer group is working their way from the ground up at some company, doing an internship or pushing a mail cart, bored in corporate-land...

You can be loving life in an exciting Air Force officer career field like flying a $330,000,000 F-22, working on cutting edge intelligence, or working in one of more than 35 other officer career fields in the greatest Air Force in the history of the world.

What does an Air Force career look like as an officer, and what careers are available?

It varies a lot, but there are tons of available career fields to explore. With over 75 years of combined Air Force experience amongst them, our cadre will help you with career selection as you progress through our program. Check out AFROTC.com for a quick review of what Air Force officer career fields are available through AFROTC. If you’re interested in being a pilot or flying, now is a great time to join the Air Force—we’re staffing lots of pilot positions, so your odds of fulfilling your dream of flying are better now than ever. If you don’t want to fly, there are tons of non-pilot jobs available, in everything from contracting and financial management to personnel/human resources to communications/cyberspace, logistics and intelligence. If you like the idea of leading people, being an Air Force officer is an awesome way to get there—you’ll be doing things and managing projects at age 24 and 25 that your friends in college wouldn’t even dream of.

All Air Force officer career fields will begin with a mid-level manager level of responsibility, then move up from there as you accrue education and professional experience in your particular career field. You’ll continuously be challenged to grow and improve, sharpening your skills with more and more responsibility as you go up in rank from Lieutenant to Captain to Major and beyond. Stay in for a full 20 or more years and retire with a pension, or leave after as few as 4 years with some amazing experiences under your belt that you’ll be able to carry forward into a civilian career of your choosing.
No matter what you’re studying, the Air Force has career fields that will be able to take advantage of the skills you’re getting in college. Moreover, our ROTC training program will give you the leadership skills and confidence you need to be a successful officer in whatever field you ultimately wind up serving. After college, you will attend technical training through the Air Force that will teach you the specific job skills you’ll need to know in your career field. In terms of possibilities though, here are some options based on different majors: (click the career field to learn more):

**BUSINESS / FINANCE / HUMAN RESOURCES / LIBERAL ARTS / ACQUISITIONS**
- **Acquisition** — Help spend the Air Force’s $156B budget, working with vendors to purchase equipment we need
- **Contracting** — Negotiate with outside vendors and manage multi-million dollar contracts and agreements
- **Force Management** — Lead the human resources component of the Air Force, manage evaluations, career development and more
- **Financial Management** — Use management accounting to help Air Force leaders spend operational funds effectively

**ANY DEGREE / LIBERAL ARTS / MANAGEMENT**
- **Airfield Operations** — Provide direct management of runways and airfields, helping Air Force bases run efficiently
- **Missile Operations** — Manage and operate the United States’ arsenal of nuclear missiles—an incredible responsibility

**LANGUAGE / INT’L STUDIES / LIBERAL ARTS**
- **Intelligence Officers** — Collect data, analyze it, and disseminate it to decision-makers so that they can effectively complete their missions

**COMPUTER SCIENCE / INFORMATICS / COMMUNICATIONS**
- **Cyberspace** — Manage the Air Force’s massive IT network and provide communications support
- **Public Affairs** — Serve as media representatives to the public, manage official websites and other media

**PHYSICS / ASTRONOMY / TECHNICAL**
- **Space Operations** — Oversee spy satellites, satellite rocket launches and control space systems
- **Scientist** — Conduct cutting-edge research in the fields of mathematics, chemistry and physics
- **Weather** — Forecast atmospheric & space conditions
LOGISTICS / SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT
- **Aircraft Maintenance** – Lead the massive teams of technicians who maintain our fleet of aircraft
- **Munitions Maintenance** – Manage personnel who maintain conventional and nuclear weapons
- **Logistics Readiness** – Prepare people and cargo for deployments, the rapid mobilization of resources

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
- **Security Forces** – Lead the personnel who guard our facilities, enforce the law for everyone on base
- **OSI** – The Office of Special Investigations conducts investigations within the Air Force

ENGINEERING / STEM
- **Civil Engineering** – Manage the personnel who maintain facilities on a base, providing their unique expertise to complex problems that require technical solutions; includes architecture, civil, electrical, mechanical, general, and environmental
- **Developmental Engineering** – Research and development into a number of sub-fields, including aeronautical, astronomical, computer, electrical, general, mechanical and human factors

MEDICAL / BIOLOGY / NURSING
- **Nurse** – Provide direct care to military patients and their families in Air Force medical centers
- **Physician** – Work in military hospitals alongside nurses to provide direct medical support

ANY DEGREE / INTEREST IN FLYING
- **Pilot** – Fly the most sophisticated aircraft in the world, including fighters and cargo/transport planes
- **CSO** – Combat Systems Officers fly with the pilot, providing navigation and weapon systems operation
- **ABM** – Air Battle Managers guide other planes in the air to safely engage the appropriate enemy targets
- **RPA** – Remotely Piloted Aircraft pilots fly drones—capable of conducting surveillance and striking targets anywhere in the world
How much money do officers make on active duty? What are the benefits like?

Here’s where things get pretty good…Air Force officer pay is extremely competitive, and odds are good that you’ll be way ahead of your peers who graduate in your year group. Second Lieutenants right out of college graduate making the equivalent of $50,000 per year or more, and after just four years as a Captain you’ll be making at least $85,000 at the ripe old age of 26. Pay goes up from there, with inflation-adjusted raises every year, significant raises with each promotion and seniority raises every 2 years. This table of monthly pay rates only includes basic pay, which is the only portion of your pay that will be taxed—or check out the inset table to see how your monthly and annual tax-equivalent pay steadily increases as you continue to serve:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Monthly Total Pay</th>
<th>Annual Total Pay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22-23</td>
<td>2nd Lieutenant</td>
<td>$4,450</td>
<td>$53,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>1st Lieutenant</td>
<td>$5,600</td>
<td>$67,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>$7,350</td>
<td>$88,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>$7,950</td>
<td>$95,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Major</td>
<td>$9,600</td>
<td>$115,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table gives you a rough idea of what you’ll earn as an Air Force officer, both per month and year. It includes basic pay, a subsistence allowance and the lowest amount you could receive for housing.

- Besides monthly pay, you’ll also receive a monthly housing stipend that is tax-free. This housing stipend varies by location (i.e., high-expense areas like New York and California have a higher monthly payout), but in general you can expect at least $1,000 extra per month to cover your housing and utilities, tax-free.

- In addition to that, you’ll also get a monthly tax-free stipend of $262 to cover food (Basic Allowance for Subsistence).

- There are additional bonuses and various payments based on other specific circumstances such as duty location and career field, but the above adds up to a sizeable paycheck—especially right out of college.

- You’ll also receive free health care while on active duty, as well as your direct dependents. There is no copay or deductible—you just go to the doctor and everything is taken care of. The value of this is tremendous…in the private sector, this type of health plan basically doesn’t exist, with most employer-sponsored plans costing anywhere from $3,000 - $6,000 per year (or more!) for you and your family. They’ll also have doctor visit copays, deductibles and limits on coverage…but you won’t have to worry about that in the Air Force.

- If you’re interested in being a pilot, you should know that the Air Force is hiring a lot of pilots, so the odds of being an Air Force pilot aren’t as slim as you might think. Additionally, pilots earn huge bonuses based on their service commitment—up to $455,000 in bonuses (yes, you read that right) for fighter pilots. That can pay off a lot of student loans rather quickly.

- Active duty Air Force officers receive 30 days of paid leave per year. That is in addition to federal holidays (there are 10). Finding a civilian job where you can make this kind of money with this good of a work/life balance is, to put it lightly, extraordinarily difficult.

- You’ll have access to an unbelievable retirement plan…a matching 401k (up to 5%) plus a pension and retention bonuses. Work in an awesome career in the Air Force for 20 years and retire at the age of 42, then receive your annual pension of around $40,000 (or more) and start a second career…or leave earlier if you want, and take your 401k balance with you to your new job.

- Air Force officers also get amazing education benefits. Want to go to graduate school? The Air Force’s tuition assistance program will cover 100% of your tuition and fees, up to $4,500 per year, for degrees up to and including Ph.D’s. You’ll also eventually be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which can really help supplement the cost of going back to school while on active duty and beyond…with benefits that even transfer to your kids, if you so choose.
One area where the Air Force truly distinguishes itself is in the quality of life on Air Force installations, which are located all over the world. Here in the US, there are bases all over the place—from Travis AFB outside of San Francisco to MacDill AFB in Tampa—there are some incredible travel and work opportunities available to Air Force officers after graduation. See the map below for examples of major Air Force installations within the US:

Around the world, there are Air Force bases everywhere from Aviano (Italy) to Ramstein (Germany), Kadena (Japan), Andersen (Guam) and plenty more—so if you’ve ever wanted to travel and live overseas, there are plenty of amazing opportunities in the Air Force to do just that. At the beginning of your senior year in ROTC, you identify (up to) the top six career fields you want to serve in, then the top locations you want to move to. From there, the Air Force will do the best it can to assign you based on where you’d like to go, subject to the limitations of the needs of the Air Force (i.e., not everyone gets to go to Hawaii for their first duty assignment). From there, you will probably move every 3 or 4 years to a new base.

Andersen AFB in Guam is just one of many incredible overseas locations that the Air Force has available to its members. It’s incredibly easy to see so much of Europe or Asia while stationed overseas—and much, much cheaper than flying there from the US!
In terms of lifestyle, the Air Force spends a lot of money making its bases nice places to live and work, and more than any other branch, our bases have phenomenal resources to help you get the most out of your service—wherever you may be. Air Force bases are like small cities attached to an airport...they often have everything from their own schools and housing to fire and police departments, malls, convenience stores and more. From recreational facilities like gyms, bowling alleys, golf courses and swimming pools to recreation centers and hospitals, you can pretty much find anything you might need on base. If you like doing fun things outside, you’ll love MWR. Air Force bases even have child care facilities and education centers.

Being in the Air Force gives you the opportunity to take advantage of some amazing benefits on base, including the base club, commissary (grocery store), ticket center and even clubs like horseback riding, kayaking and intramural sports. Moreover, Air Force bases are just nice places to be...they are well-kept and maintained, with nice facilities and events that are often free of charge. There is virtually no crime, plenty of facilities for families and terrific opportunities to travel off-base to explore the local area...wherever in the world that may be for you. More than any other branch of the military, the Air Force highly values a good work-life balance, allowing you the opportunity to develop and grow in your career field while still maintaining a happy life at home.

Above is a picture of Randolph AFB in Texas—you can see here how the base is like a small city attached to an airport, with very nice, well-kept facilities and consistent architecture. The upper-right picture is an Air Force Base Exchange (BX), which is very much like a mall with a food court and other shopping areas attached. The picture on the bottom-right is actual base housing at Mountain Home AFB in Idaho. Air Force service members live in homes just like this one for free, or they can opt to live off-base and receive a tax-free Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) payment to offset living expenses.
The University of Cincinnati was recently ranked by Forbes Magazine as one of the world's most beautiful college campuses, placing UC among some elite company including Oxford University in England, Princeton, Stanford, Yale and Trinity College in Ireland. The "Queen City" of Cincinnati has it all: Pro Sports teams, a myriad of culinary and musical attractions, old city architecture and a thriving population of young professionals that call this home.

If you want college experience that will develop you professionally while also giving you access to a diverse experience, think UC! In terms of facilities, dorms and dining halls are modern and comfortable, most of the buildings on UC's main campus are less than 20 years old and the master planning of the modern architecture is apparent and inspiring.

You'll find it difficult to be bored at UC. There are over 750 student organizations that you can participate in...everything from fencing and ballroom dancing to mountain biking, astronomy, board games, bowling and billiards, robotics, running, Greek life, and plenty more.

And yes, you absolutely can do any of these things and Air Force ROTC at the same time. We've had varsity athlete cadets, fraternity and sorority members, club presidents, recreational sport athletes and everything in-between participate in their respective activities while also doing Air Force ROTC. AFROTC does take a lot of time and we ask our cadets to prioritize our events first, but we also want our cadets to be well-rounded individuals who pursue other hobbies outside of Air Force ROTC. You don’t go to college to major in AFROTC—you go to college to get your education, find your identity, cultivate new skills and meet amazing new people. With ROTC, we’ll train you to be a leader of character—the rest is up to you.

Still need more to do? I’m confident you will find something here that interests and inspires you, just step outside...
For starters, you’ll be working with a world-class group of cadets who are on a trajectory for success. Our students have an average GPA of 3.35, are self-starters and care about each other. With around 80 cadets in our detachment, we have a family-like atmosphere and we take great care of each other. You can do fun volunteer projects, enjoy unit morale activities like escape rooms, hiking trips, movie nights and more, and participate in Arnold Air Society, our honorary fraternity, if you wish. Most importantly, the cadre here is interested in your personal and professional development. We work very hard setting up environments where our cadets can grow and succeed, fail and learn to do better next time.

You’ll get real-world, practical experience managing projects, arranging meetings, setting deadlines, coordinating with other cadets and conducting training operations in our program. These skills are priceless, and will help set you apart whether you stick it out through Air Force ROTC and the Air Force or just try us out for a semester or two. While you’re here, we’ll go ahead and give you opportunities on a national level such as: freefall parachute training, glider piloting, Civil Air Patrol flight opportunities and more!

Our cadets love to participate in many activities outside of ROTC such as skiing, rock climbing, golfing, and much more.

What kind of things would I learn about with AFROTC...and what is class like?

Our program is primarily designed to introduce you to what the military is like, as well as to give you an opportunity to “try before you buy.” Unlike with an enlisted recruiter (who wants you to sign up to go to Basic Training and be enlisted, which is a completely different career path than being an officer through Air Force ROTC), you can take AFROTC classes and see if the military is a good fit for you before committing to active duty. Topics in our freshman class include subjects like Air Force dress and appearance standards, military customs and courtesies, team-building, Air Force benefits, principles of war and tenets of airpower, Air Force operations, Air Force core values, airpower through World War I, human relations and more.

Subsequent years build on those subjects to include theory and applications of leadership, principles of management, understanding the US Constitution, advanced topics on followership and project management, counseling session practicums, critical thinking skills, joint operations and much more. Freshman (AF-1001/1002) and sophomore (AF-2001/2002) classes are 55 minutes long, while Junior and Senior classes are 120 minutes long.
Class sizes are very small, particularly in the Junior / Senior level, which can often be fewer than 10 students. Our program emphasizes a lot of the following skill areas / competencies:

- **Leadership skills**, including strategic and tactical leadership, critical thinking under stress
- **Management skills**, including project management, standard enforcement, accountability, effective decision-making
- **Performance and execution skills** like attention to detail, planning ahead, personal responsibility
- **Communication skills**—in particular public speaking (especially impromptu speaking) but also professional writing
- **Human relations**, including valuing diversity, motivation and character-building

If you want to be challenged to improve yourself in these areas, then you’ve come to the right place. The core values in the Air Force are “Integrity first, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do.” Our cadets strive hard to cultivate those core values 24/7, and if you want to be part of an organization that lives and breathes those values, you’ll want to check out the Air Force.

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**What does my time commitment look like during the week?**

Our program generally consists of five different areas:

- **Weekly academic classes**, which for freshmen and sophomores are 55-minute classes on Monday or Thursday afternoons. Freshman classes (AF-1001 and AF-1002) are Mondays 2:30 - 3:25 and Thursdays from 1:25 to 2:20pm.

- Our weekly **Leadership Lab** on Thursdays are where we cover hands-on training to give cadets an opportunity to learn valuable skills for Field Training and apply what they’ve learned in class. Activities include impromptu speeches, group leadership problems, drill and marching, guest speakers, training activities, and other fun activities like dodgeball or holiday parties. Leadership Lab is hosted Thursday afternoons from 4:00 – 6:00pm.

- We have two weekly **PT (Physical Training)** sessions on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 6:00 – 7:00am at the Rec Center or Gettler Field depending on the weather conditions. UC cadets must attend both sessions each week. These sessions typically include activities like pushup/sit-up pyramids, various runs and other calisthenics. The idea is to get you ready for the physical fitness assessment, which includes a 1.5 mile run, pushups and sit-ups performed over a minute, and an abdominal circumference measurement.

- You’ll also probably have some involvement in **Cadet Wing** activities at our Detachment, depending on where you’re assigned within our cadet organization. Our Junior and Senior cadets run training operations and hold leadership positions to make that happen, while other cadets are assigned to them to help carry out our mission. This provides valuable learning opportunities for everyone, and gives everyone a chance to experience different elements of working in and running an organization before going on to active duty.

- Finally, there are often voluntary opportunities to participate in other activities within Air Force ROTC, including the Veteran’s Day flag-raising ceremony, march in the homecoming parade, enjoy a movie night, gaming tournament, go hiking, volunteer with the community (Habitat for Humanity, local food kitchens) or participate in a bunch of other fun activities if you have time available in your schedule.
In order to be an Air Force ROTC cadet, you must meet certain physical fitness and BMI (Body Mass Index) standards. The BMI standard is based on your height and weight—the maximum BMI for Air Force ROTC cadets is 25, which corresponds to the weights in this table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Height (inches)</th>
<th>58</th>
<th>59</th>
<th>60</th>
<th>61</th>
<th>62</th>
<th>63</th>
<th>64</th>
<th>65</th>
<th>66</th>
<th>67</th>
<th>68</th>
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<th>71</th>
<th>72</th>
<th>73</th>
<th>74</th>
<th>75</th>
<th>76</th>
<th>77</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weight (lbs)</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If your weight is above the maximum, you will have your body fat measured by a waist and neck circumference calculation (for athletes or those who have more muscle mass, they will tend to weigh more than the BMI table allows while still having a low enough body fat to qualify for Air Force ROTC). For males, the maximum body fat percentage is 18% and for females, the maximum body fat percentage is 26%. You must either pass the BMI calculation from the table above or the body fat percentage calculation in order to go to Field Training, contract, or commission into the Air Force through ROTC. Note that you can join our program if you exceed these standards, but you should work quickly to get within standards in order to fully participate and complete the program (we can help you with this).

In addition to meeting BMI and/or body fat requirements, cadets must also perform fitness assessments in Air Force ROTC.

Our fitness assessment (FA) is typically administered twice per semester; once at the beginning as a “mock” FA to give cadets a sense of where they stand and another official test towards the end of each semester. Minimum and maximum FA requirements are as follows:

- **For males**, a waist measurement of less than 39.5” (35” or less is max score), a 1.5 mile run time of 13:36 or less (9:12 or less is max score), at least 33 pushups with good form in one minute (67 is max score) and 42 sit-ups in one minute (58 is max score).
- **For females**, a waist measurement of less than 36.0” (31.5” or less is max score), a 1.5 mile run time of 16:22 or less (10:23 or less is max score), at least 18 pushups with good form in one minute (47 is max score) and 38 sit-ups in one minute (54 is max score).

If you don’t think that you can pass our FA right now, that’s okay. Our PT sessions will help, but you will definitely need to work hard over the course of the semester to continue to improve in whatever areas you need to in order to pass. That will probably require some additional gym time lifting weights, running practice on your own, and better nutrition...or perhaps all three. You need to be ready to work hard on these areas, and be realistic with yourself about being able to meet our physical training requirements.

You don’t necessarily have to pass the FA in the first semester, but you should show consistent progress and be ready no later than your second semester in the program. For some cadets it comes easy and for others it takes longer, but they all have to try hard at every PT session.
In general, our program is 4 years long. This is what your plan would look like if you started this Fall:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start Fall '19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall 2019</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring 2020</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Summer 2020</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall 2020</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring 2021</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Summer 2021</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fall 2021</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Spring 2022</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Summer 2022</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fall 2022</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring 2023</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer 2023</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note that Air Force ROTC courses do count as elective credit (in terms of general credit hours) for any degree program, so they should be able to help you accrue hours towards graduation. Also, you should know that once you begin our program, you will receive priority registration at the University of Cincinnati and will be able to register for upcoming classes several weeks before other students...therefore allowing you to set up your academic schedule however you like. No more waitlisted classes, missing out on courses you want to take and being forced to take class sessions when you don’t want to.

If you’ve already completed at least one year at the University of Cincinnati, you’re probably planning on graduating before 2023. In that case, you can apply for an accelerated 3-year version of our program, doubling up on the first two years of Air Force ROTC courses in order to stay on track with your plan to graduate in 2023. If you choose the accelerated program, you should know the following:

- In order to qualify for this program, you must complete and pass our physical fitness assessment, complete a reasonable academic plan that shows you won’t be unduly overloaded with courses (i.e., each semester should be at 16 hours or fewer), and complete an interview with the cadre to finalize eligibility.
- The accelerated program is more difficult, and many students who try it find managing time and learning everything they need to know to be prepared for Field Training a serious challenge. Attrition tends to be higher in this group, because students just get overwhelmed and decide they won’t be ready in time.
- Previous exposure to military training (through JROTC, prior service, etc.) is very helpful, and taking summer courses can help significantly with your course load.
- **Still interested in the 3-year program?** Great—just register for AF-1001 and AF-2001, then we’ll email you information about completing the fitness test, academic plan and interview.

If you planned on graduating before Spring 2023, you may want to consider extending your graduation date in order to fit our 4-year program into your academic plans. We have plenty of students who do just that, because Air Force ROTC does take a significant amount of time (see previous question), and we generally encourage our cadets to try and keep their semester credit hours below 16 when possible. You must be a full-time (12 credit hour+) student while in our program, but for your final semester it is only necessary to take the single AF-4002 class and LLAB.
Cadets typically attend Field Training at the midway point of their AFROTC career, usually after completing their sophomore year in college. As a GMC (General Military Course) cadet (freshman/sophomore), your primary function in our program is to learn about the Air Force and prepare for Field Training. Field Training is held at Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB) in Alabama over a two-week period in the summer. The Air Force will pay your travel expenses to get there and back, as well as supply you with uniforms and other items you’ll need to successfully complete training.

While there, you’ll experience a full-time military training environment that will test your abilities and assess your potential as a leader in the Air Force. After completing Field Training, you become a POC (Professional Officer Corps) cadet, receive a tax-free monthly stipend, and your focus transitions to developing leadership competencies and preparing for active duty. Field Training is a challenging environment, but our detachment works very hard to get each cadet prepared to attend and be successful there.

Am I committed to the Air Force if I sign up for Fall 2019?

Definitely not! We have plenty of students try us out for a semester then drop out of the program for a variety of reasons, and we’re absolutely happy to have you join us if you just want to see what Air Force life might be like. You aren’t committed to joining the Air Force until you contract with us, which typically takes place after Field Training. However, we do contract cadets who receive and accept a scholarship, so this could be earlier if you earn a scholarship through our program. Either way, you’ll have plenty of opportunities to decide if our program or the Air Force isn’t right for you. Our classes are all certified for elective credit with University of Cincinnati, so you have nothing to lose by joining us and giving it a shot!

Cadets who complete the program and enter active duty are committed to Air Force service for four years (ten years if they opt-in to being a pilot), after which you can leave the Air Force at the age of 26 with a great deal of leadership experience under your belt. Alternatively, you could continue service in the Air Force and enjoy an awesome career work around the world doing incredible things with some amazing people!
There are a lot of things to love about Air Force ROTC and life as an active duty officer, but that doesn’t mean that this program is easy or for everyone. In fact, Air Force ROTC is a tough program and we expect a great deal from our cadets—it’s not a free lunch (well, except for the events where we have Adriatico’s pizza). We are looking to build officers and leaders of character, so you should be someone who is grounded in a strong sense of personal ethics with a keen desire to improve yourself and a strong work ethic.

You should feel comfortable conforming to standards and regulations, and enforcing them with others. You should have a strong sense of accountability, be comfortable with making decisions when with incomplete information, be able to motivate and work well with a diverse team, and be confident and assertive. We spend a lot of time doing public speaking, so the thought of getting in front of a group shouldn’t completely terrify you. We want independent thinkers who can collaborate with others, accept responsibility when they’re wrong, speak up when they think they’re right, and always yearn to do better.

You don’t have to be perfect at everything—no one is—but our program works best when students come to us with some competency in these areas to build from. More than anything, we are looking for leaders... Air Force officers begin their careers outranking over 80% of the Air Force (that’s over 260,000 Air Force members that you’d outrank immediately after college), so a lot is expected of us from day one and you should be prepared to one day shoulder that level of responsibility. There is no blending into the crowd or hiding in this program or in the Air Force.

Academics is crucial to our program, so you should also be a pretty good student. Our average cadet GPA is 3.35, and our program requires a minimum of a 2.0 GPA just to participate. In general, we highly encourage cadets to carry GPAs of at least 2.5, so if you don’t think you’ll be able to continue your degree program and meet that criteria, you may want to reconsider. You should be at least somewhat physically fit, and ready to continue developing your fitness throughout the entire duration of our program.

Though it’s not required right away, you will have to meet our dress and appearance standards, to include haircuts and shaving for gentlemen and limitations on hairstyles and cosmetics for ladies. That’s just part of life in the Air Force.

Finally, it’s okay to be motivated to join us for the financial benefits, but you should also have some sense of wanting to serve a cause greater than yourself. Ours is the profession of arms, and we take that charge very seriously. Our graduates may go on to fly $115M jets, supervise literally hundreds of people, control nuclear weapons or manage multimillion-dollar budgets. The responsibilities are huge, and we work very hard throughout this entire program to give our cadets the tools they need to be successful. We are ultimately a service organization that fulfills the national security objectives of the United States, and as a profession we serve the needs of society at large. If this video really resonates with you, then that’s a very good sign that this program is right for you.
If you’re ready to make what will probably be one of the best decisions you’ll ever make in your life, all you need to do to get started is register for AF-1001 and AF 1020 for the Fall 2019 semester. Once you’ve registered, call the detachment to let us know you intend to join us and we’ll give you further instructions on how to administratively sign up to be a cadet. Prior to class starting, we’ll host a small event called NSOP (New Student Orientation Program) which will give you an opportunity to meet your new classmates and the cadre, and ask any questions you’d like. Parents and other family are welcome to attend as well.

In the meantime, check us out on Instagram! Give us a follow and look at previous content to see pictures and videos of what the cadets are doing here at Detachment 665. We post new content all the time to announce various significant events, document physical training and leadership laboratory, highlight cadets and officer career fields, and lots more.

Once the summer hits, we’ll get you in contact with the other new students joining our program, so you can start getting to know your new peers and hit the ground running in the Fall!

So, what are you waiting for…?
Join our team and kick start your future!