



What are the financial incentives of AFROTC?

AFROTC provides a number of ways to make it considerably less expensive for cadets who participate in our program:

- **Scholarships** – We have full-ride scholarships and a Commander's Leadership Scholarship that cover 100% of **in-state tuition** and fees for New Hampshire residents, plus an annual **\$900** stipend for books and a monthly tax-free payment right to your checking account of **\$300-\$500** 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



*UNH AFROTC Detachment 475 Screaming Eagles
Survival Training, October 2019*

These requirements take one semester to complete, so if you get started in the fall you'd generally be eligible for our full-ride 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 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*...!
- **Contract Stipends** – Even if you never get a scholarship with us, Junior and Seniors in our program are automatically given **\$5,400-\$6,000** per year just to participate in Air Force ROTC (through twelve monthly **\$300-\$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.
- **Incentive payments** – Although the amount varies by semester and funding availability, there are other academic incentive payments that cadets can receive. These monies are provided directly to the Bursar on your behalf (note: this only applies to University of New Hampshire students, as this money is funded via UNH).



A cadet contracting into the Air Force.

What happens when I graduate from college?

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 doing 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 60 years of combined Air Force experience amongst them, our cadre will help you with career selection as you progress through our program. Click [here](#) 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 having a lot of responsibility, 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 your 401K investments and some amazing experiences under your belt that you'll be able to carry forward into a civilian career of your choosing.

What career fields make sense for my major?

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 in. 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?

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. Check out the table below to see how your monthly and annual tax-equivalent pay steadily increases as you continue to serve in the Air Force.

Age	Rank	Monthly Total Pay	Annual Total Pay
22-23	2 ^d Lieutenant	\$4,580	\$54,960
24	1 st Lieutenant	\$5,770	\$69,240
26	Captain	\$7,570	\$90,840
30	Captain	\$8,190	\$98,280
34	Major	\$9,890	\$118,680

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 **\$250** 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 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.Ds. 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.



You can get a master's degree for free (while receiving a salary!) through the Air Force via the Air Force Institute of Technology

What are Air Force bases like? What is the lifestyle like?

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 doing fun things outside, you'll love MWR. Air Force bases even have child care facilities and education centers.



Dover AFB, Delaware just received an \$11,000 fitness center upgrade. Fitness facilities are free to services members and their families.

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 at no cost, or they can opt to live off-base and receive a tax-free Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) payment to cover living expenses.

What is ROTC like while I'm attending UNH?

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 3.4, 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 invaluable, 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.



Our cadets participate as the first and only Air Force team at the Army Ranger Challenge at Fort Dix, New Jersey in Oct 2019.

What will I learn about with AFROTC and what is class like?

Our program is primarily designed to introduce you to what the military is like, and 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 (AERO 415/416) and sophomore (AERO 541/542) classes are 50 minutes long, while junior and senior classes are 135 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 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.

Leadership Lab activities range from marching to expeditionary leadership problems, military customs and courtesies, Field Training preparation and more.

What does my time commitment look like during the week?

Our program generally consists of five different areas:

- **Weekly academic classes**, freshmen classes (AERO 415 and AERO 416) and sophomore classes (AERO 541 and AERO 542) are 50-minute classes on Wednesday afternoons. Junior classes (AERO 671 and AERO 672) and Senior classes (AERO 681 and AERO 682) are 80 min classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Our weekly **leadership lab** on Wednesday afternoon is 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 Tuesday afternoons from 3:10 to 5:00pm.
- We have two weekly PT (**Physical Training**) sessions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 4:00 – 5:00pm primarily front and center on the Thompson Hall lawn. UNH-Durham cadets must attend both sessions each week, while crosstown cadets must do two one-hour workouts each week on their own and report them to their flight commanders. These sessions typically include activities like pushup/situp 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 situps performed over a minute, and an abdominal circumference measurement.
- You'll also probably have *some* involvement in **Cadet Group** 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.

What are the requirements for physical training/fitness in Air Force ROTC?

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:

Maximum Allowable Weights for BMI of 25 (<i>regardless of age and gender</i>)																				
Height (inches)	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
Weight (lbs)	119	124	128	132	136	141	145	150	155	159	164	169	174	179	184	189	194	200	205	210

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 physical fitness assessments.

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

- **For males**, a 1.5 mile run time of 15:50 or less (9:12 or less is max score), at least 30 pushups with good form in one minute (67 is max score) and 39 crunches in one minute (58 is max score).
- **For females**, a 1.5 mile run time of 18:56 or less (10:23 or less is max score), at least 15 pushups with good form in one minute (47 is max score) and 35 crunches in one minute (54 is max score).



Physical fitness is an important part of Air Force ROTC. UNH AFROTC cadets formally train twice per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7am) at the Fieldhouse.

If you don't think that you can pass our PFA 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 PFA 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.

What is the course curriculum for Air Force ROTC?

In general, our program is 4 years. This is what your plan would look like if you started in the fall:

Start of School School Year	
Fall semester	AERO 415 (<i>Heritage and Values of the USAF 1</i> , 50 mins, 2 credit hours)
Spring semester	AERO 416 (<i>Heritage and Values of the USAF 2</i> , 50 mins, 2 credit hours)
Summer	
Fall semester	AERO 541 (<i>Team and Leadership Fundamentals 1</i> , 50 mins, 2 credit hours)
Spring semester	AERO 542 (<i>Team and Leadership Fundamentals 2</i> , 50 mins, 2 credit hours)
Summer	*Field Training @ Maxwell AFB, AL - 2 weeks*
Fall semester	AERO 671 (<i>Leading People & Effective Communication 1</i> , 130 mins, 4 credit hours)
Spring semester	AERO 672 (<i>Leading People & Effective Communication 2</i> , 130 mins, 4 credit hours)
Summer	
Fall semester	AERO 681 (<i>National Security Affairs 1</i> , 130 mins, 4 credit hours)
Spring semester	AERO 682 (<i>National Security Affairs 2</i> , 130 mins, 4 credit hours)
Summer	*Active Duty as Air Force 2d Lieutenant*

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. Upon completion of all ROTC classes, you can apply to receive a minor in Aerospace Science.

If you've already completed at least one year at UNH, you're probably planning on graduating your senior academic year. 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 on time. If you choose to pursue 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 *very* difficult, and a lot of 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 AERO 415 and AERO 541, then we'll email you information about completing the fitness test, academic plan and interview. These will all take place at NCOP, which will be just before school starts this fall.



If you planned on graduating before spring of your senior year, 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 hours) student while in our program, but for your final semester it is only necessary to take the single AERO 681 or 682 class.

Field Training

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.



At Detachment 475, we will teach you everything you need to know to be successful at Field Training—from how to salute and wear the uniform to marching, room inspections, reporting procedures and much more.

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?

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 Indiana University, 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 working around the world doing incredible things with some amazing people!



Join our program, meet amazing people, challenge yourself and be the best version of you that you can become...



Love it? Great! Get a minimum of \$12,000 to finish college—and perhaps much more if you get a scholarship through us...



Work in a terrific career for the Air Force until 26...you'll make at least \$250,000 in those four years, get incredible leadership experience, travel and establish yourself. At that point, you can leave with your 401K investments, or continue serving and even retire at only 42 years old with a full pension!

Don't like it? No problem! Drop anytime and go on to finish school, taking valuable skills learned in ROTC with you forever



What kind of person are you looking for?

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. 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.



Cadets participate in the 2019 Homecoming Parade with a homemade F-22 float.



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* 2.75, 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.

I think I'm a great fit...where do I sign up and what can I expect next?

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 AERO 415 for the fall semester. Once you've registered, you'll hear back before the semester begins with further instructions on how to administratively sign up to be a cadet. Prior to class starting, we'll host a small event called NCOP (New Cadet 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](#) and [Facebook](#)! Give us a follow and look at previous content to see pictures and videos of what the cadets are doing here at Detachment 475. We post new content frequently to announce various significant events, document physical training and leadership laboratory, highlight cadets and officer career fields, and lots more. Please feel free to reach out to us with any further questions you may have or check out the [AFROTC website](#)!

