Reserve Officers Training Corps

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Reserve Officers Training Corps

The Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) plays an important role in the national defense framework of our nation. The American tradition of military instruction on civilian college campuses began in 1819 when a former superintendent at West Point established the American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy, which later became Norwich University. Military instruction soon spread to other institutions—Virginia Military Institute in 1839, the University of Tennessee in 1840, and The Citadel in 1842.

In 1862 the U.S. Congress, foreseeing the dual necessity of creating additional institutions of higher learning as well as providing a means of schooling in the military arts, passed the Morrill Land Grant Act. This act provided money from the sale of government lands to establish colleges and universities and specified that courses in the military arts should be offered at these institutions.

The University of Minnesota opened its doors in 1869 through the benefits made available by the Morrill Act. One of the original nine faculty members was the University’s first professor of military science, Major General Richard W. Johnson. For 70 years, on-campus military training and, after 1916, ROTC programs at the University prepared students to enter the Army. In 1939 a Naval ROTC unit was established, and in 1949 an Air Force ROTC program began.

For more than 150 years, on-campus military training and ROTC programs have provided intelligent, well-educated leaders for the nation’s defense. In keeping with the typical American concept of the citizen-soldier and civilian control of military forces, the programs produce military officers from all geographic and social strata whose leadership is characterized by initiative, ingenuity, and flexibility. ROTC officers may return to civilian status when they have fulfilled their military obligation or choose to serve as reserve officers. ROTC programs provide leadership resources not only for national defense but also for civilian enterprise.

Curricula

ROTC courses prepare students for military service as junior officers. Students learn to exercise self-discipline, organize time and effort efficiently, perform effectively under stress, analyze and react quickly and with good judgment, and consistently exhibit exemplary military bearing and appearance. Seniors are placed in positions of command and apply the leadership skills they have developed during their preceding years of ROTC training. Following the final year of practical experience, these men and women are well prepared to assume leadership responsibilities as commissioned officers.

ROTC curricula are administered by the University’s Office of the Vice President for Student Development & Athletics and Departments of Military Science (Army ROTC), Naval Science (Navy-Marine ROTC), and Aerospace Studies (Air Force ROTC).

Benefits

ROTC scholarship programs provide up to four years (five years under specific circumstances) of subsidized education, paying all tuition costs, instructional fees, and textbook expenses. Additionally, scholarship students receive a subsistence allowance of $150 per month. Non-scholarship students in their junior and senior years receive the $150 per month subsistence allowance for a maximum of 20 months. While attending summer training, all ROTC students receive approximately $700 plus housing, travel, and allowances. Students attending summer training to qualify for a two-year program receive the same pay and allowances as ROTC students (see “Scholarships” on page 228).

Obligations

Students who complete all requirements are commissioned as second lieutenants (Army, Air Force, and Marines) or ensigns (Navy). Upon commissioning, Naval ROTC scholarship students incur a four-year active duty service obligation; non-scholarship students incur a three-year active duty service obligation. Extended commitments to active duty are required for all pilots (eight years after qualification), naval flight officers (six years after qualification), and Nuclear Propulsion Program officers (five years after commissioning). Air Force pilot and navigator program students incur a commitment of eight and six years, respectively, after completing their training; all other Air Force students incur a four-year active duty service commitment (students who receive five years of scholarship incur a five-year commitment). Army students selected for active duty serve for three years; Army scholarship students selected for active duty serve four years. Army students commissioned into the National Guard or Army Reserve serve on active duty for initial schooling and then assume reserve obligations of varying durations.

Admission

The three ROTC programs are open to all students. Young men and women are selected on the basis of their own merits. Certain qualifications and eligibility criteria for enrollment and commissioning must be met, however, as set forth in the laws and regulations that govern the...
programs. Students who do not meet these criteria may enroll in a course for its educational value but do not receive financial benefits or an officer’s commission. To be eligible for admission to a University ROTC program, applicants must

• be full-time college students;
• have reached their 17th birthday by June 30 of the year they plan to enroll;
• be of sound physical condition;
• show evidence of moral integrity, satisfactory scholarship and extracurricular activity, and potential officer capabilities; and
• have no moral or personal convictions that will prevent them from conscientiously bearing arms in support and defense of the U.S. Constitution.

**Transfer Students**—Students who have participated in ROTC training at another college or university may request transfer if they were honorably released by the first institution and are accepted by a University of Minnesota ROTC program.

**Advanced Standing**—Students who have participated in ROTC training at another institution may be granted advanced standing for military courses successfully completed.

**Veterans**—Veterans may take advantage of their military service and experience by seeking advanced placement in a ROTC program. G.I. Bill educational benefits and ROTC benefits may be received concurrently. Army students may receive advanced standing for membership in the National Guard or Army Reserve through the Simultaneous Membership Program. After commissioning, veterans can count their prior service for longevity pay and retirement.

**Scholarships**

Scholarships are available through national or regional selection systems. High school seniors may compete for four-year scholarships. Completed applications must be submitted no later than November 15 (Army) or December 1 (Air Force and Navy-Marine) for enrollment the following fall semester. College freshmen and sophomores may compete for three- and two-year scholarships.

Students accepted into one of the ROTC nonscholarship programs are normally eligible to compete for the scholarship program after one or two semesters of enrollment. Aptitude for military service and academic performance are major considerations for acceptance. For more information about particular/special scholarship programs, contact the appropriate department.

**Student Activities**

Each ROTC department offers a wide range of activities for its students. A variety of local and nationally affiliated organizations offer interested and qualified students the opportunity to participate in activities, both on and off campus, that develop their leadership and managerial skills. Social events and athletic competitions, scheduled throughout the school year, round out the activities available.

**Department of Military Science**

The Department of Military Science conducts the Army ROTC program to prepare men and women to serve as second lieutenants in the Regular Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve. Army ROTC provides cadets with basic concepts and principles of military art and science, leadership, ethics, integrity, honor, and responsibility. Military science courses are offered in two- and four-year sequences that students complete concurrently with academic coursework required for earning a University degree. Students register and earn academic credits for Army ROTC courses in the same manner as for other elective courses in their curriculum. An academic minor in military science is available but not required for commissioning as an officer in the U.S. Army.

**Programs**

Two programs are available for students to earn their commissions as second lieutenants through Army ROTC.

**Four-Year Program**—The four-year Army ROTC program is divided into two parts, the basic course and the advanced course. The basic course is normally taken during the first two years of college and covers such subjects as Army customs, traditions, and organization; national defense; military history; marksmanship; land navigation; first aid; orienteering; ethics; and leadership development. Except for students on scholarship, enrollment in the basic course requires no future military obligation. All full-time University students are eligible to enroll in this course.

After completing the basic course, students who meet the physical and scholastic standards and have demonstrated the potential to become Army officers are eligible to enroll in the advanced course. The advanced course is taken during the final two years of college and includes advanced on-campus instruction and a mandatory six-week advanced camp at Fort Lewis, Washington, held the summer between the two years of the course. Full course credit and recommendation for a commission are not granted without successful camp completion. Qualified students have the opportunity to receive airborne, air assault, mountain, and northern warfare training. Enrollment in the advanced course requires the student to agree in writing to complete the two-year course and accept, if offered, a commission as a second lieutenant.

**Two-Year Program**—The two-year Army ROTC program enables eligible students with acceptable advanced placement credits to bypass the basic course and enroll directly in the advanced course once they are academic juniors.

The primary method of obtaining advanced placement credits is for students to attend a six-week ROTC basic camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky, the summer after their freshman or sophomore years. Veterans and members of the Army National Guard or Army Reserve may use their prior military service to gain advanced placement in the program.

Students who have completed at least three years of a Junior ROTC program at a military school or high school may be accepted for advanced placement on an individual basis. Students who have ROTC experience at other colleges receive credit for ROTC instruction completed.

Interested individuals must apply in person to the Department of Military Science for advanced placement or participation in the basic camp.
Students attending other colleges in the area may also enroll in Army ROTC at the University of Minnesota through University College and are eligible for the same programs and scholarships available to University students.

A specially designed program for nursing students is also offered through ROTC to students enrolled in either the four- or two-year program.

**Benefits**
The department supplies all ROTC texts and uniforms. Students in the advanced course also receive a $150 monthly allowance during those two academic years.

Students attending the basic or advanced camps are paid travel expenses and a salary. All food, housing, and clothing are furnished.

Students who receive their bachelor’s degree and are commissioned through the Army ROTC program may request a delay in reporting for duty in order to continue their education. If approved, an additional two years are allowed for graduate study.

**Scholarships**
Many Army scholarship programs are available. Students can receive four-, three-, or two-year scholarships. Four-year scholarships are offered annually to outstanding high school students. Applications must be submitted between July 1 and November 15 of the applicant’s senior year in high school.

All students, whether enrolled in Army ROTC or not, are eligible to compete for three- and two-year scholarships after completing their first or second years of college. In addition to the national competition, the professor of military science may award three- and two-year scholarships to students on campus.

For those awarded scholarships, the Army pays tuition, fees, and $450 per year for textbook expenses and supplies. In addition, students receive $150 per month for the duration of the scholarship. Scholarship students selected for active duty incur a four-year active duty obligation after graduation.

Scholarships are also available from the National Guard, Army Reserve, American Legion, Association of United States Army, Reserve Officers Association, Society of American Military Engineers, ROTC Alumni Association, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

**Commissions and Obligations**
Completing the Army ROTC program qualifies graduates for appointments as second lieutenants in the Army, Army Reserve, or Army National Guard. These appointments include an obligation to serve on active duty for three months to four years, depending on Army officer requirements at the time of graduation. Officers commissioned in the Army National Guard or Army Reserve serve for eight years. Nonscholarship and some scholarship students may have a guarantee of reserve forces duty. The branch of service in which students are commissioned depends on such factors as their interests, academic majors, advanced camp performance, and the Army’s needs.

**Department of Naval Science**
The Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) offers the opportunity for qualified young men and women to earn commissions as Navy, Marine Corps, or Navy Nurse Corps officers as they complete requirements for a University degree. The NROTC program is the nation’s largest producer of naval officers.

During their four years of college, NROTC students (midshipmen) complete 32 credits of instruction in naval orientation, naval ship systems, seapower and maritime affairs, coastal and celestial navigation, shipboard operations, organization, management, leadership, and ethics, plus 120 hours of professional training in military ceremonies, customs, and skills, including computer-based warfare simulations and various hands-on training opportunities.

Upon receiving their commissions, graduates move into various careers. A newly commissioned Navy ensign usually receives advanced specialty training and then is assigned to duty aboard a surface ship, nuclear-powered submarine, or with an aviation squadron. Newly commissioned Marine Corps second lieutenants attend The Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, following graduation. They then choose from several occupational fields, such as infantry, armor, aviation, artillery, intelligence, and engineering. Nurse program graduates are commissioned as Navy Nurse Corps officers and assigned to Navy medical facilities throughout the world.

**Student Categories**
Students who study and train with NROTC can be classified into three categories.

**Scholarship Students**—NROTC offers many scholarships. Scholarship students are appointed through an annual national selection process before college admittance or through competition with their peers after entering the NROTC program. Once appointed, students are designated as midshipmen in the Naval Reserve and receive a scholarship that covers all tuition, fees, and books plus a subsistence allowance of $150 per month for up to 40 months. Upon graduation and commission into the Navy-Marine Corps Reserve, they serve a minimum active duty obligation of four years.

**College Program Students**—These students are enrolled by the professor of naval science and frequently are “walk-ons” who join the NROTC program from the regular University student population. They are provided with uniforms and naval science textbooks, but pay their own tuition and fees. The college program consists of the basic (freshman and sophomore) and advanced (junior and senior) courses. Advanced course students are selected from the ranks of basic course students. Advanced course midshipmen receive a subsistence allowance of $150 per month for up to 20 months. Upon graduation and commission into the Navy-Marine Corps Reserve, they serve a minimum active duty obligation of three years.

College program students may apply for NROTC scholarships based on the professor of naval science’s recommendation. Special scholarship opportunities may be available for college program students at various points in the program.

**Naval Science Students**—Naval science students are associated with the Department of Naval Science for academic instruction only, e.g., for courses in navigation or organization and management. They register and pay fees in the same manner as for other University courses.
For more than 150 years, on-campus military training and ROTC programs have provided intelligent, well-educated leaders for the nation's defense.

These students do not wear uniforms, participate in summer training programs, or receive NROTC benefits. However, those who are eligible may apply for enrollment as NROTC college program or two-year scholarship program students.

**Programs**

The following NROTC programs and scholarship opportunities lead to rewarding careers as officers in the Navy or Marine Corps.

**Four-Year Scholarship Program**—This program educates and trains qualified young men and women for active duty as reserve officers in the Navy or Marine Corps.

Scholarship recipients are chosen by a national selection board and must be accepted by the University. The application deadline is December 1 for enrollment the following fall semester.

Navy option scholarship students must successfully complete one year of calculus by the end of their sophomore year and one year of calculus-based physics by the end of their junior year. Marine Corps option scholarship students have a slightly different sequence of naval science courses and are not required to fulfill the calculus or physics requirements.

Scholarship students are required to complete three summer training periods, for which they receive training pay. After completing naval science requirements and earning a bachelor’s degree, students are commissioned as officers in the Navy-Marine Corps Reserve and serve on active duty for a minimum of four years.

Students already enrolled in the college program may apply for the scholarship program if nominated by the professor of naval science and selected by the chief of naval education and training.

**Naval Nurse Corps Scholarship**—Four-year scholarships are available to students planning to pursue the bachelor of science degree in nursing (B.S.N.). Upon graduation, these students are commissioned as reserve officers in the Navy Nurse Corps. Eligibility and selection procedures are the same as for the regular four-year NROTC scholarship program.

**Four-Year College Program**—This program is for students who wish to serve their country as reserve officers in the Navy or Marine Corps. Participants are University freshmen selected by the professor of naval science.

There are almost no restrictions on undergraduate academic courses students may choose, provided they can be applied to a bachelor’s degree. Students must complete the basic (freshman and sophomore) and advanced (junior and senior) naval science course sequences and certain University courses before graduation. College program students are not required to fulfill the calculus and physics requirements that apply to the scholarship program. Instead, they may take any college-level math course and any science course that includes a lab. In addition, students attend a summer training cruise between their junior and senior years.

After graduating and completing their naval science requirements, students are commissioned as ensigns in the Naval Reserve or second lieutenants in the Marine Corps Reserve and serve on active duty for a minimum of three years.

**Two-Year Scholarship Program**—This program provides the same NROTC benefits to college juniors and seniors as the four-year scholarship program. To qualify, applicants must have a 2.50 cumulative GPA. Navy option applicants must have successfully completed one year of calculus and must complete one year of calculus-based physics before the end of their junior year.

Interested students should apply before March 1 of their sophomore year. Selected students must complete a six-week course of instruction at the Naval Science Institute (NSI) in Newport, Rhode Island. Following NSI, students enroll in the NROTC advanced course. Commissioning as a Navy ensign or Marine Corps second lieutenant follows successful completion of the program and carries an obligation to serve four years of active duty.

**Two-Year College Program**—Students attending or transferring to the University should apply to the two-year college program before March 1 of their sophomore year. Students selected must attend a six-week course of instruction at the Naval Science Institute (NSI) in Newport, Rhode Island.

Upon return to the University, they enroll in the college program advanced course. After graduation and commissioning, students incur a three-year active duty obligation. Any student finishing near the top of the NSI class may be offered a two-year NROTC scholarship. This includes full tuition plus the other scholarship program benefits, and also incurs a four-year active duty obligation.

**Naval Science Institute (NSI)**—Students selected for either of the two-year programs attend the Naval Science Institute (NSI) in Newport, Rhode Island, following their sophomore year. NSI provides a six-week course of instruction in naval science and professional training. While at NSI, students receive pay, uniforms, room and board, and transportation. Successful completion of NSI qualifies students to enroll in the NROTC advanced course.

**Summer Training**—NROTC offers exciting training opportunities. Each summer, NROTC midshipmen train around the world at Navy and Marine Corps bases and aboard U.S. Navy and allied foreign navy vessels of all types. Scholarship students participate in four to six weeks of training each summer while college program students attend training during the summer between their junior and senior years.

**Cross-Town Agreements**—Students who attend the University of St. Thomas or Macalester College are eligible to participate in any of the University of Minnesota NROTC programs and earn commissions as Navy or Marine Corps officers.

**Curriculum**

The naval science curriculum covers basic seamanship to fleet operations and provides intensive education in the art and science of being a naval officer. All midshipmen learn about the background and meaning of our national and naval traditions and the importance of professional and ethical performance. This awareness, combined with the opportunity to develop and practice basic leadership principles, affords them the inner confidence necessary to effectively lead others and assume the responsibilities of a Navy or Marine Corps officer.

Midshipmen take the course sequence described on the following page. During the second and third years, they take either the Navy or Marine Corps sequence. In addition to the specified courses, students attend NROTC professional training for three hours each week. During the junior and senior years, these sessions emphasize command and leadership skills. NROTC students must also take certain University courses specified by the Navy. Mgmt 3001—Fundamentals of Management is required during the senior year for Navy midshipmen.
Navy Sequence—First Year
Nav 1000—Professional Training in Naval Science
Nav 1101—Introduction to Naval Science
Nav 1102—Seapower and Maritime Affairs

Navy Sequence—Second Year
Nav 2000—Professional Training in Naval Science
Nav 2201—Ship Systems I (Naval Engineering)
Nav 2202—Ship Systems II (Science and Technology in Naval Weapons Systems)

Navy Sequence—Third Year
Nav 3000—Professional Training in Naval Science
Nav 3301—Navigation I (Piloting and Celestial Navigation)
Nav 3302—Navigation II (Seamanship and Ship Operations)

Navy Sequence—Fourth Year
Nav 4000—Professional Training in Naval Science
Nav 4401—Leadership and Management I
Nav 4402—Leadership, Management, and Ethics II

Marine Option—Second Year
Nav 3310—Evolution of Warfare

Marine Option—Third Year
Nav 3000—Professional Training in Naval Science
Nav 4410—Amphibious Warfare

Students register for NROTC courses in the same manner as for other courses in their academic programs. These courses carry academic credit and may be used to fulfill University degree requirements. Students who are not in the NROTC program may enroll in a naval science course as an elective with the instructor’s consent.

Department of Aerospace Studies

The Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) program enables qualified men and women to work toward commissions as officers in the Air Force while completing requirements for a University degree. Students are commissioned as second lieutenants upon graduation.

The AFROTC curriculum emphasizes development of leadership and communication skills. Students learn ways in which the Air Force supports national policy. Leadership theory and its practical application in directing personnel and programs are emphasized.

AFROTC courses are offered by the Department of Aerospace Studies. Students register for these courses in the same manner as for other University courses.

Programs
AFROTC offers four-, two-, and one-year commissioning programs. Under the four-year program students register for AFROTC courses beginning in their freshman year and complete a four-year academic curriculum that includes a four-week field training encampment between their sophomore and junior years. Students electing the two-year program complete the last two years of the AFROTC program after attending a five-week field training encampment during the summer immediately preceding their last two years at the University. The one-year program is specifically for nursing, law, and electrical engineering students. Other arrangements are possible on a case-by-case basis.

The vast scope of the Air Force is difficult to portray in the classroom; Air Force cadets may be flown by military aircraft to an Air Force base to tour facilities, receive mission briefings, and inspect aircraft and other technical equipment.

Curriculum
The first two years of the aerospace studies program, General Military Course (GMC), consists of a 1-credit course per semester. The last two years, Professional Officer Course (POC), consists of a 3-credit course per semester.

In addition to classroom study, all AFROTC cadets must complete 21 hours of Leadership Laboratory each semester. Students taking aerospace studies courses for academic credit only and not enrolled in AFROTC are exempt from the Leadership Laboratory requirement.

Admission
Entry into the last two years of the AFROTC program is on a competitive basis. Candidates must
- pass the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT).
- pass an Air Force medical examination.
- have a GPA of 2.00 or higher.
- pass a physical fitness test and meet weight standards.
- complete field training (a four-week course for the four-year program; a six-week course for the two-year program).

Applicants selected for flight training must be able to complete graduation requirements and be commissioned before reaching 26 1/2 years of age. Other applicants must be able to complete graduation requirements before age 30, although deserving students may obtain a waiver to complete the requirements up to age 35.
Note: Public law currently prohibits AFROTC from giving scholarships to individuals who will be 27 or older before they graduate unless they are veterans.

Admission to AFROTC academic courses is open to all interested students with Department of Aerospace Studies approval.

Benefits
AFROTC offers students a challenging position in the Air Force immediately after graduation in a variety of career fields. All cadets receive uniforms and AFROTC textbooks free throughout the program. All scholarship recipients and all cadets in their last two years of AFROTC receive $150 per academic month and may travel on any military aircraft (space-available status). All cadets also have the opportunity for orientation flights aboard Air Force aircraft and visits to Air Force bases.

Active Duty Requirements
Students not programmed for flight training incur a four-year active duty commitment. Those who enter the pilot and navigator programs incur a commitment of ten and six years active duty, respectively, after completing their training. Scholarship recipients who receive five years of scholarship benefits incur a five-year commitment.

Scholarship Programs
AFROTC offers many scholarships. These scholarships may cover full tuition, fees, and books plus a $150 monthly, nontaxable allowance paid directly to the student. Three- and four-year scholarships are available on a competitive basis to high school seniors. Scholarship recipients are chosen by a national selection board. Applications are usually available early each summer, with a deadline of December 1 for enrollment the following fall semester. Two- and three-year scholarships are available for current and transferring college students on a competitive basis; requirements for these scholarships vary considerably by academic degree.

Each AFROTC detachment has one three-year scholarship available to the most deserving freshman in the program. AFROTC also offers a noncompetitive, two-year scholarship (open to all degrees) that pays $2,000 per year for tuition, books, and fees plus the $150 monthly, nontaxable allowance. For the most current information about scholarship options and requirements, call (612) 624-2884.

Directory

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The Armory Building is at 15 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455, on the University’s East Bank campus.