MILITARY SCIENCE (MS)

ROTC subjects do not carry academic credit at MIT, but they can be counted toward the PE requirement. Up to two points per year with a maximum of four points.

Military Science

MS.0102 American Military History
Prereq: MS.101 or permission of instructor
U (Fall, Spring)
2-0-4 units

Thematic exploration of American military history in the context of the broader history of the United States, US military strategy and involvement around the world, and the social effects of the American society on the military. Begins with a survey of world military history, up to the American colonial period, offering perspective on how and why Americans viewed armed conflict the way they did. Then covers the growth and development of the US military, from the colonial period to the modern day. Examines in depth why America fought each conflict the way it did and how it arrived at those ways of fighting. Investigates the usually subtle, yet profound, social effects the US military and American society have on each other. Includes readings, oral and written presentations, and oral and written quizzes and exams.

P. Godfrin, S. McDonough

MS.101 Introduction to Leadership and Personal Development
Prereq: None. Coreq: MS.102
U (Fall, Spring)
1-3-2 units

Foundational course provides instruction on the basic aspects of the officer corps of the United States Army. Introduces students to the personal challenges and competencies critical for effective leadership. Covers skills, such as critical thinking, goal setting, time management, physical fitness, and stress management in relation to leadership, Officership, and the Army profession. Students apply classroom instruction during Leadership Laboratories designed to reinforce classroom concepts.

J. Myers

MS.102 Introduction to Tactical Leadership
Prereq: None. Coreq: MS.101
U (Fall, Spring)
1-0-2 units

Provides an overview of leadership fundamentals, such as setting direction, problem-solving, listening, presenting briefs, providing feedback, and effective writing skills. Explores dimensions of leadership values, attributes, skills, and actions in the context of practical, interactive exercises. Additionally, students learn the organization of the United States Army, the role of the military in today’s society, customs and traditions.

J. Myers, P. Godfrin

MS.201 Fundamentals of Military Science
Prereq: MS.102 or permission of instructor
U (Fall)
2-3-1 units

Explores the dimensions of creative tactical leadership using historical case studies and interactive exercises. Students practice aspects of personal motivation, team-building and peer leadership fundamentals in various situations and environments. Introduces creative problem-solving techniques and procedures. Covers the organization, techniques, resources, and capabilities involved in conducting small-unit tactical operations. Students serve as junior leaders in Leadership Labs designed to reinforce classroom concepts.

P. Godfrin, C. Salmon

MS.202 Fundamentals of Army Operations
Prereq: MS.201 or permission of instructor
U (Spring)
2-3-1 units

Examines the challenges of leading teams in the Contemporary Operating Environment. Presents the critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary for adaptive leaders in administrative, training, and tactical environments. Explores Army leadership, mission-planning techniques, and small-unit operations in order to develop and hone decision-making skills. Throughout the term, cadets demonstrate their knowledge through a series of situational exercises. Covers fundamentals of military topography, including the use of military maps to determine topographic features, to conduct land navigation, and to perform terrain analysis. Designed to develop tactical planning and decision-making skills as preparation for more advanced training. Facilitates development of greater self-awareness in assessing leadership style and provides practice in communication and team-building. Students apply classroom instruction during labs in which they train and lead small units.

P. Godfrin, C. Salmon
MS.301 Planning Tactical Operations  
Prereq: MS.202 or permission of instructor  
U (Fall)  
3-6-3 units  
Focuses on small unit tactics and the military planning process. Emphasizes application of Troop Leading Procedures (TLPs) as a guide for planning, executing, and making decisions for complex operations. Covers military order formats and advanced communication skills. Synthesizes the various components of training, leadership, and team-building. Develops confidence and competence of leadership in a small unit setting. Students delegate, supervise, and plan for/adapt to unexpected changes in organizations under stress. Includes ongoing assessment designed to highlight strengths and weaknesses and improve leadership skills. Lab provides hands-on practice teaching basic military skills, including basic first-aid, weapons familiarization, orienteering, individual and squad-level tactics, techniques, and procedures. Students are assigned to leadership positions. Students actively participate in the execution of training within the program, enhancing oral and written communication skills, and the application of troop-leading procedures and mission analysis.  
E. Hannenberg

MS.302 Foundations of Leadership  
Prereq: MS.301 or permission of instructor  
U (Spring)  
3-6-3 units  
Experiential exploration of leadership from the military perspective. Surveys basic principles for successfully managing and leading people, particularly in public service and the military. Provides instruction in oral and written communication techniques, planning, team-building, motivation, ethics, decision-making, and managing change. Features case studies, presentations, and role play, with systematic and specific feedback on leadership activities. Focuses on analysis and evaluation of individual leadership values, attributes, skills, and actions. Lab provides hands-on practice teaching basic military skills, including weapons familiarization, orienteering, individual and squad level tactics, techniques and procedures. Students actively participate in the execution of training within the program, enhancing oral and written communications skills, and the application of troop-leading procedures and mission analysis.  
E. Hannenberg

MS.401 Leadership, Management, and Ethics  
Prereq: MS.302  
U (Fall)  
3-6-3 units  
Develops proficiency in planning and executing complex operations, functioning as a member of a staff, assessing risk, making ethical decisions, and leading fellow students. Covers the organization and management of higher-level military organizations. Examines military law and ethics. Case studies, scenarios, and other exercises focus on the complex ethical and practical demands of leading as a commissioned officer in the US Army. Through assignment to leadership positions in the ROTC Battalion, students direct and control the corps of cadets, practice oral and written communication, and develop their application of troop-leading procedures and mission analysis. During the labs students will develop technical, tactical, and leadership skills while assessing Officership potential. Through assignment to leadership positions in command and staff capacities, students actively participate in the planning and execution of training within the program, directing and controlling the corps of cadets, enhancing oral and written communications, and the application of troop-leading procedures and mission analysis.  
P. Godfrin

MS.402 Officership  
Prereq: MS.401  
U (Spring)  
3-6-3 units  
Examines the culture in which the Army operates. Focuses on how to successfully navigate within the contemporary operating environment. Emphasizes the role of cultural awareness in successful military operations. Also looks inward on the management and care of subordinates. Case studies, scenarios, and other exercises address the complex ethical and practical demands of leading as a commissioned officer in the US Army. Through assignment to leadership positions in command and staff capacities, students plan and execute training within the program. Includes a battle analysis exercise and a staff ride to the battlefields of Lexington and Concord. Labs are designated to develop technical and tactical, leadership skills while assessing Officership potential. Through assignment to leadership positions in command and staff capacities, students actively participate in the planning and execution of training within the program, directing and controlling the corps of cadets, enhancing oral and written communications, and the application of troop-leading procedures and mission analysis.  
P. Godfrin