

ROTC PROGRAMS

Air Force ROTC

The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corpse (AFROTC) program at MIT prepares students to become commissioned officers in the Air Force or Space Force while earning a college degree. Students will learn the principles of leadership in the classroom and put them into practice through hands-on management experience and valuable leadership-building exercises. AFROTC students are part of a tight-knit community of driven individuals who enjoy college life just like every other student on campus, while having the opportunity to pay for school through AFROTC scholarship programs.

Training Program

AFROTC is typically a four-year program, though exceptions can be made if students only have three academic years remaining before graduation. Accreditation for AFROTC courses may also be given if a student has prior military service, experience in JROTC, Civil Air Patrol, or at a service academy.

During the first two years of AFROTC, students are in the General Military Course (GMC). In the last term in the GMC, students may compete for entry into the Professional Officer Course (POC) selection process. Selection into the POC is based on academic aptitude, fitness, performance in the GMC, the recommendation of the professor of aerospace studies, and needs of the service. Students selected for PSP and FA attend field training during the summer between the sophomore and junior years. Field training is held at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, and is a two-week encampment that will evaluate your leadership potential and provide you the opportunity to expand your skills as both a leader and team member. Upon completion of field training, students enter the POC for the next two years before commissioning as an officer in the Air Force or Space Force.

Classroom Instruction

AFROTC offers a series of specialized classes and hands-on laboratories that give students a better understanding of the different functions of military leadership and provide the tools to help them succeed in their future career as an Air Force or Space Force officer.

Cadets in the program take two AFROTC classes per semester: Aerospace Studies (AS) and Leadership Laboratory (Lead Lab). The AS class is designed to educate students on a wide range of topics that progress through the students' time in AFROTC. Students learn everything from the basics of being in the Air Force or Space Force to leadership, management topics and national security issues.

In Lead Lab, students have the opportunity to apply what they learn in the classroom learning. During Lead Lab, students are taught military drill and ceremonies, customs, and courtesies; hear from

distinguished guest speakers; and most importantly, are given the opportunity to practice and hone their leadership skills. Lead Lab consists of a two-hour class held once per week and one-hour physical training sessions two times per week.

Scholarships

AFROTC scholarships are available on a competitive basis to qualified applicants. Scholarships may pay up to full tuition and authorized fees, include \$900 per year for textbooks, and a \$300–500 nontaxable allowance each month. All cadets who enter the POC and are not already on scholarship will be awarded the Charles McGee Leadership Award. This award pays \$18,000 per year for two years and cannot be applied to graduate studies.

Housing Benefit

Any scholarship awardee will be allowed to convert their award for a \$10,000 per-academic-year "housing scholarship" used for on-campus housing. This is for room only; board is not included and the conversion must begin at the start of the fall academic term, if exercised.

Students can apply for an AFROTC scholarship without incurring a service obligation. However, students awarded the scholarship do become obligated upon accepting and signing an agreement with the US Air Force or Space Force. The length of the initial service commitment depends on the student's career after graduation. Most officers have a four-year active-duty service commitment. Pilots have a 10-year active-duty service commitment, and both Combat System Officer and Air Battle Managers have a six-year service commitment upon completion of their respective training.

Eligibility Requirements

Academic Standards

Students must be enrolled full-time student at MIT, Harvard University, Tufts University, or Wellesley College and must successfully complete all Aerospace Studies courses and Leadership Laboratories that are part of the AFROTC curriculum. Cadets on a scholarship must maintain a 2.5 GPA; cadets not on scholarship must maintain a 2.0 GPA.

Fitness Requirements

The physical fitness test (PFT) is taken twice a year (fall and spring semesters) to ensure cadets meet fitness requirements. The PFT consists of a body mass index measurement, one minute of push-ups, one minute of sit-ups, and a 1.5-mile run. Cadets in the GMC and not on scholarship must take the test, but do not have to pass. Cadets in the POC and cadets on scholarship must pass each PFT.

Medical Requirements

Cadets must undergo a medical examination by a military doctor or designated civilian contractor. The medical examination will be scheduled and reviewed by the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DoDMERB). Examinations typically

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take 6–8 weeks to process, after which DoDMERB will determine whether they are medically qualified for the program. While the examination is processing, students can still participate in AFROTC with a completed sports physical.

Citizenship Requirements

Non-US citizens are eligible to participate in the GMC but must become a US citizen prior to attending field training and entering the POC. A student must be a US citizen to qualify for AFROTC scholarships.

Application Procedure

Interested students can sign up for the AFROTC program by visiting or contacting the Aerospace Studies Department, Room W59-114, 617-253-4475, afrotc@mit.edu.