Career Opportunities

After being commissioned, the Air Force offers you a wide variety of challenging careers in various fields. Just a few include:

- Pilot
- Combat Systems Officer
- Aircraft Maintenance Officer
- Air Battle Manager
- Space Operations Officer
- Nuclear and Missile Operations Officer
- Civil Engineer
- Communications Officer
- Personnel Officer
- Intelligence Officer
- Logistics Officer
- Security Forces Officer
- Contracting Officer
- Finance Officer
- Air Force Office of Special Investigations (APOSI)
- Nurse
- Combat Rescue Officer
- Weather Officer
- Public Affairs Officer

Common Misperceptions About AFROTC:

1. “If I join the program, I’m committed right away.”
   False: Non-scholarship cadets can be in the program until the start of their junior year without any commitment.

2. “The program will take all my time and I won’t be able to focus on my regular college classes.”
   False: Academics is the #1 priority for all AFROTC cadets. They can receive a commission without completing their degree; most GMC cadets only dedicate about 5 hours to the program per week.

3. “You have to be on a scholarship to be in AFROTC.”
   False: Most of our cadets are NOT on scholarship, so that is definitely not a requirement.

4. “If I inquire about the program, I will be contacted continually and pressured to join.”
   False: We do not pressure anyone to join; we will simply provide you information, then the decision is yours.

AFROTC Det 775

Crosstown Schools:

Students at the following schools can also participate in the AFROTC program at Det 775:

- Benedict College (Columbia)
- Claflin University (Orangeburg)
- Midlands Technical College (Columbia)
- South Carolina State University (Orangeburg)

Active Duty Benefits

A rewarding job following graduation and commissioning, and other benefits including:

- Pay — Starting salary of approximately $50K per year; increases to approximately $80K after 4 years
- Vacation — 30 days of paid vacation per year
- Sick Leave — Unlimited; full pay continues
- Medical and Dental Care — Furnished at no cost
- Life Insurance — Up to $400K of low-cost term life insurance
- Education — Tuition assistance provided for a masters degree
- Promotions — Promoted to 1st Lt after 2 years on active duty and to Capt after 4 years
- Housing — Provided on-base or you receive an allowance for off-base housing
- Base facilities — Fitness centers, libraries, outdoor recreation, golf courses, etc.
- Retirement — Opportunity to retire after 20 years on active duty

More Information

For more information, please do one of the following:

- Visit www.afrotc.com
- Call 1-866-423-7682
- Visit http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/aero/
- Call the AFROTC Detachment 775 Recruiting Flight Commander at (803) 777-3450 or send an e-mail to airforcerotc@sc.edu
- Visit AFROTC Detachment 775 at:
  University of South Carolina ROTC Center
  513 Pickens Street, Room 103
  Columbia, SC 29208

Information is current and accurate as of 1 June 2014, but is subject to change.
**AFROTC Four-Year Program**

**General Military Course (GMC)**

The first 2 years of the AFROTC program, the GMC, consists of 1 hour of classroom work, 2 hours of leadership laboratory, and 2 hours of physical training each week. In the classroom, you will learn more about the Air Force and the historical development of airpower. During the leadership laboratory, you will learn about drill and ceremonies, complete group problem-solving exercises, and hear from guest speakers. Physical training is an integral part of the Air Force lifestyle and the AFROTC program. You will be required to attend two 1-hour physical training sessions per week.

Upon completion of the GMC, you will compete for entry into the last 2 years of the program, the Professional Officer Course (POC). Selection factors include your academic major, cumulative grade point average, SAT (or equivalent) scores, physical fitness assessment scores, and ranking in your AFROTC class.

**Field Training**

If selected for the POC, you must successfully complete a 12-week summer field training encampment at Maxwell Air Force Base in the summer before your junior year of college. Field training is designed to develop military leadership and discipline while Air Force officers evaluate your officership potential.

Field training includes assignment of one or more leadership positions, physical fitness, a leadership reaction course, and expeditionary skills training.

**Professional Officer Course (POC)**

While in the POC for the last 2 years of AFROTC, you will attend class 3 hours per week, participate in 3 hours of leadership laboratory, and 2 hours of physical training. You will apply what you learned in the GMC and at field training and continue to develop your leadership skills. Classroom topics include leadership, management, communication skills, and national defense policy. As a POC student, you will help conduct the leadership laboratory and manage the detachment’s cadet corps.

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**General AFROTC Qualifications:**

- Must be a full-time college student
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Must be between 17 & 30 years old
- Must meet AFROTC height & weight standards
- Must pass a Physical Fitness Assessment
- Must pass a Dept of Defense physical exam
- Must maintain minimum cumulative & term GPAs (2.5 for scholarship cadets; 2.0 for non-scholarship cadets)
- Must pass the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFQT)
- Must have sound moral character and no history of illegal drug use or serious civil involvements

**Active Duty Obligation**

Non-scholarship cadets can complete the first 2 years of the program with no commitment. Scholarship cadets and those entering the POC must sign a contract agreeing to complete the program and accept a commission as an Air Force officer following graduation. Once commissioned, most officers must serve a minimum of 4 years on active duty. Pilots must serve for 10 years and Combat Systems Officers and Air Battle Manager officers must serve for 6 years.

The first step to enrolling in the program is to sign up for the required AFROTC courses. Freshman at the University of South Carolina should sign up for the following classes during the Fall semester: AERO 101 (academic class) and AERO 101L (leadership lab). It is recommended that they also sign up for PEDU 109 (Section 003) since this is the PT course that corresponds to the leadership lab.

Sophomores planning to enter the program must have 3 full academic years remaining and will need to dual enroll in the freshman and sophomore AFROTC courses. These students should sign up for the following classes during the Fall semester: AERO 101 (freshman academic class), AERO 201 (sophomore academic class), and AERO 201L (sophomore leadership lab). They can also sign up for the PEDU 109 (Section 003) course.

**Air Force ROTC Scholarships**

Air Force ROTC offers scholarships annually on a competitive basis to high school seniors. To apply for these scholarships, visit www.afrotc.com or call 1-866-423-7682. The deadline to submit the completed online scholarship application package is 1 December of your senior year.

2-year and 3-year in-college scholarships are also available for eligible non-scholarship AFROTC cadets in selected majors. Selection rates are higher for cadets in technical degree programs (e.g., engineering, chemistry, physics, computer science, etc.). Application packages for these scholarships are prepared for Detachment 775 personnel.

Cadets who are on scholarship receive a $600 textbook allowance each year. Scholarship cadets and contracted cadets also receive a monthly stipend based on their academic year.

AFROTC is the largest and oldest source of commissioned officers for the Air Force. It is designed to recruit, educate, train, and commission officer candidates through college campus programs. In other words, AFROTC is an education, training, and leadership program designed to provide you an opportunity to become an Air Force officer while you complete your college degree.