AEROSPACE STUDIES

The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) offers eligible students education and training that leads to a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. Air Force ROTC students may major in any degree program offered at UI; they supplement their major curricula with the specialized aerospace studies courses to prepare for active commissioned service.

Four-Year Program (General Military Course and Professional Officer Course)

A formal application is not required for students entering the four-year program. They may register for the program at the same time and in the same manner as they enroll in their other college courses. During their freshman and sophomore years, students enroll in the General Military Course (GMC), and there is NO MILITARY OBLIGATION. They then may compete for entry into the Professional Officer Course (POC), which is normally taken during the last two years of college. Selection into the POC is highly competitive and is based on qualification on an Air Force medical examination, a physical fitness test, scores achieved on the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT), successful completion of a paid four-week field training course at an Air Force base, and the recommendation of the professor of aerospace studies.

Air Force ROTC also offers financial assistance to selected students in the form of scholarships and subsistence allowances. The students compete for the scholarships through a national screening process. The Air Force offers 1- to 4-year scholarships that cover tuition, fees, and a book allowance, and also provide a stipend allowance ($300-$500 per month, depending on their level in the program) for each school year a student is on scholarship. Students interested in applying for scholarships should get in touch with this department. Nonscholarship students receive a stipend allowance ($450-$500 per month) while in the POC.

Air Force places a strong emphasis on physical fitness, and all ROTC cadets are required to participate at least three times a week in an organized, early morning fitness program with other cadets as part of the Leadership Laboratory requirements.

Field Training

Air Force ROTC field training is offered during the summer months at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. Students in the four-year program participate in four weeks of field training, usually between their sophomore and junior years. Field Training is a mandatory program for all individuals qualified to pursue an Air Force commission through AFROTC. The program is designed to evaluate military leadership and discipline, determine potential for entry into the POC, and stratify among peers.

Leadership Laboratory

Leadership Laboratory is taken an average of two hours a week throughout the student's enrollment in Air Force ROTC. Instruction is conducted within the framework of an organized cadet wing with a progression of experiences designed to develop each student's leadership potential. Leadership Laboratory involves a study of Air Force customs and courtesies, drill and ceremonies, career opportunities in the Air Force, and the life and work of an Air Force junior officer. Students develop their leadership potential in a practical, supervised laboratory, which typically includes field trips to Air Force installations throughout the U.S. In addition, students are required to participate at least three times a week in an organized, early morning fitness program with other cadets.


Minors