



ARMY ROTC 101

If you've ever spent a significant amount of time on a college or university campus, you've probably noticed the students in military uniforms and may even recognize them as being members of the Reserve Officer Training Corps, more commonly known as ROTC.

Founded when President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Defense Act in 1916, ROTC is a college program that provides undergraduate and graduate students with skills in leadership and discipline, critical thinking, management, cultural awareness and problem solving, all which are valuable in both civilian and military careers. Upon completion of the Army ROTC program, graduates are commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the U.S. Army and embark on specialized training in their first Army branch. With a total of 273 host programs and more than 1,100 partnership and affiliate schools across the country, ROTC produces approximately 60 percent of the Second Lieutenants who join the active Army. It prepares students for competitive careers in any field, enhancing the traditional college experience with a high level of leadership training they'll be able to tap into for a lifetime.

ROTC Scholarships

For high school students open to committing to an eight-year period of service, Army ROTC offers two-, three- and four-year scholarships, which pay full tuition and fees, include a separate allowance for books, and offer a monthly stipend. Recipients are selected based on GPA, physical fitness and extracurricular participation. High school students interested in ROTC can find more than 1,100 colleges and universities that carry an Army ROTC program and should talk to their academic advisor about scholarship opportunities. In addition, students already in college should talk to the Army ROTC Enrollment Officer or Military Science department on their campus about taking the Army ROTC basic elective course and exploring scholarship incentives available. While scholarships are competitive and not required to participate in the program, they can be very beneficial to students as they finance their academic career.

Life as an ROTC Cadet

After joining ROTC, students in their first and second year of college experience a program designed to fit around their class schedules and attend classes once a week to learn the basics, such as how to read a map, who and when to salute and the history of the Army. As they enter junior year they begin the Advanced Course, which provides hands-on opportunities to apply what they've learned. Cadets study the Army more deeply and attend one elective class and lab each semester in addition to the requisite physical training and field training exercises, plus a summer leadership camp. When they begin the Advanced Course, ROTC cadets not on a scholarship must make a final decision as to whether or not they'd like to serve in the active Army or Army Reserve.

Typically between junior and senior year, after having contracted to join the Army and taking the Advanced Course, cadets attend the Cadet Leadership Course (CLC), which is the U.S. Army Cadet Command's capstone training event held annually at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Successful completion of CLC is a prerequisite to becoming an Army officer through ROTC, and the 29-day course trains U.S. Army ROTC Cadets to Army standards, develops their leadership skills, and evaluates their officer potential. Starting with individual training and leading to collective training, a building-block approach permits integration of previously learned skills.



(Army ROTC 101, cont.)

Lifelong Benefits of ROTC

While added ROTC classes and workouts make college life busier, the ROTC legacy offers numerous benefits. ROTC students often experience the entire process with the same group of peers, building strong relationships and friendships along the way. ROTC also allows students to attend a normal class schedule and participate in campus activities while enhancing it with a competitive, nationally recognized and highly sought after level of leadership training. Upon completion of ROTC, graduates are grounded in a leadership development program that ensures they – the Army’s future leaders – can thrive in ambiguity and succeed in the complex environment that future scenarios will present.