AEROSPACE STUDIES

The Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) program at Texas A&M University is the largest AFROTC program in the United States and is designed to prepare selected students to be commissioned officers in the United States Air Force.

The institutional phase of AFROTC, called aerospace studies, is divided into two parts. The first two years constitute the General Military Course and the second two years constitute the Professional Officer Course. Details on courses offered are set forth in the alphabetical departmental listing. Concurrent enrollment in more than one aerospace studies course requires the approval of the department head, also known as the Professor of Aerospace Studies.

The General Military Course consists of the 100- and 200-level courses. These courses focus on the structure and missions of Air Force organizations; officer leadership and professionalism; and, include an introduction to communicative skills. The General Military Course prepares the cadet, as a candidate, for the Professional Officer Course (POC). Cadets in the General Military Course attend one hour of class plus two hours of leadership lab per week.

Students apply for enrollment in the Professional Officer Course during their sophomore year. Enrollment in the Professional Officer Course at the beginning of the junior year is limited to students of high moral character who are academically qualified, physically fit, possess the necessary interest and aptitude, and have demonstrated leadership potential.

Before entry into the Professional Officer Course, cadets must attend AFROTC Field Training during the summer months typically between the sophomore and junior academic years. The major areas of study in the Field Training program include junior officer training, aircraft and aircrew orientation, career orientation, survival training, base functions, Air Force environment, physical fitness training, and a culmination field training exercise. Those who complete Field Training are enlisted in the Air Force Reserve and enter the POC.

The purpose of the Professional Officer Course is to develop skills and attitudes vital to a career as a professional Air Force officer. A degree is a prerequisite for an Air Force commission. Cadets attend class three hours a week and leadership lab two hours per week during each semester of the Professional Officer Course.

If a student is selected for and enrolled in the Professional Officer Course, he or she must sign a contract with the government in which he or she agrees to enlist in the Air Force Reserve, complete the course and, upon graduation, accept a commission as an officer in the United States Air Force. He or she also must agree to serve on active duty for not less than four years after being commissioned. Persons selected for flight training must serve ten years of active duty following completion of pilot training. During their two years in the Professional Officer Course, cadets are eligible to receive monthly subsistence pay, plus added monetary incentives.

Leadership training is continuous during the student’s life as an AFROTC cadet. One way this is accomplished is through Leadership Laboratory. Instruction is conducted within the framework of an organized cadet corps 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, Air Force career opportunities, and expectations of an Air Force junior officer. Students develop their leadership in a practical, supervised laboratory, which typically includes field trips to Air Force installations.

Students enrolled in the four-year program may apply and compete for two- or three-year AFROTC College Scholarships. The AFROTC In-College Scholarship Program is a highly competitive program aimed primarily at college freshmen and sophomores in any major. If selected for an AFROTC scholarship, the student will receive tuition payment, textbook allowance and monthly subsistence allowance.

Upon completion of the Professional Officer Course and graduation from the University, students are commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the United States Air Force. All instructors are active duty officers assigned to the University by the United States Air Force. Information about the Air Force ROTC program may be obtained by contacting the Detachment, or visiting the Air Force ROTC (http://afrotc.tamu.edu) website.

Courses

AERS 101 Foundations of the USAF
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.
Introduction to the U.S. Air Force and the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC); includes Officership, professionalism, military customs and courtesies, and officer opportunities and benefits; AFROTC cadets must register for Leadership Laboratory (AERS 105) as it complements this course with followership experience.

AERS 102 Foundations of the USAF
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.
Continuation of AERS 101; AFROTC cadets must register for Leadership Laboratory (AERS 106) as it complements this course with followership experience.

AERS 105 AFROTC Leadership Lab
Credit 1. 2 Lab Hours.
Designed to give insight into the Air Force and give leadership opportunities to cadets through a variety of experiences; expected to perform a multitude of tasks in both the subordinate and superior roles. Must be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

AERS 106 AFROTC Leadership Lab
Credit 1. 2 Lab Hours.
Designed to give insight into the Air Force and give leadership opportunities to cadets through a variety of experiences; expected to perform a multitude of tasks in both the subordinate and superior roles. Must be taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis.

AERS 201 Evolution of Air and Space Power
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.
Examines general aspects of air and space power through a historical perspective; covers the time period from the first use of balloons to the Persian Gulf War; AFROTC cadets must register for Leadership Laboratory (AERS 105) as it complements this course with followership/leadership experience.

AERS 202 Evolution of Air and Space Power
Credit 1. 1 Lecture Hour.
Continuation of AERS 201; AFROTC cadets must register for Leadership Laboratory (AERS 106) as it complements this course with followership/leadership experience.
AERS 303 Air Force Leadership Studies
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Leadership, management fundamentals, professional knowledge, Air Force personnel and evaluation systems, and leadership ethics; case studies of leadership and management situations as a means of demonstrating and exercising practical application of concepts; Air Force contract individuals (or those seeking a contract) must register for Leadership Lab (AERS 105).

AERS 304 Air Force Leadership Studies
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Continuation of AERS 303; Air Force contract individuals (or those seeking a contract) must register for Leadership Lab (AERS 106).

AERS 403 National Security Affairs—Preparation for Active Duty
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
Examines the Constitution and the national security process; focuses on civilian control of the military; the roles of the Services; and the functions of the Air Force commands; Air Force contract individuals (or those seeking a contract) must register for Leadership Lab (AERS 105).
Prerequisite: Non-Air Force contract students must have approval of instructor and department head.

AERS 404 National Security Affairs—Preparation for Active Duty
Credits 3. 3 Lecture Hours.
National Security Affairs—Preparation for Active Duty. Continuation of AERS 403; Air Force contract individuals (or those seeking a contract) must register for Leadership Lab (AERS 106).
Prerequisite: Non-Air Force contract students must have approval of instructor and department head.

AERS 485 Directed Studies
Credits 1 to 3. 1 to 3 Other Hours.
Directed study of problems in the field of aerospace studies.
Prerequisites: Air Force ROTC Cadet; junior or senior classification; approval of department head.