

ROTC Basics

- Reserve Officer Training Corps is a way for you to pay for college and get an understanding of how the military operates.
- There are ~1100 ROTC detachments at universities and colleges in the US.
 - o Just because there isn't one at your school doesn't mean you can't use a partner school's detachment.
 - o Some of these programs are at major universities, and they may have smaller branches at smaller junior colleges.
 - o There are Army, Navy and Air Force units.
 - Marine applicants go through the Navy ROTC administered USMC ROTC units.
 - o Each Sponsored ROTC unit will have a commander, one or two junior officers and one or two enlisted members to teach the program material.
 - Each "mini detachment" will typically have one junior officer, two enlisted and one or two civilians there to oversee the program at the partner universities with ROTC unit oversight.
- Time Commitment
 - o You go to college classes but are associated with the ROTC unit which is connected administratively to an Active-Duty Branch of Service.
 - o You must take a minimum number of courses that the ROTC unit puts on for military leadership and development.
 - You can accumulate some of your college credits towards a major or possibly a minor in another discipline. This is college specific.
 - Don't forget to apply for this approaching graduation (~18 hours needed for a minor)
 - o There is typically at least one commitment during the summer months during your time in ROTC.
 - Field training exercise that lasts two-three weeks in between sophomore and junior year of school.
 - Operations Air Force can allow you to intern at an Air Force Base during one of your summers pre-commissioning.
- Application and scholarships:
 - o Students can apply during their junior year and senior year of high school. The earlier the better.
 - o Scholarships out of High School (Junior year complete prior to application)
 - Type 1- A full tuition & fee scholarships including a housing stipend.
 - Type 2- Partial scholarships (\$18k) that also has a monthly housing stipend. You can use these at a private or public university.
 - Type 7 are in state scholarships that cover 100% tuition and fees at a public school that also has a monthly housing stipend.
 - Many have started with a Type 7 and transferred to a Type 2 in their second year.
 - Note: It helps to have a technical degree plan.

- In College Scholarships
 - There are similar variations to the above to apply when you are in college. See local units for the application process.
- Enlisted to Officer programs exist and cater to our enlisted members wanting to commission.
- Guard and Reserve units can sponsor you while in ROTC.
- You are not required to carry a scholarship to participate in the ROTC program.
- Job selections are merit based.
 - These are tied to your GPA, your ROTC standing and you taking on leadership duties. Typically, these are awarded the junior year for a four-year program.
 - There are ways to stand out. For example, USAF ranks based on:
 - GPA
 - RSS- Every applicant shoots for a high RSS (Relative Standing Score) that accumulates throughout one's time in the ROTC unit and at the University. It is awarded through the Commander of the unit.
 - This score is based on a scale of 1-50.
 - More leadership positions could sway a commander's opinion.
 - It is Detachment specific.
 - Field Training- There's a field training component that is graded on your leadership skills. Typically, a two-week assessment between sophomore and junior year.
 - Personal Fitness Assessment- This test is typically tied to the larger USAF (or USN or USA) fitness standards.
 - Your PCSM score.
 - Students compete for the different officer jobs available that year. The number of jobs available change from year to year.
 - Depending on the size of the unit, each one can get several coveted pilot slots (jobs) or other positions. The ROTC Commander can advocate for extra slots if there are more interest in their unit.
 - In ROTC you typically fight for jobs in different categories (rated (Pilot, CSO, ABM), Intel (Intel or Cyber Effects Officer) or another career field. The different job categories have changed over the last few years as categories have morphed for needs.
- Result:
 - You complete the program and you commission as an officer in the service.
 - The minimum commitment is four years post commissioning.
 - Certain occupations require more commitments post training.

Information collected from many sources including, but not limited to: USAF ROTC, USA ROTC and USN ROTC web pages. This brochure speaks specifically to USAF ROTC concepts, USA and USN are slightly different programs, but have similar structure.