

# West Virginia University Army ROTC

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: WHAT IS ROTC?** Army ROTC is the premier leadership development internship on campus at West Virginia University. No other programs provide the leadership philosophy, education or practical hands-on training to prepare students for success in the military and corporate environment. ROTC is an elective course taken along with required courses in an individual's selected major. It provides tools, training and experiential learning opportunities that will help you succeed in any competitive environment.

**Q: CAN YOU CONTRACT WITH ROTC WITHOUT COMPLETING THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF MILITARY SCIENCE CLASSES?** Yes, there are several different ways to enter into ROTC. Ideally, students have completed the first two years of military science courses (MS 101, 102, 201 & 202). However, for those who were unable to complete the Basic Course (freshman & sophomore years) constructive credit can be attained by attending Leadership Training Course (LTC) before the junior year, attending Basic Training in one of the military services, and/or prior military service. Constructive credit may also be available for JROTC experience in high school.

**Q: CAN YOU ENROLL IN MILITARY SCIENCE CLASSES WITHOUT INCURRING A MILITARY SERVICE OBLIGATION?** Yes, the first two years of ROTC, also called the Basic Course, consists of Military Science 101, 102, 201 & 202. These courses are available to all students through open enrollment and the students incur no service obligation to the military. Students all receive grades and general education credit for successful completion of the two-hour per week course.

**Q: ARE ALL ROTC CADETS ON ROTC SCHOLARSHIPS?** No, in fact, the majority of cadets are not Army ROTC scholarship recipients. Most cadets are members of the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) where cadets serve in the WV Army National Guard or the Army Reserve while completing military science requirements at WVU.

**Q: ARE NON-U.S. CITIZENS PERMITTED TO ENROLL IN MILITARY SCIENCE COURSES?** Under the open enrollment policy, non-U.S. citizens are allowed to enroll in the first four semesters of military science (Military Science 101, 102, 201 & 202). However, in order to contract and be commissioned as an Army officer, a cadet will have to seek and obtain official citizenship before commissioning.

**Q: DO ALL CADETS COMMISSIONED AS 2<sup>ND</sup> LIEUTENANTS IN THE ARMY CONTINUE TO SERVE ON ACTIVE DUTY?** No, while some cadets are selected for active service, the majority of cadets continue to serve in the Reserve Components (Army Reserve or Army National Guard).

**Q: WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO**



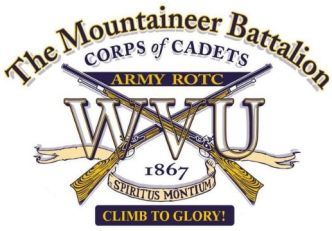
**CONTRACT WITH ROTC?** Prospects must be U.S. citizens in good academic standing (minimum 2.0 GPA), of good moral character, and are enrolled as a full-time student. There are also limits on the number of family members (spouses and dependents) a cadet can have while enrolled in ROTC.

**Q: ARE CIVILIAN CONVICTIONS AN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFIER FOR ROTC CONTRACTING?** Not necessarily. All potential prospects are evaluated for good moral character. Civil convictions will be taken into consideration and some are waivable. However, domestic abuse convictions are automatic disqualifiers. All convictions are judged on their individual circumstances.

**Q: DO ROTC CADETS TAKE REGULAR CLASSES ON CAMPUS OR JUST MILITARY SCIENCE CLASSES?** All cadets are required to choose a major and make progress in a four-year degree-granting program at WVU. Military science classes are just required two or three-hour electives that are taken in conjunction with the cadet's declared major requirements.

**Q: DO CADETS GET TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN MAJOR?** Yes, all cadets are able to choose their own major and academic pursuits. Cadets are required to choose a major and make progress in a bachelor's degree program at WVU. Cadets will not be commissioned as Army officers until they earn a bachelor's degree from the University.

**Q: HOW IS IT DETERMINED WHOM GETS ACTIVE DUTY OR RESERVE COMPONENT SERVICE AFTER COMMISSIONING?** During the Advanced Course (junior & senior years), cadets are constantly being evaluated. Overall GPA, physical training, and individual military science performance are all factors that are used to



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determine an Order of Merit List (OML). The OML is rolled up at the national level. Who gets active duty is determined largely based on the OML with academic major taken into consideration within the total needs of the Army. Bottom line, being accessed for active duty is highly competitive.

**Q: HOW LONG IS THE MANDATORY MILITARY SERVICE OBLIGATION AFTER COMMISSIONING?** Each officer's mandatory service obligation is determined by how the accession process rules during the student's senior year. Cadets selected for active duty incur a three-year obligation except for scholarship recipients who must serve four years. Reserve Component officers must serve a minimum in the National Guard or the Army Reserve for six years. Regardless of component, ALL officers have a statutory mandatory eight-year service obligation. This can be served in any combination of ways between active duty, Army Reserve, National Guard or Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) service.

**Q: WHAT IS THE SIMULTANEOUS MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM?** The Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) is very popular with cadets within the Mountaineer Battalion. SMP participants serve in the Army National Guard or Army Reserve while also completing their military science requirements at WVU. SMP cadets are often eligible for additional military and educational benefits based on their military service and training. Students who enlist in the WV Army National Guard are afforded in-state tuition and become eligible for 100% tuition assistance after completing basic training and AIT.

**Q: CAN CADETS BE COMMISSIONED AS ARMY OFFICERS BEFORE THEY OFFICIALLY GRADUATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY?** No. Having a degree is required for commissioning to occur with very few exceptions (i.e. cadets who already have a bachelor's degree). We are not able to commission cadets until they graduate from WVU. Cadets who finish ROTC are considered "completion cadets" and will not receive an officer's commission until they graduate from WVU with a bachelor's degree.

**Q: HOW MUCH TIME IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN ROTC?** ROTC cadets are students first. ROTC is very similar to a part-time job. Contracted cadets can expect to spend two or three hours in the classroom each week, three hours of organized training three mornings each week, in addition to a two-hour lab once a week. Periodically within a semester, contracted cadets are also required to participate in required training events such as a military field training exercise (FTX) once a semester. Attempts are made to avoid conflicts with academic requirements and exceptions are made on an individual basis.

**Q: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING ROTC?** Army ROTC is the premier leadership development internship on campus at West Virginia University. No other programs provide the leadership philosophy, education or practical hands-on training to prepare students for success in the military and corporate environment. In addition to leadership training, ROTC also provides many financial benefits. Contracted cadets receive a monthly stipend during the academic school year (\$300 freshman scholarship recipients only, \$350 sophomore, \$450 junior and \$500 during the senior year). WV Army National Guard SMP cadets are also eligible for in-state tuition rates, tuition assistance and possibly the Reserve Component GI Bill for those who complete basic training and advanced individual training (AIT). ROTC/military training is widely recognized by corporate America for preparing prospective leaders for success in business. ★



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