Military Science

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The purpose of the Army ROTC program is to select, train, and motivate the future leadership of the active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve. The curriculum is available to both men and women and prepares students to become effective leaders and managers in a variety of challenging fields.

The Army ROTC curriculum is divided into two courses: a General Military Course open to all students and an Officer Development Course for qualified juniors, seniors and graduate students. The General Course serves to acquaint Auburn students with the Army and its role in our society; The Officer Development course prepares students for service as commissioned officers. Successful completion of both courses and award of a bachelor’s degree constitute the normal progression to earning a commission as a Second Lieutenant. Students undecided about pursuit of a commission may participate in the General Military Course. This affords freshman and sophomore students the opportunity to make an informed decision on the advantages of an officer’s commission while incurring no military obligation.

General Military Course (The Basic Course)

The Basic Course consists of a four-semester block of instruction normally taken during the freshman and sophomore years. Successful completion of MILS 1010, MILS 1020, MILS 2010 and MILS 2020 together with the associated labs (MILS 1011, MILS 1021, MILS 2011 and MILS 2021) satisfies the academic requirements for progression to the Officer Development Course. Two credit hours per semester are earned for the lecture and lab. Subject to departmental approval, students may complete all four courses in one academic year.

Curriculum in the General Military Course

The basic military science courses provide unique classroom and hands-on instruction in orienteering, small unit tactics, first aid, physical fitness, and leadership skills. They introduce the student to the Army as a profession, lay the foundation of value-based, ethical decision-making, illuminate the Army’s place in society and lay the foundation for the Officer Development Course that follows. The Professor of Military Science may admit the student to the Advanced Program upon completion of these courses.

Courses are offered in the fall and spring semesters and credits earned may be applied as elective credits toward degree requirements in all schools of the university.

Optional Leadership Training Course

Otherwise qualified students who are unable to complete the Basic Course during their freshman and sophomore years may qualify for admission to the Advanced Course by successfully completing the Leadership Training Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

The Leadership Training Course consists of approximately four weeks of training conducted during the summer months. Students desiring to exercise this option are required to submit a formal application and pass a general physical. Students who participate in the Leadership Training Course will receive approximately $700 in addition to travel expenses to and from Fort Knox. Uniforms, housing, medical care and meals are furnished by the government during training.

Interested students are strongly encouraged to enroll in a military science course and laboratory during the spring semester. Deadline for applications is March 15, all applicants must contact the Military Science Department no later than March 1.

Officer Development Course (The Advanced Course)

Successful completion of the General Military Course or approved alternative training, a minimum 2.0 grade-point average, and medical qualifications are pre-requisites for enrollment in the Officer Development Course. Service veterans, transfer students from junior or military colleges, members of the National Guard or Army Reserve, and former military academy cadets may qualify for direct entry into the Officer Development Course two academic years before their projected graduation.

The Advanced Course is designed to develop a candidate’s leadership and management potential, physical stamina, and poise, as well as the character traits desired of an Army Officer. The program’s objective is to produce the highest caliber junior officer, fully capable of accepting command in the modern Army, exercising management responsibilities and serving the broader community.
The Advanced Course consists of a four-semester block of instruction taken during the junior and senior years (MILS 3010, MILS 3020, MILS 4010 and MILS 4020). Successful completion of the courses, together with a leadership laboratory (MILS 3011, MILS 3021, MILS 4011 and MILS 4021) each semester fulfills military science academic requirements for award of an officer’s commission. Three credit hours per semester are earned for the lecture and laboratory. Students currently receive a tax-free subsistence allowance of $450 (juniors) and $500 (seniors) while enrolled.

Students enrolled in the Officer Development Course are required to successfully complete approximately four weeks of leadership training at Fort Lewis, Washington, during the summer to become eligible for commissioning. Attendance at the Leadership Development Assessment Course normally occurs in the summer following the junior year. The purpose of the course is to provide each candidate hands-on experience in leadership development as well as extensive training in military tactics, techniques and related subjects vital to success as a junior officer. Students attending the Leadership Development Assessment Course receive approximately $700 in addition to travel expenses to and from Fort Lewis. Uniforms, housing, medical care and meals are furnished by the government during the training.

Additional voluntary training at one or more of a variety of active Army service schools is available to select students each summer. Students may apply for attendance at Airborne School, Air Assault School, The Northern Warfare Training Center and Cadet Troop Leadership Training. Students who successfully complete the appropriate course are authorized to wear the Parachutist, Air Assault or other applicable skill badge.

Students who successfully complete the Army ROTC curriculum, and earn a bachelor’s degree, serve on active duty or with the Army National Guard or Army Reserve. Active duty is for a period of three or four years with the opportunity for qualified officers to apply for extended service. Current salary and allowances for a single Second Lieutenant exceed $42,000. Medical and other benefits are also provided at no cost.

Professional Military Education Requirements

All Army ROTC cadets seeking a commission are required to pass a Written Communication Skills course (currently fulfilled by the University Core Curriculum) and World Military History (HIST 3640). An alternate military history course may be substituted with the approval of the Professor of Military Science.

Simultaneous Membership Program

Second, third- and fourth-year students are eligible to participate in the Simultaneous Membership Program with the Army National Guard or Army Reserve. Students participating in this program affiliate with an Army unit as a student officer, thus affording them the opportunity for enhanced leadership development. Students in this program receive a salary, additional tax-free benefits and GI Bill educational benefits (if otherwise qualified).

Military Science Minor

The Department of Military Science offers a minor under the following conditions. Seventeen semester hours in Military Science [MILS] are required, including 12 at the 3000/4000-level, and a three-hour 3000-level Military History course and a two-hour PHED 1263, Military Fitness for everyone.

Scholarship Programs

Each year the Army offers a limited number of four-year, three-year and two-year scholarships to those young men and women who have demonstrated outstanding scholastic, athletic and leadership potential. Scholarships are available on a campus competitive basis and pay most or all of the cost of tuition, textbooks, supplies and fees for both resident and non-resident students. Additionally, scholarship students receive a $300 to $500 month tax-free allowance.

Army Nurse Corps Option

Students enrolled in the School of Nursing curriculum leading to the degree of bachelor of science in nursing may simultaneously pursue commissions as Second Lieutenants in the Army Nurse Corps.

Nursing students qualify for entry into the Officer Development Course by the same methods as other candidates and participate in the same summer Leadership Development Assessment Course as well. Nursing students may also receive practical and leadership experience during an additional nursing training program in a clinical setting at an Army hospital. The focus is to provide nursing cadets an experience that integrates clinical, interpersonal, and leadership knowledge and skills. Emphasis is on practical experience under the direct supervision of an Army Nurse Corps Officer who acts as the cadet’s preceptor throughout the training period.
Nursing students compete for scholarships only against other nursing students and are eligible to compete for fully funded advanced schooling after serving an initial tour (three to four years) of active duty. Nurse Corps officers selected for advanced degree programs draw their regular salary and benefits while pursuing a specialized degree at Army expense. Participants in this program incur an additional active duty service obligation.