Reserve Officers Training Corps

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The Reserve Officers Training Corps program at LSU continues the military heritage that has been part of this institution since 1860.

The Army and Air Force ROTC programs are offered for men and women. Through a cross-enrollment agreement between LSU and Southern University, LSU students may also participate in Navy ROTC. Participation in these programs is optional. These programs develop selected college-educated students for positions of responsibility and leadership in the U.S. armed forces and offer students an educational experience not otherwise available at this University.

Military Science and Aerospace Studies are the titles of the Army and Air Force ROTC programs, respectively. Military science, aerospace studies, and naval science are recognized electives, and students may choose to pursue Army, Air Force, or Navy curricula. Prior to graduation, Army ROTC cadets must take courses in military history and pass a combat water survival test.

Both Army and Air Force ROTC conduct two- and four-year programs. The Air Force has also added a one-year program. Successful completion of any of one-, two-, or four-year program will result in the student being offered a commission in the appropriate service. In addition, scholarship programs that cover University fees, books, laboratory fees, and related academic expenses and include a monthly subsistence allowance are available for selected students. Students enrolled in the Army ROTC program may compete for scholarships of two-, three-, three-and-one-half-, or four-year duration. Students enrolled in Air Force ROTC may compete for scholarships of two, three, three and one half, or four years’ duration. LSU supplements all ROTC scholarships with an honor award covering residence hall costs.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be considered for enrollment in an ROTC program, a student:
- must be full-time;
- must be a U.S. citizen or an applicant for naturalization;
- must have good moral character as required by military regulations;
- (for the advanced program) must be physically qualified to participate as prescribed by the Department of Defense;
- must be at least 14 years of age upon enrollment in the Air Force ROTC program, at least 17 years of age upon enrollment in the Army ROTC program, and at least 17 years of age upon enrollment in the Naval ROTC program;
- must be under 30 years of age at the time of commissioning (selected cases may be waived to age 35); and
- must take and sign the Oath of Allegiance.

FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM

The four-year program is divided into two phases—the freshman/sophomore phase and the junior/senior phase. These two phases are officially called the Basic and Advanced Course by the Army; the Air Force designates them as the General Military Course and the Professional Officer Course. Students who have completed the freshman/sophomore phase may apply for the junior/senior phase. Selection for enrollment into the latter is made from those who have demonstrated that they possess the qualities necessary to qualify for a commission, including satisfactory performance on the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test for the Air Force program. Veterans and students who had prior ROTC training while in high school may be granted placement credit for the freshman and sophomore phase and may enter the junior and senior phase if their application is approved by the Professor of Military Science or the Professor of Aerospace Studies.

MILITARY OBLIGATION

Except for ROTC scholarship cadets or contract cadets, LSU students do not incur a military obligation by enrolling in the Army ROTC Basic Course or the Air Force ROTC General Military Course.

TWO-YEAR PROGRAM

The two-year program extends the advantages of ROTC to junior-college graduates, transfer students, graduate students, and LSU students who did not enroll in the freshman/sophomore phase. Upon successful completion of a five-week summer training period, the student applying for the two-year program may enter the junior/senior phase.

CADET PAY

Students enrolled in the last two years of either ROTC program or who are under contract with the respective service will receive a monthly tax-free subsistence allowance during each academic year. During the required four- to seven-week training period (normally between the junior and senior years for Army ROTC and between the sophomore and junior years for Air Force ROTC), students will receive one-half of the pay of a second lieutenant plus travel expenses.

ARMY ROTC SUMMER TRAINING

Army ROTC Advanced Course cadets attend a five-week camp between the junior and senior years of college. At this camp cadets receive training and evaluation in troop leadership, marksmanship, land navigation, small unit tactics, physical training, and adventure training. In addition to this camp, cadets have the opportunity to attend Airborne School, Air Assault School, Northern Warfare School, and Cadet Troop Leadership.
AIR FORCE FIELD TRAINING

Air Force ROTC field training is offered during the summer months at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. Students in the four-year program participate in four or five weeks of field training prior to enrollment in the Professional Officer Course. The major areas of study in the four-week field training program include junior officer training, aircraft and aircrew orientation, career orientation, survival training, base functions and Air Force environment, and physical training. The major areas of study included in the five-week field training program are essentially the same as those conducted at the four-week field training and in the General Military Course. Field training normally occurs between the sophomore and junior years.

ARMY SIMULTANEOUS MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM (SMP)

This program combines service in the Army National Guard or U.S. Army Reserve with enrollment in the Army ROTC program. It is open to eligible Guardsmen and Reservists who have attained sophomore academic standing. ROTC cadets also may enter this program after entering the Advanced Course. SMP participants will attend ROTC instruction and train with their military unit one weekend per month and two weeks in summer.

SMP participants will receive the ROTC subsistence allowance, plus the equivalent of a sergeant’s pay for the monthly drill attendance and two weeks annual training. They will also receive the tuition exemption extended to all Louisiana residents in the Louisiana Army National Guard who maintain a 2.00 GPA. At the end of the Advanced ROTC program, these students will apply for commissions in the Active Army, Army National Guard, or the Army Reserve.

THE NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS

Through a cross-enrollment agreement between LSU and Southern University, LSU students are eligible to enroll in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) leading to a commission in the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps. Openings are available in the four-, three-, or two-year programs. NROTC is open to all students; naval science courses are taught on the Southern University campus. There is no additional cost to full-time LSU students to cross-enroll in the NROTC program. Students incur no obligation while participating in the freshman and sophomore years. NROTC scholarship appointments are available to college students enrolled in the program who demonstrate satisfactory academic performance and aptitude for commissioned service.

Midshipmen are required to complete two semesters of mathematics courses (college algebra or above) and two semesters of a physical science in addition to naval science courses. Scholarship students have the additional requirement of completing two semesters of calculus (MATH 1550 and 1552) and two semesters of physics (PHYS 2101 and 2102). Students who are in the second year of college, have completed one year of mathematics, and are in good academic standing are eligible to attend the Naval Science Institute (NSI) in Newport, Rhode Island. Successful completion of NSI, an academic and professional naval science program held for six weeks in the summer, qualifies students for enrollment in advanced NROTC courses and enables them to compete for a two-year NROTC scholarship. All costs for attending NSI are paid by the Navy, and students attending are under no obligation.

Naval ROTC offers a wide range of career opportunities including naval aviation (Navy and Marine Corps); submarine, surface, and special warfare (Navy); and combat arms and combat service support (Marine Corps).

Information on the naval science curriculum and a listing of naval science courses may be found in the Southern University catalog. Additional details may be obtained from the Professor of Naval Science/Commanding Officer, NROTC Unit, Southern University, P. O. Box 9214, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70813; 225-771-4370; FAX 225-774-3604.