

Professional Officer Course – Early Release Program (POC-ERP)



OVERVIEW

The POC-ERP offers active duty Air Force enlisted personnel an opportunity to commission and become Air Force officers. Selectees are released early from active duty to enter the AFROTC Professional Officer Course (POC).

Members will transfer two years of academic credits towards their bachelor's degrees. They will sign two-year contracts with AFROTC and become full-time students. Upon completion of all degree and POC requirements, they will commission as second lieutenants.

REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the POC-ERP, an applicant must meet the following standards:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Meet all moral requirements
- Have at least one year time in service (waiverable)
- Have at least one year time on station (waiverable)
- Be recommended by immediate commander
- Pass the Air Force Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA)
- Be world-wide qualified
- Be admitted to a school that offers AFROTC
- Enter active duty before age 35 (non-technical majors) and be less than 30 years old at the time of application
- Have at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Be able to complete all undergraduate degree requirements in two years
- Not be selected for reassignment prior to submission of the application
- Have not already completed a Bachelor's Degree

SELECTION

POC-ERP selection boards consider applicants using the "whole person" concept. As part of the board process, applicants will be evaluated on their ability to put their packages together in the proper format in accordance with the ECP Package Checklist. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the package is completed accurately and on time.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Waiver requests to HQ/AFROTC/RRUE and must be postmarked NET 15 July and NLT 1 September of each year. Application packages must reach HQ AFROTC/RRUE NET 15 September and NLT 15 October each year. Late packages or late waiver requests will not be accepted and will be returned to the applicant.

REQUIRED FIELDS OF STUDY

POC-ERP is open to all academic majors.

NURSING

Members applying to nursing programs may apply for POC-ERP beyond age 31. Nurse applicants may be commissioned up to age 42.

RELEASE FROM ACTIVE DUTY

While in AFROTC, individuals will no longer receive military pay or benefits. All members applying for the POC-ERP are required to provide proof that they have financial assistance.

Although AFROTC does not provide scholarship funding for this program, students are limited to attending schools with annual tuition and fees under \$18,000. All cadets in the POC-ERP will receive a

non-taxable monthly stipend ranging from \$300-\$500 and an annual textbook allowance of \$900. Members may use their GI Bill benefits while in the program along with any grants of scholarships for which they qualify.

RECOMMENDED GUIDANCE

For assistance, contact your base Education Office and reference the Enlisted Commissioning Programs website:

http://www.au.af.mil/au/holmcenter/AFROTC/EnlistedComm/POC_ERP.asp