

Scholarships for Outstanding Airmen to ROTC (SOAR)



OVERVIEW

The SOAR program allows Major Command (MAJCOM) commanders the opportunity to select outstanding active duty airmen for AFROTC scholarships. Airmen who are selected are discharged from active duty to pursue a commission through AFROTC.

The scholarship pays for college tuition and fees up to \$18,000 per year. Students may not pay the difference to attend higher priced schools. In addition, all scholarship recipients receive a nontaxable monthly stipend ranging from \$300 - \$500 and an annual textbook allowance of \$900.

Selected airmen may pursue any academic major that leads to their bachelor's degree. The length of the scholarship is based upon the time needed to finish degree work as a full-time student but the airman must spend at least two years in college.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BY COMMAND

A limited number of scholarships are allocated each year with distribution to MAJCOM's, Field Operating Agencies (FOA's), and Direct Reporting Units (DRU's) based upon the total number of airmen assigned as of 1 July each year. Airmen assigned to Unified and Specified Commands will meet the FOA/DRU board.

REQUIREMENTS

To qualify, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be an active duty enlisted Air Force member
- Meet the current time in service (TIS) requirements
- Be nominated by their Wing Commander or equivalent
- Have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average (does not include DANES, CLEP, or CCAF). If the member has no graded college coursework, he or she must have qualifying ACT/SAT scores (SAT – 1100 math/critical reading composite, ACT – 24)
- Be admitted to a school offering AFROTC and the desired academic major
- Be under age 31 on 31 December of the commissioning year to receive a scholarship
- Meet the moral, medical, fitness, and other program entry standards
- Must not be selected for reassignment prior to submission of the application (waiverable)
- Applicants already with a bachelor's degree may not apply

SELECTION

Applicant selection is determined by the individual MAJCOM/FOA/DRU. They forward their nominations and waiver requests to HQ AFROTC. Refer to the Enlisted Commissioning Website listed below for program deadlines.

NOTES FOR PROSPECTIVE NOMINEES

- Room and board are not scholarship entitlements
- All active duty pay and benefits cease upon release from active duty
- Once accepted, selectees are enlisted into the Air Force Obligated Reserve Section no earlier than 30 days before classes start
- After completing a bachelor's degree and AFROTC requirements, individuals are commissioned as Second Lieutenants and serve at least four years on active duty.
- Additional guidance is available at your base Education Office or at the Enlisted Commission Program's website:
<http://www.au.af.mil/au/holmcenter/AFROTC/EnlistedComm/SOAR.asp>