

Scholarships for Outstanding Airmen to ROTC (SOAR)



CROSS INTO THE BLUE

OVERVIEW

The Scholarship for Outstanding Airmen to ROTC (SOAR) program allows Major Command (MAJCOM) commanders the opportunity to select outstanding active duty airmen for an Air Force ROTC scholarship. If selected, airmen will be discharged from active duty to pursue a commission through Air Force ROTC. The scholarship pays for college tuition and fees up to \$15,000 per year. In addition, all Air Force ROTC scholarship recipients receive a nontaxable monthly stipend ranging from \$300 - \$500 and an annual textbook allowance of \$900.

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

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BY COMMAND

Scholarships are awarded each year with distribution to MAJCOMs, Field Operating Agencies (FOAs) and Direct Reporting Units (DRUs) based on the total number of airmen assigned as of 1 July of each year. Airmen assigned to Unified and Specified Commands will meet the FOA/DRU Board held at HQ AFROTC.

QUALIFICATIONS

To qualify, an applicant must:

- Be an active duty enlisted Air Force member
- Have between one and six years of service as of 15 October of the year nominated
- Be nominated by their Wing Commander (or equivalent)
- Be a United States citizen
- Have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA) for graded college coursework (does not include DANTEs, CLEP, or CCAF). If the member has less than 24 semester or 36 quarter hours of graded college coursework, then student must have qualifying SAT/ACT scores: SAT: COMBINED (Critical Reading and Math) – 1100; ACT: COMPOSITE – 24
- Be under age 31 on 31 December of the commissioning year to receive a scholarship
- Have qualifying Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT) scores
- Meet the moral, medical, fitness, and other program entry standards (waivers are due 15 August)

Application procedures are determined by the individual MAJCOMs/FOAs/DRUs and the MAJCOM application deadline is 15 October. MAJCOMs/FOAs/DRUs forward their nominations to HQ AFROTC by 15 November. Waivers are due to HQ AFROTC/RRUE by 15 September.

NOTES FOR PROSPECTIVE NOMINEES

Commander endorsement/nomination and timely personnel actions are critical (e.g. taking AFOQT, obtaining transcripts, etc.). Room and board are not scholarship entitlements. All active duty pay and benefits cease upon discharge from active duty. Once fully qualified, selectees are discharged from active duty and enlisted into the Air Force Obligated Reserve Section not 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.

Contact your base education office and/or the Enlisted Commissioning Programs web site (<http://www.afoats.af.mil/AFROTC/EnlistedComm/EnlistedCommissioning.asp>) for guidance on the application process.