



Meeting the Challenges

Choosing to attend the United States Air Force Academy is an important decision, and there will certainly be many challenges along the way. Cadets' schedules are packed with rigorous academic coursework, daily physical fitness demands and ongoing military training. These challenges will be faced by all, regardless of talent, demographics, cultural knowledge, socio-economic background, gender, race or religion. At the Air Force Academy, we are committed to help you develop qualities to meet these challenges. It will be up to you to make the most of these opportunities. The Air Force Academy mission is to educate, train and inspire men and women to become officers of character motivated to lead the United States Air Force in service to our nation. If you choose to accept the challenges, you will be rewarded with unique experiences and opportunities incomparable to any other college experience.



Leadership Development

No matter what your background, the cadet lifestyle is probably different from any you have experienced thus far. Individual dedication, sacrifice and stamina are vital to meet the mental, ethical and physical demands of daily living. Organizing your time and establishing self-discipline are crucial to your success here at the Academy.

Nonetheless, the Academy experience is more than academics and athletics. You must become an active participant in leadership roles and opportunities that give you a sense of honor and duty. The Academy is a leadership laboratory that helps prepare you as an officer in the United States Air Force.

The organization of the cadet wing is tailored to slowly build one's leadership abilities and responsibilities. Four-degree (freshman) year you will have a loyal followership role. Third-degree (sophomore) year you will focus on being a coach and role model for the four degrees. As a two degree (junior) and firstie (senior), you will hold various primary leadership roles over the other two classes. This officer development system focuses on the three Air Force Core Values—Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do.



Steps toward Admission

To be selected for an appointment at the United States Air Force Academy, you must submit a completed application between March 1 of your junior year and January 31 of your senior year. You must also complete the following steps and meet the following criteria:

- Be at least 17 but not older than 23 by July 1 of the year you would enter the Academy
- Obtain a nomination
- Qualify scholastically
- Pass a medical examination
- Pass the Candidate Fitness Assessment (CFA)
- Be selected for an appointment

The United States Air Force Academy has counselors who can help guide you through the admissions process and answer any questions that you or your parents have concerning the Academy.

For more information, contact:
HQ USAFA/RR
USAF Academy CO 80840-5025
Telephone: 1-800-443-9266
academyadmissions.com

AFA 13-200 is produced at the U.S. Air Force Academy.
Information may have changed since publication.
Please check with the Admissions Office for updates.

Tomorrow's Future and Today's Leaders

WOMEN

from the
United States Air Force Academy



Join the Legacy

The 97 women who first graduated with the class of 1980 were the pioneers that today's graduates emulate. Nearly 30 years later, more than 3,900 women have graduated and received commissions through the Academy and gone on to serve in operational assignments throughout the Air Force. Today's classes include women with dreams ranging from becoming pilots and intelligence officers to engineers and doctors. However, their greatest role will be as leaders. Their accomplishments continue to set the pace for the next generation.

The Academy develops future officers by emphasizing academics, athletics, leadership and character. The Honor Code is the foundation upon which each cadet builds a personal concept of professional ethics and minimum standard of integrity. The Honor Oath states, "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and live honorably, so help me God." Adhering to the Honor Code fosters a feeling of mutual trust and respect which continues to grow through the Academy years and far beyond. The spirit of these sentiments demands strength, courage and dedication to a cause greater than self.



General Janet C. Wolfenbarger

General Wolfenbarger graduated from the Academy with the first class of women in 1980, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Sciences. After graduation, she began her career in aquisition as an engineer at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. In 1985, the general went on to earn a Master of Science degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The general has directed the acquisition and development of various weapons systems, serving as Lead Program Element Monitor of the F-22 Raptor, System Program Director of the B-2 Spirit and Systems Group Commander of the C-17 Globemaster III. She has held several staff positions at the major command and Headquarters U.S. Air Force levels, including serving as the Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, the Pentagon. She currently serves as commander, Air Force Materiel Command, at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. In this capacity, she oversees some 80,000 people who manage \$60 billion annually in science and technology, life cycle management, test and sustainment of Air Force weapons systems. General Wolfenbarger is the first woman in the Air Force to achieve the rank of four-star General.

"The Academy put me in situations that stretched me—mentally, physically, emotionally and academically. I came out on the other side of those experiences knowing I am far more capable than I ever thought I could be. I have the opportunity to frequently speak about the leadership principles I've used to guide me through my career. As I think about those principles—that it's all about teamwork, that as a leader you need to take care of both the mission and the people and how those two responsibilities are related—I've realized those lessons were learned at the Academy and I've relied on them ever since."



Captain Jocelyn Mitnaul

Hometown: Colorado Springs, Colorado

High School: Liberty High School

Major: Mathematics

Minor: Legal Studies

Capt. Jocelyn Mitnaul graduated from the Academy in 2007, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Legal Studies. Following graduation she served as a Diversity Recruiter in the Academy's Admissions office for one year. In August 2008, Captain Mitnaul went into the Intelligence career field and served at Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina. As an intelligence officer, she deployed to Germany for six months and also traveled to Haiti on a humanitarian support mission. She was selected for the Funded Legal Education Program in April 2011 and is currently a second year law student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She plans to graduate with her law degree in 2014 and become an Air Force Judge Advocate.

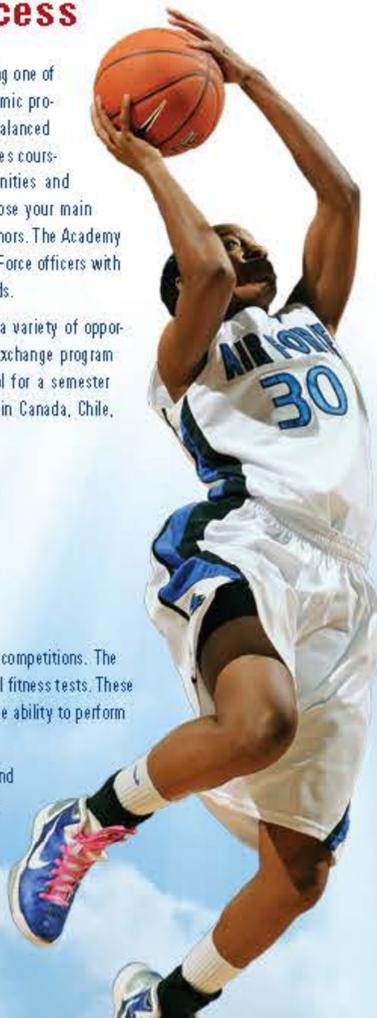
"I think it's nearly impossible to fully appreciate the Academy while you're enduring four grueling years of intellectual, physical, emotional and moral challenges. As I progress in my career, each experience further confirms the impact the Academy has had on my life—not only as an Air Force officer, but also as a person. This institution opened countless doors for me for educational endeavors, networking relationships, and travel opportunities. The Academy served as the spring board for my career. I'd like to think I fully appreciate the lessons and experiences from the Academy, but I'm sure my next assignment will prove me wrong."



Academic Success

The Air Force Academy is credited as having one of the most prestigious and respected academic programs available. Each cadet completes a balanced sequence of core curriculum, which includes courses in basic sciences, engineering, humanities and social sciences. As a sophomore you choose your main academic path from 32 majors and two minors. The Academy education is tailored to develop future Air Force officers with innovative, analytical and resourceful minds.

For those interested, the Academy hosts a variety of opportunities to see the world, one being an exchange program allowing selected cadets to attend school for a semester at one of the foreign military academies in Canada, Chile, France, Germany or Spain.



C1C Megan Lewis

Hometown: Riverside, California

High School: Martin Luther King Jr. High School

Major: Mathematics

Minor: Spanish

The Academy experience has been a fulfilling one for C1C Lewis. She's been on the Dean's List every semester, excelled in several leadership positions and been on the Commandant's List five semesters. In addition to traveling across the country for conferences and as a member of the Sabre Drill Team, she's completed a marathon and been a member of the championship intramural cross country team. C1C Lewis is also a member of the Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Society and has tutored students in math at a local middle school.

"The Air Force Academy has allowed me to become an independent person. I still have one year left but I already feel like I have an advantage over other college graduates because of my leadership skills. As an Element Leader and the Squadron Superintendent I learned that being a leader is just as much about helping others as completing the task at hand. It was very rewarding to see them succeed as a result. I've made mistakes, but this program is designed so we can make mistakes now and learn from them, before we are on the job where it counts."

C3C Desirae Ionata

Hometown: Santa Maria, California

High School: Pioneer Valley High School

Major: Biology

A series of fortunate circumstances led to C3C Ionata joining the Air Force. She set her sights on enlisting while she was a junior in high school. Then a neighbor, who happened to be an Air Force retiree, told her about the Air Force Academy. She decided to apply to both the Academy and the Prep School, but didn't make the cut. Not discouraged, she was set to become a security forces Airman when she received a call on the bus ride home from graduation night activities. There was an open slot at the Prep School—did she want it? She said saying "yes" was the best decision she's made so far.

"The Academy is designed to test cadets academically, physically and militarily, and some may shine brighter than others, but there are always those who still persevere. I may not be the smartest or the strongest but the strength that the Prep School and freshman year has given me has allowed me to leap over every obstacle that comes in my way. The unbreakable bonds that I have forged are irreplaceable and the confidence that the Academy has given me can't be received at any other institution."



As a child growing up in Africa, C3C Akoth never dreamed that one day she would attend the Air Force Academy. The water polo player and swim team manager is on the Dean's List and has served as an element and squad leader in expeditionary combat skills training. She's traveled to Hawaii as a member of the Way of Life multicultural committee and all over Wyoming, Arizona and Colorado for water polo competitions. One of her proudest achievements has been earning her jump wings.

"Quite often a college education is prescribed to us students as a bag of middle-of-the-road tools to navigate life...welcome to the Air Force Academy—intuitive, explorative, practical. I grew up in Kenya, Africa, and then moved to Forney, Texas, a city of relative obscurity outside Dallas. I broke all sorts of district academic and sports records. In Forney, I was a big fish in a small pond. I swim in the ocean now, and when I'm not jumping out of airplanes or gliding at 4,000 feet, I am enjoying the dynamics of learning with 4,000 of the country's sharpest minds."

C2C Kassie Gurnell

Hometown: Pearland, Texas

High School: Westbury Christian School

Major: Operations Research

Inspired by an older brother who graduated in 2011, C2C Gurnell knew that the Academy was brimming with opportunities. By observing him and experiencing on her own, she learned essential facets of leadership that have served her well—leading by example and communicating. She uses those traits in activities such as the Way of Life Committee and the Cadet Gospel Ensemble, along with her fierce competitive work in track and field.

"As a cadet, I've had plenty of opportunities to learn how to be the best leader I can be. Going through Basic Cadet Training and Recognition was a fun challenge for me that taught me that no matter how hard you may work at something sometimes you might fail, but if you keep pushing at it success will soon come your way. That success feels even more appreciative because of the molding of character that is done in its process."



Athletic Aptitude

In addition to managing a full academic load, you must maintain your physical conditioning and participate in athletic competitions. The Academy's extensive athletic program includes intercollegiate or intramural sports, physical education courses and physical fitness tests. These programs will help prepare you for Air Force leadership by building confidence, emotional control, physical courage and the ability to perform under pressure.

The 10 women's intercollegiate teams compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I sports and most are members of the Mountain West Conference. The teams include basketball, cross country, fencing, gymnastics, rifle, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. The Academy also offers women's lacrosse, rugby, softball and water polo clubs, which travel and compete during their respective seasons.

Besides team sports, fitness tests are administered each semester. The Physical Fitness Test (PFT) analyzes overall strength and endurance, and the Aerobic Fitness Test (AFT), a one-and-a-half mile run, tests aerobic fitness levels. Maintaining physical fitness is important to not only pass the fitness tests, but in developing officers of character.