



THE TOUGHEST EXAMS HAPPEN AT 10,000 FEET



ASCENSION

AVIATION AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY





The mission of the United States Air Force Academy 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.

THE PURPOSE OF THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY is to produce air and space leaders of character who possess vision for tomorrow—officers who ascribe to our core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. To that end, our graduates enter the Air Force with a unique combination of education and experiences—military, athletic, academic and ethical—leaders who serve our Nation. The experiences are intellectually and physically challenging. The opportunities begin in Basic Cadet Training (BCT) and continue across the next four years. Meeting those challenges requires dedication, sacrifice, stamina and courage.

The United States Air Force Academy offers the world's premier air and space education and training opportunities in parachuting, soaring and flight training. Our graduates go on to provide the leading edge for the nation's efforts in aviation, space and cyberspace to include alliance with NASA.



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We seek young men and women who possess the attributes and motivation to successfully complete the Academy experience in developing officers of character for service to the Air Force and our nation. We provide intellectual, physical, leadership and moral development in a diverse setting to ensure our graduates can effectively meet the challenges of an increasingly complex, global environment.

Are you ready to fly? During your first summer you'll have the opportunity for orientation flights at our world-class airfield, and during the fourth-class year, you will have the experience of a lifetime if you choose to volunteer for an aviation program called "Project Fledgling" that includes a classroom introduction to basic aviation principles, as well as "flying time" in state-of-the-art simulators. In your third-class year, you can enroll in a soaring course, pilot a sailplane and even have the chance to solo. You will also have the opportunity to take an elective course in freefall parachuting, complete five jumps and receive your basic military jump wings.

The United States Air Force Academy offers world-class academic degrees in aeronautical and astronautical engineering. These two majors are critical to the advancement of air and space technology and will prepare you for the high tech Air Force of tomorrow. The aeronautical engineering major studies aerodynamics, flight mechanics, propulsion and experimental methods, which allow you to succeed in either of the two-course design sequences: aircraft design or aircraft engine design.





Our cadet aviation program builds character, confidence, self-esteem and discipline. As early as Basic Cadet Training (BCT) you will have the opportunity to experience the ONLY initial Jump Solo Freefall Program in the world. In addition, during your fourth-class year, you will have the opportunity to participate in "Project Fledgling" as well as receive "flying time" in T-6 simulators.

Do you want to design, build, launch and operate a satellite or rocket? If so, then majoring in aeronautical engineering is the route to go. Perhaps the most challenging major available at the Academy, but the benefits are enormous. Special emphasis in this major is on astrodynamics, aerospace systems design and control systems.

Looking to go on to graduate school? If you excel in these majors, graduate school can be an option as a first assignment, either by winning a prestigious national scholarship such as the Guggenheim, Hertz or Rhodes, or through a direct scholarship to the leading graduate programs in the country. The educational training experiences you gain at the Air Force Academy will establish the foundation for a variety of wonderful opportunities in aviation and space.

No other university in the nation offers undergraduate degrees in these fields of study.





Parachuting: Basic Freefall to Wings of Blue

Do you want to try parachuting? Over 700 cadets, primarily freshmen, participate each year in the basic freefall course. Upon successful completion of academics and five freefall jumps, you earn the basic parachutist badge and rating. More importantly, you experience character development, enhance self-confidence, and gain the satisfaction of completing this rigorous training.

2011 National Collegiate Parachuting Championships: The Wings of Blue competition team has won 33 of the last 44 national parachuting championships. Do you have what it takes?

About 300 cadets will then compete for the 25 slots on the Wings of Green. You complete advanced training in freefall parachuting skills, as well as platform instruction techniques and jumpmaster duties. Two semesters of academics and training are required and when you successfully complete both semesters, you become a member of the elite Wings of Blue.

As a member of the Wings of Blue, you conduct all academic training and jumpmaster duties for the Air Force Academy freefall program. In addition, you participate on one of two teams: the demonstration team or the competition team. The demonstration team performs precision jumps at public events around the world, including sporting events, ceremonies and air shows. The competition team competes in intercollegiate, national and international parachuting events. They recently placed 1st in the U.S. Parachute Association's National Skydiving Championships.







Soaring

Experience the thrill of flight in the soaring program. As a basic cadet, you will receive one glider flight during BCT your first summer at the Air Force Academy. You and about 550 sophomore cadets may participate in the basic soaring course, receiving ground training and some 10-15 flights, including a solo flight. After completion, you can compete for cadet instructor pilot upgrade, where you become the flight trainer for subsequent classes. About 75 are selected for this tremendous responsibility, and they conduct 95% of the flight training. In addition, soaring offers you two advanced programs that field teams to compete regionally and nationally: the aerobatics team and the cross-country soaring team. The aerobatics team conducts exhibitions around the U.S. and competes in four regional competitions. The cross-country soaring team competes in regional and national competition and strives for state and national records.

If you want advanced aviation challenges, the Air Force Academy offers you world-class opportunities.

Flying Team

The Air Force Academy also offers advanced aviation opportunities. In addition to the Wings of Blue and the soaring competition teams, the Air Force Academy hosts a flying team. Some 16-18 cadets with a private pilot certificate or higher rating participate on the team, flying Cessna 150 aircraft. You fly 75-100 hours a year, practicing precision ground and flight events. You and your teammates will participate in regional and national competitions against 144 other college programs, culminating in the National Flying Competition each spring.







Extracurricular Flying

The Academy has an aero club where you can learn to fly club-owned aircraft during your free time. You may also join the Cadet Aviation Club. Members of this club are interested in general aviation and meet regularly to discuss and organize various club activities. As a member of the aero club or the aviation club, you receive discounts and privileges on certain aviation activities, including the chance to earn FAA ratings.

Cadet instructor pilots act as flight trainers for 95% of soaring classes. Cadets preparing for a career in flight—are you ready for that kind of responsibility?

Powered Flight Program (PFP)

The Powered Flight Program is the Air Force Academy's newest Airmanship Program. PFP is designed to introduce cadets to an operational USAF flying squadron environment and inspire them to a career in aviation. The program is open to all cadets who are medically qualified, regardless of whether they are going off to Specialized Undergraduate Pilot/Nav Training. Approximately 600 cadets each year will participate in the program, which will teach them the fundamentals of flight and introduce them to a variety of in-flight maneuvers. Cadets will receive ground and flight instruction from Active Duty and Reserve USAF pilots. These pilots come from backgrounds which cover the entire range of the USAF's inventory, exposing cadets to all aspects of the Air Force's various flying missions. Cadets will fly 9 sorties in the Diamond T-52A, and depending on how well they progress through the program, they will have the opportunity to finish with a solo flight.





Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training

Once you complete the Academy Flight Screening course, you will attend Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at 1 of 5 locations. All students complete the same basic flight instruction during the first half of the year's training, and then branch off into more specialized training for the second half based on what type of aircraft they hope to fly. Some students will prepare for flying fighter/bomber aircraft, some large transport/tanker aircraft, and a few will attend a helicopter training course. At the end of the year, you will receive your Air Force pilot wings and then attend advanced training in the specific aircraft you will fly.

You will have the opportunity to participate in the **ONLY** initial Jump Solo Freefall Program in the world. We refer to this as a 'traditional freshman experience.'

Advanced Flight Training

Now that you have your pilot wings, you will receive advanced training in your assigned aircraft. Whether you are selected for fighters, transport/tanker aircraft or a helicopter, you will attend training to give you specialized instruction in that aircraft. For instance, if you will fly a C-130 transport aircraft, you will go to training at Little Rock AFB Arkansas; if you are going to fly an F-15 or an F-22 fighter aircraft, you will attend training at Tyndall AFB Florida. Upon completion of advanced flight training, you will report to an operational flying unit and be part of a front line team.





LIEUTENANT GENERAL SUSAN HELMS

USAF Academy Graduate, Class of 1980
General Helms was the first female graduate of the Academy to lift into Space as a NASA astronaut. General Helms graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering and has flown five space missions and lived and worked aboard the International Space Station for more than five months.



DR. RONALD SEGA

USAF Academy Graduate, Class of 1974

Dr. Sega joined NASA as an astronaut in 1990. He made his first shuttle flight in 1994 aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery. Dr. Sega graduated from the Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and physics. Dr. Sega is under Secretary of the Air Force designated the Department of Defense Executive Agent for Space.

Space Operations

Interested in space as a career? The Air Force Academy has numerous opportunities to prepare you for this challenging field. One of our majors is in space operations. The space operations major features space-related courses across academic departments at USAFA. Our philosophy is that you learn space by doing space. To support this concept you will have the opportunity to work in the Air Force Academy Ground Station, laying the groundwork for and operating the Academy's next satellite mission.

When engineers design and build a new system, it will be up to you, the operator, to appropriately apply the system to meet operational needs. In addition, as a graduate in space operations, you will have the background required for the fields of intelligence, computer-communications, air battle management, acquisitions, and space and missile maintenance.

Our philosophy is that you learn space by doing space. How many other college students have designed, tested and helped launch a satellite?

Currently, there are five locations that offer postgraduate opportunities for individuals desiring an advanced degree in space operations. You can apply for one of these programs from the Air Force Academy or pursue them as you continue your Air Force career. The Air Force Academy has seen several cadets pursue careers that include participation in the NASA Space Program; your name could be among them!





Your Journey Starts Here:

To compete for an appointment at the United States Air Force Academy, we recommend starting the application process early. You must submit a completed application between March 1 of your junior year and January 31 of your senior year.

Eligibility Requirements:

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

Questions? Please contact

HQ USAFA/RR

2304 Cadet Drive, Ste 2400

USAF Academy CO 80840-5025

Telephone: 1-800-443-9266

For more information, visit us at
www.academyadmissions.com

The United States Air Force Academy has counselors who can help guide you through the process and answer any questions you or your parents have concerning the Academy. You may contact a counselor at 1-800-443-9266.

