

Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)

Military Science Department

The Middle Tennessee State University Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (Army ROTC) program provides college-trained officers for the United States Army, whether for service on Active Duty, in the Army National Guard or Army Reserve. Army ROTC enhances a student's education. It provides unique educational opportunities by combining leadership and management theory with actual hands-on experience. Army ROTC helps the student to develop self-discipline, physical stamina, and poise—the qualities basic to success in any worthwhile career. Army ROTC is an available course of study for students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in any available major at MTSU.

Program Description

The Army ROTC program consists of a two-year Basic Course and a two-year Advanced Course. The Basic Course is normally taken during the freshman and sophomore years. During these two years there is no military obligation for non-contracted Cadets, and a student may withdraw at any time. Students who have taken Junior ROTC (Army, Navy, Air Force or Marines), have prior military service, or are currently a member of a National Guard or Army Reserve unit may receive placement credit for the Basic Course.

ROTC classroom instruction covers opportunities in the various branches of the Army, orienteering, basic first aid, pistol or rifle marksmanship, and leadership/management training. In the leadership laboratories, Cadets participate in rope bridging, drill and ceremonies, rappelling, weapons training, camouflage techniques, military leadership and land navigation.

Students who decide to enter ROTC later in their college careers or as graduate students may attend ROTC's 31-day Basic Camp course at Fort Knox, Kentucky, to provide credit for all the Basic Course classes. Upon entering the Advanced Course in the third year, all Cadets are required to be fully contracted with the Army ROTC program, which obligates the Cadet to obtain a commission and serve on active duty or in the Army National Guard or Army Reserve.

Advance Course Cadets are required to successfully complete the 31-day Advance Camp Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky, between the third and fourth years of ROTC. This course evaluates how a Cadet puts into practice the principles and theories he or she has acquired from on-campus instruction.

Pathways to Join and Army ROTC Scholarship Opportunities

Students join in one of three ways: as Scholarship Cadets, Non-Scholarship Cadets, or as Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) Cadets. Upon formal contracting, Scholarship Cadets are eligible to receive four-, three-, or two- year Army ROTC Scholarships that pay 100% tuition and fees or a \$10K/year room and board reimbursement, \$1200/year for books and a monthly tax-free stipend (\$300/month for freshmen; \$350/month for sophomores; \$450/month for juniors; and \$500/month for seniors). Non-scholarship Cadets are eligible to receive the monthly tax-free ROTC stipend.

The Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) allows you to join Army ROTC and serve in the Tennessee Army National Guard or Army Reserve at the same time while you are a college student. It gives you an opportunity for additional training and experience. Cadets serve as officer trainees in the Army National Guard or Army Reserve while completing college. As an SMP Cadet you can earn National Guard /Army Reserve pay and benefits in addition to the monthly ROTC stipend.

Career Opportunities

Cadets who complete the Army ROTC program may pursue careers as officers on Active Duty, or in the National Guard or Army Reserve. Cadets selected for active duty will receive a starting annual salary in excess of \$45,000, plus free medical benefits, and have opportunities to travel to assignments throughout the world. Students selected for reserve component service (Army National Guard or Army Reserve) receive more than \$4,900 per year for 12 weekend drills and annual training while pursuing their civilian careers. These professional experiences will enhance the student's marketability in any profession, civilian or military.

The Bottom Line

The Army ROTC program, while mentally and physically demanding, provides a unique opportunity for all MTSU undergraduate and graduate students to acquire leadership and management skills required of military and civilian professionals. Members of the Blue Raider Detachment are among the finest students at MTSU.

For More Information: Interested students should contact the Army ROTC Recruiting Operations Officer, in Forrest Hall, at (615) 898-2470, or www.mtsu.edu/arotc1.

