



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Officer Recruiting Production

These Questions & Answers are provided *to assist Air Force commanders, command chiefs, first sergeants, recruiters, and base education counselors better understand the forecasted need for officer candidates with science and engineering backgrounds while providing a realistic commissioning outlook for college graduates with non-technical educations.*

Q1: Has the Air Force stopped taking applications for Officer Training School (OTS) from college graduates who have non-technical or liberal arts degrees?

A1: Yes, if the applicant is applying for a non-flying Air Force job. As of Dec. 13, 2002, AFRS stopped accepting OTS applications from college graduates with non-technical or liberal arts degrees, unless the applicant is seeking a rated position. AFRS will continue to accept applications for OTS from college graduates who possess degrees in technical areas like electrical and computer engineering, mathematics, physics and meteorology. AFRS will also continue to accept OTS applications from those interested in applying for flying positions such as pilot, navigator, weapons systems officer, and air battle manager, regardless of degree area as long as they qualify for the positions on the Air Force Officer Qualifying Score and meet physical standards for aviation programs

Q2: Why did the Air Force stop taking applications for Officer Training School from applicants who possess non-technical degrees?

A2: The Air Force continues to accept applications from candidates with non-technical degrees who are applying for rated positions. Officer accessions requirements for non-technical degrees have been achieved through ROTC programs at least for the next several months. In meeting the needs of the Air Force, OTS has always served as the “accordion” for officer accessions, increasing or decreasing the number and type of officers and degrees more quickly and efficiently than other officer accessions programs.

Q3: How many people with non-technical degrees who apply for non-rated positions will be affected by this change?

A3: Typically, up to 500 applicants with non-technical degrees meet each of the OTS boards annually. There were eight boards in FY02.

Q4: I have a liberal arts degree but want to apply for pilot training. Am I eligible to apply for OTS?

A4: Yes. AFRS will continue to accept applications from those who are applying for rated, or flying positions, regardless of degree.

Q5: What do you mean by “rated” position?

A5: Rated positions are those whose responsibilities are primarily flying duties such as pilot, navigator, weapon system officer and air battle manager.

Q6: My Recruiter (or Base Education Office) mailed my OTS application package to meet the December deadline for the January 2003 board last week. Will my package be kept on file at AFRS until the next board?

A6: All applications received by AFRS from applicants with non-technical degrees for the January OTS Selection Board will be returned to the submitting Air Force Recruiting Office or Base Education Office, whichever is appropriate, to be maintained on file or returned to the applicant. Applicants with technical degrees and/or those applying for rated positions will meet the January OTS Selection Board as scheduled.

Q7: When will the next OTS Selection Board for non-technical degree holders be scheduled?

A7: No date has been established for convening the next OTS Selection Board that will include applicants from all degree areas. AFRS anticipates making that determination sometime in October 2003.

Q8: In what fields does the Air Force still need officers?

A8: Currently, in addition to medical professionals like physicians, dentists nurses, biomedical sciences and pharmacists who apply for commissioning through other Air Force programs, the Air Force also needs people with degrees in electrical engineering, meteorology, mathematics and physics to attend OTS.

Q9: I have already been selected by a previous board to attend OTS and have a non-technical degree. How will this affect me?

A9: If you have been notified of your selection to attend OTS, your application and selection will not be affected. However, in most cases it will take several months for you to begin your officer training since training slots are extremely limited for the remainder of fiscal year 03. Your Air Force Recruiter or your Education Office will keep you informed and up to date in the coming months.

Q10: I am scheduled to return from an overseas assignment, have been selected for OTS but do not have a class date yet. How is this going to affect me?

A10: If you are on an overseas assignment, have been selected to attend OTS and are scheduled to return from your overseas base within the next few months, the Air Force will try to ensure you begin OTS in conjunction with your return.

Q11: I was selected to attend OTS from a previous board but I have not received a class date. If I don't complete OTS prior to my next birthday, I'll become ineligible because of my age. What can I do?

A11: AFRS is aware that some people selected for OTS who have not received a class date may be affected by age requirements. In age related cases like this, AFRS will ensure individuals have the opportunity to attend OTS in order to meet age requirements.

Q12: I have been taking college courses in my off duty time for several years now and I am almost ready to graduate. My goal for a long time now has been to apply for OTS as soon as I complete my degree requirements. What am I supposed to do now that the Air Force is no longer going to accept liberal arts degrees?

A12: Those who have been working toward completing their degree requirements are encouraged to continue to do so. While OTS may present limited opportunities to obtain a commission in the short term, other commissioning avenues for enlisted Air Force members still exist.

Q13: What other commissioning options are available for enlisted Air Force members?

A13: There are several commissioning programs available for Air Force enlisted members. These include the Airman Education and Commissioning Program (AECM); the Airman Scholarships and Commissioning Program (ASCP); Scholarship for Outstanding Airman to ROTC (SOAR); and the Professional Officer Course – Early Release Program (POC-ERP). Details of these commissioning programs can be found at the following web site: <http://www.afoats.af.mil/AFROTC/EnlistedCommissioning/Default.htm>. The Air Force Academy is also open to application by Air Force enlisted members.