

Army ROTC

Service Statement 2021-2022

Introduction

Army ROTC is an educational program designed to provide the college student an opportunity to earn an Army commission as a second lieutenant while completing the university requirements for a bachelor's degree or master's degree. The program provides leadership training that will develop the skills and attitudes vital to the professional Army Officer. Upon successful completion of the program and graduation from the university, ROTC Cadets are commissioned as Second Lieutenants and enter either the active Army, Army Reserve, or Army National Guard component.

History at UT

The military program at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, pre-dates that of any other state university in the country, having been introduced in 1844. In that year, Professor Albert Miller Lea, a United States Military Academy graduate, organized an infantry company. With the outbreak of the Mexican War, the entire company, as well as thousands of other Tennesseans, volunteered for service in the war. Thus, Tennessee became known as the Volunteer State.

When the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, reopened after the Civil War, a system of military discipline was adapted. A code of military regulations was drawn up and a copy was provided to each student when he matriculated. The entire institution was placed under regular United States Military Academy discipline. The student body was organized into a battalion of Cadets, which consisted of four companies fully staffed, armed, and equipped under the command of the commandant and his staff of Cadet Officers. UT Knoxville remained as a military garrison for a period of six years, until 1877. Military Science continued to be taught, since the university was a Land Grant Institution and the 1862 Act of Congress required instruction in military science.

The National Defense Act of 1916 changed the old military organization into an ROTC unit. For the first time, the federal government began to pay a part of the uniform cost for basic course students. The government provided uniforms and other equipment for juniors and seniors, and a monthly subsistence allowance was given to advanced course students. From 1928-1930, Major (later Brigadier General) Robert R. Neyland served as the Professor of Military Science and football coach at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

The objectives of the program are to provide students with a strong foundation of leadership attributes and an understanding of the fundamental concepts and principles of military art and science; to develop a basic understanding of associated professional knowledge; to inculcate a strong sense of personal integrity, honor, and individual responsibility; to foster an appreciation of the requirements for national security; and to establish a sound basis for the students' future professional development.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville's Army ROTC program recently received the [2020 MacArthur Award](#) for excellence! UT is one of eight schools selected out of 274 senior Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps units nationwide, showing outstanding work in preparing commissioned officers for service in the US Army. The General Douglas MacArthur Foundation recognizes the ideals of duty, honor, and country as advocated by General Douglas MacArthur. Awards are based on the achievement of the school's commissioning mission, its cadets' performance and standing on the command's National Order of Merit List, and its cadet retention rate. Through a deliberate national recruiting campaign, UTK Army ROTC's growth has soared to 180 Cadets and the department now realizes \$3.5M annually in federal scholarship revenue to the university.

Purpose

ROTC draws young men and women for training from all geographical, economic, and social strata of our society, as well as from the many educational disciplines required for the modern army. The program ensures that men and women educated in a liberal and broad spectrum of American institutions of higher learning are commissioned annually into the Officer Corps.

Following graduation, ROTC Cadets are required to serve in the active Army, Army National Guard, or Army Reserve. All graduates are required to serve in the military for a period of eight years. This obligation may be fulfilled through a combination of active duty and service as a citizen soldier in the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, or Individual Ready Reserve. Cadets who graduate with Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty serve their full eight-year obligation in the Reserve components.

In college and after graduation, Cadets find their ROTC training and experience are tangible assets—whether they pursue an Army or civilian career. Employers place a high regard on the discipline, management and leadership qualities that Cadets acquire in the ROTC program.

