

ROTC and Columbia

An Overview of ROTC and its
History at Columbia University

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Overview and History

- ROTC stands for **R**eserve **O**fficers' **T**raining **C**orps
- Passage of the Morrill Act in 1862 allowed for land grant colleges and established military training on these colleges



- Army ROTC (AROTC)
 - Founded 1916



- Air Force ROTC (AFROTC)
 - Air ROTC established units in 1920-1923



- Naval and Marine Corps ROTC (NROTC)
 - Established in 1926
 - Marine Corps entered NROTC in 1932

Mission

- The mission of the United States Armed Forces is to defend the United States and protect its interests
- The missions of ROTC:
 - **Army:**
“Develop the skills it takes to lead others, motivate groups and conduct missions as an Officer”
 - **Air Force**
“Develop quality leaders for the United States Armed Forces”
 - **Naval:**
“Develop young men and women morally, mentally and physically and to instill them with the highest ideals of honor courage and commitment”

Programs

- Participants in ROTC programs can participate in either one, two, three or four-year programs
- Graduate students can participate in a two-year ROTC program
- Students take a military science class and a lab each semester, as well as Physical Training (PT)
 - **Lower division classes:** History, structure, mission and traditions of the branch in which the students participate
 - **Higher division classes:** Leadership theory, organizational structures and managerial procedures used by the military
 - **Lab class:** Reinforces these teachings and focuses on more specific instruction such drill and ceremony and battle drill

Benefits

- Depending on the participant, the student can receive:
 - Scholarships ranging from in-state rate to full tuition
 - Coverage of most, if not all, educational fees and a stipend for books
 - A stipend of \$250-\$500 depending on program and year
- Training programs offered by the US Armed Forces during educational off-time
 - Each service offers many different training programs during educational off time
 - Examples:
 - AROTC offers a leadership course
 - AFROTC offers a course in parachuting
 - NROTC allows students to take part in a summer cruise on a naval vessel

Participation

- Army ROTC is available at > 1,100 colleges and universities
 - In 2004, AROTC contributed 53.4% of Commissioned Officers in the US Army
- Air Force ROTC is available at > 1,000 colleges and universities
 - In 2004, AFROTC contributed 37.8% of Commissioned Officers in the US
- Naval ROTC is available at > 150 colleges and universities
 - In 2004, NROTC contributed 24.8% of Commissioned Officers in the US Navy and US Marine Corps

History of ROTC and Columbia








- Columbia had hosted a Naval Training Program since 1916
- Columbia trained 23,000 Navy Midshipmen during WWII
- At its peak, the NROTC program at Columbia was one of the largest in the nation
- ROTC was effectively banned from Columbia in 1969 by the Trustees, per recommendation by a faculty-student committee chaired by Professor Harvey C. Mansfield, Sr.









ROTC and Columbia Today

- Today, students can participate in ROTC programs through a “consortium agreement” of NYC-area schools with Fordham University and Manhattan College
 - A “consortium agreement” is an agreement where students from a school that does not host ROTC can participate in an ROTC program at another school
- There are no NROTC programs where Columbia students can participate
- Columbia students participating in ROTC do not receive academic credit for ROTC classes, nor do they receive PE credit
- Currently there are 7 AROTC cadets and 5 AFROTC cadets

Peer Institutions: Ivy

		Programs	Status	Host	Credit	Recognition
Brown		Army ROTC	Consortium	Providence College	No	No
Cornell		Army ROTC Air Force ROTC Naval ROTC	Consortium Consortium Consortium	Cornell Cornell Cornell	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes
Dartmouth		Army ROTC	On campus	Dartmouth	Some	Yes
Harvard		Army ROTC Air Force ROTC Naval ROTC	Consortium Consortium Consortium	MIT MIT MIT	No No No	No No No
UPenn		Army ROTC Air Force ROTC Naval ROTC	Consortium Consortium Consortium	Drexel St. Joseph UPenn	Some Some Some	Yes Yes Yes
Princeton		Army ROTC Air Force ROTC	Consortium Consortium	Princeton Rutgers	No No	Extra-curricular Extra-curricular
Yale		Army ROTC Air Force ROTC Naval ROTC	Consortium Consortium Non-standard	UConn UConn Summer Training	Yes Yes N/A	No No

Peer Institutions: Ivy Plus

	Programs	Status	Host	Credit	Recognition
UC Berkeley 	Army ROTC Air Force ROTC Naval ROTC	Consortium Consortium Consortium	UC Berkeley UC Berkeley UC Berkeley	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes
University Of Chicago 	Army ROTC Air Force ROTC	Consortium Consortium	Univ Illinois Chicago Illinois Inst. Tech	No No	No No
Duke 	Army ROTC Air Force ROTC Naval ROTC	On campus On campus On campus	Duke Duke Duke	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes
Georgetown 	Army ROTC Air Force ROTC Naval ROTC	Consortium Consortium Consortium	Georgetown Howard University GW University	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes
MIT 	Army ROTC Air Force ROTC Naval ROTC	Consortium Consortium Consortium	MIT MIT MIT	Yes Yes Yes	Yes Yes Yes
Stanford 	Army ROTC Air Force ROTC Naval ROTC	Consortium Consortium Consortium	Santa Clara Univ San Jose State UC Berkeley	Transfer Transfer Transfer	No No No