Army Military Science

Army Military Science is a voluntary course sequence, which may lead to a commission as an officer in the United States Army (Active Army, Army Reserves, or Army National Guard). The basic course, consisting of four 100- and 200-level courses plus one 400-level course, is open to all students and carries no military obligation. Students may take one or all of the basic courses offered, receiving credit hours for each course without incurring a commitment to further study in Army Military Science or any branch of the armed forces. If a student continues to the advanced course, the student will then incur a military obligation. The obligation may be served in the Active Army, Army Reserves, or Army National Guard after the student is commissioned as an officer upon completion of the Army Military Science program. Students who wish to complete the program and receive a commission must earn a bachelor’s degree. The field of study is unrestricted. Courses in communication skills, computer literacy, and are required.

The Army Military Science program offers a progressive adventure-filled two-year and four-year program, designed to teach students the leadership and management skills needed to pursue an exciting career in the United States Army. The student who successfully completes the program will receive a commission in the Active Duty Forces, the Army Reserves, or the Army National Guard. Students may request and be guaranteed reserve forces duty, which allows the student to pursue parallel dual careers in the reserve components of the Army and civilian economy. The four-year program is divided into the basic course, covering freshman and sophomore years, and the advanced course covering the junior and senior years.

The basic course prepares students for the advanced course and provides them with an education in national defense, basic leadership, and management skills. The advanced course is designed to provide training and instruction encompassing a wide range of subjects from organizational and managerial leadership, ethics and professionalism, and military justice, to the United States. The understandings and experiences derived from these courses and adventure-training exercises are required to enable a student to grow into an effective junior officer in the U.S. Army.

Veterans of any service, students who are currently members of the armed forces (Reserve or National Guard), and students who have successfully completed three or four years of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instruction, may be eligible to enroll in the advanced course when they have obtained junior academic status at the University. Students who have no prior military service may attend a 28-day Leadership Training camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky, which will qualify them for entrance into the advanced course of Army Military Science. This camp incurs no obligation on the part of the student.

All students enrolled in the Cadet Leaders Course will attend a 32-day advanced training camp at Fort Lewis, Washington between the first and second years of the advanced course (normally the summer between the student’s junior and senior school year). Both the Leadership Training and Advanced Camp pay the student for travel and attendance at camp, plus provide free room, board, and uniforms.

The student additionally learns about the wide range of Army career specialties available and has the opportunity to request duty in those fields where qualified. Those students currently in the Guard or Army Reserves may continue to participate in their Guard/Reserve unit and pursue a commission through the Army’s Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP). Participation in the (SMP) allows soldiers currently serving in the National Guard or Army Reserve to receive Sergeants (E5) pay while performing unit drills.

Freshman and sophomore students enrolled in the four-year program are eligible to compete for Army Military Science scholarships for up to three- and one-half-years. These scholarships pay full tuition, fees, books and up to $500 per month subsistence allowance. Illinois residents who are enrolled in ROTC can compete for state Army ROTC tuition waivers, which pay tuition and other selected fees.

In addition to courses offered for academic credit, the Department of Army Military Science sponsors extracurricular activities. The Ranger Challenge Team, Color Guard Teams, and Pershing Rifles are
open to all ROTC students. Adventure training takes place in the form of rappelling clinics, field training exercises, survival training, and Civil War Battlefield terrain walks. The department also conducts several traditional social functions throughout the year.

Further information may be obtained from the Department of Army Military Science, telephone 618-453-7563 or 618-453-5786.

Leadership (Military Science) Minor

The Department of Military Science offers a Minor in Leadership with the focus of Military Science. It is available to all students willing to complete at least 25 credit hours of Army Military Science courses and additional elective courses from the Professor of Military Science approved elective list. This minor emphasizes leadership and critical thinking skills. The course is designed to give students the leadership tools necessary to succeed in the military or any other civilian profession. Students not enrolled in Army ROTC can complete this minor without incurring any type of military obligation. Students which are not enrolled in the Army ROTC program will take basic Army Military Science (AMS) courses along with additional public speaking, advanced composition and leadership courses. Students enrolled in the Army ROTC program will take basic AMS courses along with advanced AMS courses and summer leadership training. Students must discuss their minor program with the Director, Army Military Science, to design a coherent program to meet their individual needs.

Army Military Science Courses

AMS101 - Introduction to the Army and Critical Thinking Course introduces students to the personal challenges and competencies that are critical for effective leadership. Students will learn how the personal development of life skills such as critical thinking, time management, goal-setting, stress management, and comprehensive fitness relate to leadership and the Army profession. *Course includes optional weekly leadership laboratory. Credit Hours: 1-2

AMS102 - Adaptive Leadership and Professional Competence Introduction to the personal challenges and competencies that are critical for adaptive leadership. Students will learn the basics of the communications process and the importance of leaders’ development of the essential skills to effectively communicate in the Army. Students will examine the Army and what it means to be a professional in the U.S. Army. *Course includes optional weekly leadership laboratory. Credit Hours: 1-2

AMS201 - Leadership and Decision-Making Course explores the dimensions of creative and innovative tactical leadership strategies and styles by examining team dynamics and two historical leadership theories that form the basis of the Army leadership framework. Aspects of personal motivation and team-building are practiced via planning, executing and assessing team exercises. Course includes mandatory weekly leadership laboratory. Credit Hours: 3

AMS202 - Army Doctrine and Team Development Course examines the challenges of leading teams in a complex operational environment. Course highlights dimensions of terrain analysis, patrolling and operation orders. Further study of the theoretical basis of the Army Leadership Requirements Model explores the dynamics of adaptive leadership in the context of military operations. Students develop greater self-awareness as they assess their own leadership styles and practice communication and team-building skills. Course includes a weekly leadership laboratory. Credit Hours: 3

AMS203 - Cadet Basic Course Course incorporates a wide range of training events designed to develop/assess leadership and officer potential and qualify students for contracting. Course is rigorous and demanding (mentally and physically) and will test intelligence, ingenuity and stamina. The structure of the training program is based on action-oriented training; with emphasis on hands-on, outdoor training with rapid and constructive feedback to students. The training program is designed to inspire students to become outstanding leaders with a sound understanding of traditional leadership values. Camp is held off-campus at Fort Knox, KY. Credit Hours: 6

AMS301 - Training Management and the War-Fighting Functions Course is driven by the Professional Competence ALA; which includes introduction to squad/platoon tactical operations using troop-leading
procedures and battle drills to achieve the assigned mission within the commander's intent. Through the introduction of the leadership lab practicum, students learn to plan, resource and execute training of subordinates within the leadership labs. This experience gives students the opportunity to work on teamwork and leadership skills in a hands-on, performance-oriented environment. Course includes weekly leadership laboratory. Credit Hours: 4

AMS302 - Applied Leadership in Small Unit Operations Course balances adaptability and professional competence-building on the tactical lessons introduced in AMS 301. Various platoon operations are stressed in order to familiarize students with material they can expect to execute during CST. Adaptability concepts introduced include analysis of complex problems, creating solutions that exhibit agile and adaptive thinking, analysis of the situational environment and formulation of solutions to tactical and organizational problems. Course includes weekly leadership laboratory. Credit Hours: 4

AMS358 - Cadet Advanced Course This course trains students to Army standards, develop leadership, and evaluate officer potential. Course meets the pre-commissioning summer training requirement as set for in accordance with AR 145-1 and CCR 145-03. Cadet Advanced Course is the most significant training and evaluation event in ROTC. Training is complex, challenging, and rigorous, and conducted in a stressful environment. Camp is held at Fort Knox, KY. Credit Hours: 6

AMS401 - The Army Officer An advanced course that places primary emphasis on officership with MSIV Cadets who are the department's educational main effort: AMS 401 and 402 (combined) refine and complete the cadet-to-commissioned-officer transition. Mission command and ethics are stressed to assist Cadets in further embracing their future role as Army officers. Course includes weekly leadership laboratory. Restricted to cadets. Credit Hours: 4

AMS402 - Company Grade Leadership Course is the culmination of a four-year sequential, progressive, challenging developmental leadership experience. It is during this final semester that Cadets undergo final preparation of the duties and responsibilities of a commissioned officer and integration into the Army. Emphasis is on critical knowledge, skills, abilities and competencies newly-commissioned officers will need to succeed in their first unit of assignment, and the modern operating environment where they will be expected to plan, prepare, execute and assess platoon-level training strategies and to enable mission accomplishment. Course includes weekly leadership laboratory. Restricted to cadets. Credit Hours: 4

AMS403 - Independent Study in Military Science Directed independent study in selected areas. Students may register for one hour per semester or may register for one hour for the first semester and two hours for the second. They may not register for three hours during one semester. Not for graduate credit. Special approval needed from the director of Army Military Science. Credit Hours: 1-3

AMS404 - U.S. Military History This course provides a historical perspective to decisions made by American military leaders; emphasizing solutions to challenges future Army officers might face: battlefield complexity, resource limitations, teamwork deficiencies, etc. The student will learn how former military leaders confronted and coped with similar issues, using their experiences and approaches to arm students with the ability to create their own solutions. Commissioning requirement for Army ROTC cadets. Course not restricted to ROTC cadets. Credit Hours: 3

Army Military Science Faculty

Hayes, Jenilee L., Assistant Professor, Captain, US Army, Army Military Science.
Slack, Garrett W., Professor, Lieutenant Colonel, US Army and Director, Army Military Science.

Last updated: 01/17/2023