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.
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.