

Military Science



Contact Information

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Faculty

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General Information

The School of Mines maintains a unit of the senior division of the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). The unit was established in 1950 and is administered by commissioned and noncommissioned officers of the United States Army nominated by the Department of the Army and approved by the president of the university. The ROTC program is open to both men and women. MSL courses complement any course of study providing leadership training unavailable anywhere else on campus. Participation in the ROTC Basic Course incurs no military obligation.

Laudable achievements by the ROTC corps of cadets includes three-time consecutive first-place finishes in varsity Ranger Challenge team competition, first-time occurrence of two

competing teams in 2003, individual cadet accomplishment of #23 / 4099 on national order of merit listing and team / individual competition at Bataan Memorial Death March.

Curriculum

ROTC provides leadership training and experience demanded by both corporate America and the U.S. Army. ROTC consists of Basic and Advanced Courses of instruction. The Basic Course consists of the first four semesters of MSL. It is designed to provide all college students with leadership and management skills that complement any course of study. There is no obligation or commitment to continue in ROTC or serve in the Armed Forces. The Advanced Course consists of the last four semesters of the ROTC program. The Advanced Course is offered to students possessing the potential to become Army officers and who desire to serve as commissioned officers in the Active Army, U.S. Army Reserve, or the Army National Guard. The objective of the Advanced Course is to select, train, and prepare students for military service. The ROTC program is designed to provide an understanding of the fundamental concepts and principles of military art and science; to develop leadership and managerial potential and a basic understanding of associated professional knowledge; to develop a strong sense of personal integrity, honor, and individual responsibility; and to develop an appreciation of the requirements for national security. Attainment of these objectives will prepare students for commissioning and will establish a sound basis for future professional development and effective performance in the Army or any chosen career field.

In the traditional four-year program, students enroll in eight consecutive semesters of MSL courses, 2 credit hours each semester the first two years, and 4 credit hours each semester the last two years. Leadership laboratories are offered concurrently with each of the classroom courses. Non-traditional two-year programs include eligible veterans with prior military service, current members of the US Army Reserve or Army National Guard, and students who have had high school junior ROTC or Civilian Air Patrol

experience. A two-year program is available for any student having four academic semesters remaining or enrollment into a School of Mines master's degree program after attending a summer ROTC Leadership Training Course at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. Participation at the basic course does not carry any commitment to participate in ROTC but it does satisfy the prerequisites necessary to enter the final four semesters of ROTC.

Students must additionally complete a course in the following areas to satisfy commissioning requirements: 1) American Military History, 2) Communications, and 3) Computer Literacy.

Tuition, Credit, and Equipment

Military science and leadership courses are tuition free. Books and equipment are provided by the department. Associated fees assessed for all courses do apply. MSL credit may be applied as free electives toward graduation. MSL 101L or MSL 102L may be used to meet physical education requirements. Tuition is charged for courses when used to meet physical education requirements.

Financial Information

Financial support of \$300 freshman, \$350 sophomore, \$450 junior, and \$500 senior subsistence per month for up to ten months of the academic school year is paid to contracted students enrolled in the ROTC Advanced and Basic Courses. Students attending the four-week ROTC Leadership Training Course or the 32-day Leaders Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) receive approximately \$800 plus room, board, and travel expenses.

Additional financial aid is available to eligible freshman, sophomore, and junior students in the form of four-year, three-year, and two-year Army ROTC scholarships. The scholarship provides tuition, fees, and a textbook allowance, in addition to the monthly subsistence allowance paid during the school year. In addition, all non-scholarship, South Dakota resident advanced-course cadets receive a 50 percent reduction in tuition costs.

Extracurricular Activities

Military-related extracurricular activities and organizations available to the ROTC student include Scabbard and Blade, Pershing Rifles, Bataan Memorial Death March, and the School of Mines Ranger Challenge Team. Students may also take part in voluntary hands-on training to include physical fitness, self-defense, survival, weapons, orienteering, rappelling, mountaineering, and first aid. These exercises are designed to provide the student with an opportunity to practice and improve skills learned in the classroom.

