

Officer Recruitment Diversity Program (ORDP) Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the ORDP?

ORDP stands for the Office Recruitment Diversity Program. This program funded by the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Command (AFROTC) is a mentoring program to assist the Air Force in the nationwide effort to increase the number of minority officer candidates for an eventual career as a U.S. Air Force officer. This program specifically targets the Hispanic American, African American, Native American and Asian American students.

This program is unique due to its early mentoring and recruiting of the students (beginning at age 12) through the early college years and the aviation-centric learning opportunities it provides. The mentoring is designed to prepare students for meeting the eligibility requirements for scholarships offered by the AFROTC.

What are the goals of the ORDP?

- The goals of the program are to:
- Identify, minority students and mentor them to so that if/when they apply for Air Force scholarships they are better prepared to meet the qualifications
- Provide minority youth with aviation centric learning opportunities
- Encourage minority students to consider a career in the Air Force

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- Increase the number of qualified minority officer candidates for a career in the Air Force

What types of scholarship programs will I be eligible for?

There are a number of scholarships that the students can be eligible for upon completion of the mentoring program including but not limited to technical and non-technical majors such as Computer, Electrical and Aerospace Engineering, Physics, Biology, Economics, and Foreign Area/Foreign language studies. The possibilities are extensive and represent the broad spectrum of careers with the US Air Force.

Is this program just for students interested in becoming pilots?

No, although aviation is an emphasis in this program, it is also for minority student candidates interested in careers in technical and non-technical majors such as Computer, Electrical and Aerospace Engineering, Physics, Biology, Economics, and Foreign Area/Foreign language studies. The possibilities are extensive and represent the broad spectrum of careers with the US Air Force.

What are the focus areas of the mentoring program?

- Character Building
- Educational Achievement
- Physical & Mental Fitness

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- Life Skills development

How are students invited or recruited to participate in the program?

Students are invited to participate in a variety of ways. They can be nominated for the program by teachers, counselors, their parents, other mentors or just about anyone that knows the student. Our goal is to offer the opportunity to participate in our programs to as many students as possible, and for this reason, we work with a number of organizations to send invitations to students who may be interested in the program. Students can also request an invitation, but regardless of how they receive an invitation, all students must be interviewed and if under 18 must have their parents/guardians [consent](#) before being contacted by representatives of ORDP. We rely on this process to help us select the best students and ensure that they are appropriate candidates for the program.

Does the program have year round enrollment or is there a deadline?

A student can sign up at any time with written parental permission if the student is under 18.

Do students have to be a US citizen to be eligible for:

- *The ORDP mentoring program?* Yes
- *To join the JRAFROTC or AFROTC?* No
- *To be eligible for scholarships?* Yes
- *To join the Air Force?* No

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What are the eligibility requirements for the mentoring program?

Your parent or legal guardian has given written permission for you to participate

You must be a student:

- between the ages of 12-17 or
- a senior in high school or college freshman/sophomore in with at least a C-plus/ 2.5 GPA and
- be a U.S. citizen

If I have a disability, am I still eligible for the mentoring program?

We are trying to increase the pool of available minority candidates for a career as an officer in the Air Force. If we determine that you are or will be able later to pass the fitness test, you can participate.

Do I have to have or maintain a certain GPA to be eligible for the program?

We want students to maintain a C-plus/ 2.5 GPA or above.

Do students need referrals from counselors and teachers for the mentoring program?

A recommendation is not required but having one from a teacher or counselor is a real plus for getting into the program.

Does it make a difference to the eligibility of a student if in public or private school?

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It does not matter if a student attends a public or private school.

How long will it take to find out if a student has been accepted to the ORDP?

A student will be notified within five to ten business days of receipt of their registration/nomination and completed interview if they are accepted in the program.

Do students need to join the ROTC in order to participate in the mentoring program?

No you do not have to join ROTC in order to participant in the mentoring program.

Am I obligated to join the JRAFROTC, AFROTC or Air Force after being in the mentoring program?

No there is no obligation to join any of these; we certainly hope that you will consider it.

What types of activities will the program get me involved in?

The mentoring program will provide you with opportunities to participate in events and programs that address a number of development focus areas. There will be opportunities to participate in many programs but the main focus will be space and aviation focused programs. Examples of these programs are:

- Aviation Career Enhancement (ACE) Camps (sponsored by the Organization of Black Airline Pilots)

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- Space Camp,
- Junior ROTC,
- Eagle Scout Explorer Program,
- Civil Air Patrol,
- Local rocketry and
- Model airplane building programs.

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How much time does a student have to commit to the mentoring? Will it be during school hours or weekends?

The mentoring will take a minimum of one hour a month and will be based on a time suitable to the mentee and mentor.

Is there travel required for students or will the mentorship occur at home or base school?

Travel is not an aspect of this mentoring program, however, we will inform students and parents of programs that may choose to participate in that may require travel as a family.

If students are mentored in middle and high school will the mentorship continue through college graduation?

The mentoring will continue throughout the sophomore year in college when the student is aligned with the AFROTC.

How am I matched with a mentor?

You will be matched with one of the mentors that are responsible for mentoring students in your geographic area

Who are the mentors and what are their qualifications?

The mentors are all people who have worked with students in the past and have a strong desire to help students succeed. Some of them are ROTC graduates or have prior military experience.

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Are all mentors backgrounds checked for criminal records?

All mentors are required to have a background check.

How much does the program cost?

There is no cost to participate in the program

How can I invite others to participate in the program?

There is a nominating/referral form on our [Contact Us](#) page on this website. [Click here](#) to go to it.