

## BACKGROUND PAPER

ON

## AIR SCIENCE MINOR

### INTRODUCTION

Air Force ROTC students work hard to become leaders in the United States Air Force. On average, students complete approximately 24 credit hours of Air Science in addition to their regular academic requirements. This figure does not include a rigorous four week Field Training Exercise, twice weekly Physical Training sessions every quarter, a weekly 2-hr Leadership Laboratory, and various other activities required to become an officer in the United States Air Force. Since most of these courses do not apply towards their College Major, students ultimately still receive a commission, but they receive no academic recognition for completion of this rigorous program.

### PURPOSE

We submitted a proposal to the Council on Academic Affairs (CAA) in December 2007 recommending the university approve an Air Science Minor. CAA approved the Minor in Air Science (see attached email) in January 2008 and 12 of our 27 Spring 2008 graduates were able to successfully receive the minor in time for graduation. Currently, the College of Arts and Sciences is the only college not granting the Air Science Minor to our students. Our goal this year is that all 26 projected graduates receive this Minor if they meet the requirements outlined below.

### DISCUSSION

1. History of Military / Air Science at The Ohio State University
  - a. The Morrill Act (1862) signed by President Lincoln (commonly referred to as the Land Grant College Act) enabled the State of Ohio to build an institution of higher learning to train young men in agricultural studies, mechanical arts, and military tactics.
  - b. Archives indicate that Military Science instruction began at Ohio State in 1874.
  - c. Colonel George L. Converse, Professor of Military Science and building namesake, established the "Ohio Plan" which became the blueprint for a nationwide program of junior officer development. In 1916 the Student army Training corps (SATC) began, forming what later became the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).
  - d. Air Science instruction transferred from the Army Air Corps to the Air Force with the passage of the National Security Act of 1947, which established the Air Force as a separate service.

2. Air Force ROTC Cadets Pursuing Degrees from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences

Year Group (YG) 2012	4 of 55	7%
YG 2011	8 of 33	24%
YG 2010	2 of 17	12%
YG 2009	4 of 21	19%
Overall	18 of 126	14%

3. Minor in Air Science Proposal

- a. Curriculum -- In keeping with university directives, students must complete the following prerequisites to the minor or request a waiver to this requirement through the department chair:

AS 101*	The Foundations of the United States Air Force-I	1 CH
AS 102*	The Foundations of the United States Air Force-II	1 CH
AS 103*	The Foundations of the United States Air Force-III	1 CH

\* = Students can also receive credit by attending an extended academic session sponsored by AFROTC during their summer Field Training.

Students must then complete 21 credit hours from the following course listing in order to earn a Minor in Air Science:

AS 201	The Evolution of USAF Air & Space Power to WWII	1 CH
AS 202	The Evolution of USAF Air & Space Power, 1945-1989)	1 CH
AS 203	The Evolution of USAF Air & Space Power, 1989-Present	1 CH
AS 301	Air Force Leadership Authority & Responsibility	3 CH
AS 302	Leadership & Accountability	3 CH
AS 303	Officer Development & Professionalism	3 CH
AS 401	National Security & the Strategy Making Process	3 CH
AS 402	Regional Area Studies	3 CH
AS 403	Preparation for Active Duty	3 CH

These courses deal specifically with the Air Force's structure, history, and approach towards organizational leadership, problem solving skills, National Security and are designed to enhance every aspect of a student's understanding of these principles and techniques. In addition, to receive the minor of Air Science, students must achieve a grade of C- or higher in each course in the minor and an overall 2.0 GPA in the minor.

- b. Enrollment: Typically there are approximately 150 students enrolled in Air Science courses. We expect this Minor would attract approximately twenty-five additional students per year.
- c. Eligibility: Open to all students of The Ohio State University.
- d. Levels of Participation:
1. **Applicant** – An individual who makes written application for membership in the General Military Course (GMC), Professional Officer Course (POC), or College Scholarship Program (CSP).

2. **Member** – A student who meets all applicable eligibility requirements and is admitted to membership in the GMC (AS100 or AS200), POC (AS300), or on an Air Force ROTC scholarship. These students must complete classroom curriculum and leadership laboratory requirements in pursuit of an Air Force commission.
  3. **Cadet** – A student who meets all applicable eligibility requirements and is admitted to membership in the GMC or POC. To remain a cadet, the individual must maintain prescribed retention standards.
  4. **Contract Cadet** – A cadet who has executed an AF Form 1056 (contract), enlisted in the United States Air Force Reserve [Obligated Reserve Section (ORS)] under the provisions of 10 U.S.C. 2104 or 2107, and is a member of the POC or on scholarship.
  5. **Special Student** – An individual who may or may not be eligible for membership, and does not wish to pursue a commission. These individuals may take Air Science classes for academic credit only. An individual in special student status **is not** authorized to participate in Leadership Laboratory without a waiver from the commander.
  6. **Non-US Citizen Student** – Non-US citizen students are not considered GMC/POC members, special students, or pursuing students. Non-US citizen students are authorized to participate in the GMC, POC, and Leadership Laboratory. Non-US citizen students are eligible to participate with the following exceptions:
    - i. They are not authorized to compete in any selection program.
    - ii. They will not receive an Enrollment Allocation (unless they can obtain US citizenship within 12 months after selection).
    - iii. They will not be enlisted.
    - iv. They will not be commissioned.
    - v. They will not be administered the Oath of Allegiance.
4. **Approval Status:** The Council on Academic Affairs approved the Air Science Minor (042) on 9 Jan 08. The College of Arts and Science Committee on Curriculum and Instruction (ASC CCI) requested additional information before approving the minor for ASC students. A proposal letter was sent to ASC CCI on 16 Sep 08 requesting a hearing. The proposal will be presented to the CCI on 5 Dec 08 for their consideration.

## RECOMMENDATION

Air Science is aligned with the vision and intent of both the founding administration (Land Grant) and current university leaders. We recommend the Minor in Air Science be approved for all ASC students who complete the requirements outlined in this document.