Army ROTC, military leadership, was established as an integral part of the academic curriculum of Clemson University beginning in 1893, the institution’s first full-time academic year of operation. Clemson’s long association with Army ROTC began in the context of a military college with an all-male corps of cadets.

In 1947, the Department of the Air Force was established and Clemson’s Air Force ROTC Detachment, aerospace studies, was created, beginning a long tradition of producing the finest officers for the Air Force.

Today, earning a minor in aerospace studies or military leadership is desirable for men and women who seek to enter into the Air Force, Army, Army National Guard or Army Reserve as commissioned officers.

The ROTC departments educate, train and commission college students to be officers and leaders of character in the Army and Air Force while instilling the values of citizenship, service and personal responsibility. Students are prepared with the tools, training and experiences that will help them succeed in any competitive environment. ROTC cadets have a traditional college experience studying the academic major of their choice while also earning a commission as officers.
Army ROTC

- Army ROTC teaches the decision making, management skills, leadership and discipline that can be used in either military or civilian careers. Military officers are historically ranked as one of the most honest and ethical professions in America.

- On average, Clemson Army ROTC sends more than 20 cadets each summer to specialty training to include Army Airborne School, Army Air Assault School, the Combat Diver Qualification Course, Cadet Troop Leader Training, and specialty nurse training among many others. Additionally, cadets have the opportunity to participate in the Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program, in which they travel to one of 36 different countries to work with a foreign military, conduct cultural exchange, and participate in humanitarian efforts.

- Clemson Army ROTC historically commissions 25 second lieutenants and one Army nurse each year. In 2023, 100% of our seniors received their first choice of component with 13 receiving active duty, 11 National Guard and three U.S. Army Reserve. Additionally, 33% of our seniors finished in the top 10% of the National Order of Merit list and seven were selected as Distinguished Military Graduates (top 20% of the nation). In the past four years, more than 94% of Army ROTC cadets have received one of their top three branch choices out of the seventeen Army branches.

- Army ROTC is the largest merit-based college scholarship program in the nation. At Clemson, Army ROTC historically provides more than $2 million in scholarships annually with additional financial benefits that include an annual book allowance of $1,200 and a monthly stipend of up to $500.

Air Force ROTC

- Clemson cadets who desire to compete for rated duty (pilot, combat systems officer, air battle manager, or remote piloted aircraft) have been selected for these opportunities at a higher rate than the national average for the last six years. Over the last two years, 28 of 29 Clemson cadets received rated slots. Almost all cadets, rated and non-rated, received one of their top three preferences for assignments, with over half receiving their #1 preference.

- Clemson’s Air Force ROTC has been recognized nationally and regionally for excellence. For six of the last seven years, Det 770 has earned the distinction of being named the #1 Air Force ROTC Detachment in South Carolina by the Air Force Association. In 2016, Det 770 was recognized as the #1 Large Detachment in the Southeast.

- Clemson has maintained a 100% field training graduation rate with more than 40% graduating in the top third of their “flight” or training group. Commissioning rates are also climbing well above 20 new lieutenants per year, with more than 20% selected as the top 15% in the nation.