

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY OCS APPLICANTS

Q) What will my rank be while attending the Officer Candidate School?

A) You will be promoted to the rank of Officer Candidate, E-6, if you are currently below that rank, and will be paid as an E-6 while you are in OCS. If a SFC becomes a Candidate, then that soldier will continue at the pay grade of E-7. If an AGR soldier becomes a Candidate, then the pay grade depends on the slot to which assigned. An AGR Candidate in an E-6 slot will continue at the pay grade of E-6. While enrolled in OCS, you will wear OCS insignia in place of your enlisted rank and will be referred to as "Candidate." (Note: During Pre OCS you will be paid at your current rank. Promotions are submitted just prior to attending Phase 1, usually during the month of June. All soldiers enrolled in OCS, regardless of prior rank and duty status will be administratively promoted to the rank and MOS of "Candidate").

Q) What are the requirements for age?

A) You may not be any younger than 18 Years old in order to apply for a commission, and no older than 41 years old and 364 days at time of commissioning. Age waivers are not required.

Q) If my GT Score is below 110 can it be waived?

A) No, if your GT Score is below 110 you must retest to bring up your GT score before reporting to OCS.

Q) Do I have to attend monthly training assemblies ("Drill" or "IDTs") with my own unit?

A) No, you will attend drill (IDT) at Camp Swift, Bastrop, Texas.

Q) What type of commission will I receive?

A) You will be commissioned into the Texas Army National Guard and will also receive Federal Recognition in the form of a concurrent commission in the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR).

Q) Will I have to go on active duty when I graduate?

A) No. You will serve in the Army National Guard. However, you must attend your BOLC II (6 weeks in length) and Officer Basic Course (OBC) for your designated branch within 18 months of commissioning (one six-month extension may be granted). OBCs are from 4 to 5 months in duration, depending on the particular branch.

Q) May I request to serve on active duty?

A) Yes, provided you apply and are accepted by the U.S Army. Contact an Active Duty US Army recruiter in your area after you receive a commission.

Q) In what branch would I be commissioned?

A) Your designated branch will depend on the unit and position that you are assigned to upon graduation. You will be assigned to a branch and unit based upon the needs of the state, your stated preferences, and geographical considerations.

Q) What happens to me if I drop out or fail out of OCS?

A) You will return to your original status and rank with your unit. You will be counseled by several members of the chain of command, return all items issued by OCS, and contact your parent unit chain of command. Simultaneously, OCS will initiate a memorandum for record through the OCS Commandant to the General Officer in your Chain of Command to your parent unit chain of command. Reapplying for subsequent OCS classes will be handled on a case by case basis and a new application packet boarded by your battalion will also be required. Soldiers who have not attended AIT (09S contracts) will be given the option of remaining enlisted and attending an MOS producing school or be discharged. This is at the discretion of the soldiers Company Commander.

Q) Q) What happens if I have to miss training?

A) OCS requires that you attend all training assemblies. If you cannot make training events on time, you should reconsider applying for OCS.

Q) How much time is required for preparation?

A) If you study as much as one-half hour for every hour of training, you should pass without any difficulty. However, you must plan to study. You will also be required to prepare yourself, your equipment, and communicate with your candidate chain of command and project teams prior to drills.

Q) Why is OCS demanding and stressful?

A) The purpose of OCS is to develop and assess potential future commissioned officers. The OCS staff must assess the leadership potential of the candidates in a stressful yet professional environment. This includes physical and mental stress in garrison and field situations. While OCS is demanding, any candidate who applies the Army Values to every aspect of this transformation process has an excellent chance to graduate and receive a commission. Experience has shown that the vast majority of the candidates who do not complete the program withdraw voluntarily due to personal reasons that are not related to the OCS curriculum.

Q) What are the general demographics of an OCS class?

A) A class is typically made up of an equalized mixture of prior-service National Guard/Army/Navy/Marine/Air Force, non-prior-service BCT/AIT graduates, 18-39 year-old, males and females. Each class varies in areas of strength and improvements and usually develops its own personality. Individual candidates come to the program for different and personal reasons, but soon after OCS begins, all are united as one team with the same goal and standards in mind.

Q) What is my service obligation after commissioning?

A) Eight years. Six years in a unit and two years in the Control Group.