

Institutional Effectiveness Report

Assessment Summary

Department or Division: Aerospace Studies

Degree Program: Minor in Aerospace Studies

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Assessment Cycle: Academic year

Mission: The Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) is designed to complement a student's individual academic major. The program is designed to prepare young men and women to commission as second lieutenants in the active duty Air Force upon completion of a bachelor's degree and ROTC requirements.

Assessment History: AFROTC program assessment is done at the national level through the AFROTC Division of the Jeanne M. Holm Center for Officer Accessions & Citizen Development (Holm Center) located at Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB) AL. The Holm Center is under the direction of Air University, an organization which has been fully accredited under the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accreditation process. The Holm Center creates, maintains, manages and distributes the curriculum for the entire AFROTC program across the nation.

Each year, the Holm Center sends out surveys to the recently commissioned lieutenants (alumni) and their military supervisors. These surveys gather data to assess ROTC's effectiveness in meeting the AFROTC learning objectives. The survey results are used to update and revise the curriculum each year.

Many surveys also contain comments relative to the learning experiences at each detachment. Those comments are reviewed at the Holm Center and provided to the detachment. Modifications to the teaching styles or methodologies are sometimes implemented based on those comments.

In addition to the alumni/supervisor survey, each academic year group (freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior) of students is required to complete an end-of-course survey at the conclusion of the academic year. These surveys are written and conducted on-line by the Holm Center. Results of the surveys are used in assessing the effectiveness of the curriculum and modifying the particular course curriculum each year.

All survey results are maintained at the Holm Center in Montgomery AL. Specific comments relevant to the VSU Detachment are provided to and maintained by the Professor of Aerospace Studies (Director).

Expected Student Learning Outcomes: AFROTC graduates (commissionees) are officers of character...

1. With integrity who are selflessly committed to service to their country through personal and professional excellence;
2. Who possess a breadth of integrated knowledge across the academic disciplines and the military profession that support the Air Force mission;

3. Who are decisive leaders with the stamina, courage, and discipline to build and inspire high performing teams in demanding environments;
4. Who appreciate the significance of their own spiritual development, accept the beliefs of others, and foster mutual respect and dignity among all individuals;
5. Who make sound decisions grounded in the fundamentals of air and space power in a joint environment;
6. Who promote the dynamic relationship between leaders and followers through effective communication;
7. Who can use their understanding of global relationships, cultures, and languages to effectively employ air and space power;
8. Who will apply their knowledge and skills to meet the present and future challenges of the military profession;
9. Who demonstrate unquenchable desire for personal and professional development; and
10. Who are motivated toward a lifetime of national service.

Assessments (include when and to whom these are administered, and align goals with specific assessments):

- National end-of-course survey administered at the end of each academic year to all year groups (freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors). The assessment measures expected student learning outcomes as well as specific course objectives. In addition, comments are solicited to several general questions concerning the overall AFROTC program including the most and least effective aspects of the AFROTC program and any recommendations for program improvement. Learning Outcomes 1 - 10
- National external survey administered to graduates and their supervisors approximately one year after graduation. Measures expected student learning outcomes. Learning Outcomes 1 - 10

2007-2008

Assessment Results:

- **National End-of-Course Survey:** The survey covered a broad range of topics. All ratings on the survey relative to the AFROTC curriculum ranged from 94% to 100%. Ratings from the previous year compared well to this year with the only trend being consistency. The comments we received were varied and did not indicate any trends in the curriculum.
- **National External Survey:** Survey results were consistent with previous years (in some cases data was available for up to 5 years ago). Ratings ranged from a low of 78% to a high of 99%. The low ratings were more prevalent from the graduates. In fact, every area receiving a low rating by a graduate received a much higher rating from the supervisor. The only two areas rated low by supervisors were rated markedly higher by the graduate.

Discussion/Dissemination of Results:

- Both survey results are collected at the national level and analyzed by the curriculum development division at the Holm Center. Modifications to the curriculum are determined and incorporated into the curriculum based on their analysis. The Holm Center distributes a summary of the results each year to every detachment.

Modifications Made:

- The only modifications made to the AS 100 (freshman) curriculum were based on organizational or policy changes within the Air Force.
- There were no changes to the AS 200 (sophomore) curriculum.
- The AS300 (junior) curriculum underwent major changes. Those changes were driven by the co-development of a commercial textbook. The commercially developed lessons have some significantly different content than before.
- The AS400 (senior) curriculum was updated to reflect changes made across the Air Force. Some of the lessons were reformatted to provide additional flexibility to conduct the class.

2006-2007**Assessment Results:**

- **National End-of-Course Survey:** No survey ratings were supplied to the detachment. The comments we received were varied and did not indicate any trends in the curriculum.
- **National External Survey:** Survey results were consistent with previous years (in some cases data was available for up to 5 years ago). Ratings ranged from a low of 78% to a high of 99%. In general, the areas receiving low graduate ratings also received low supervisor ratings.

Discussion/Dissemination of Results:

- Both survey results are collected at the national level and analyzed by the curriculum development division at the Holm Center. Modifications to the curriculum are determined and incorporated into the curriculum based on their analysis. The Holm Center distributes a summary of the results each year to every detachment.

Modifications Made:

- Modifications made to the AS 100 (freshman) curriculum included those from organizational or policy changes within the Air Force and enhancing the objectives on conflict resolution and the various forms of warfare.
- There were no changes to the AS 200 (sophomore) curriculum.
- No significant changes were made to the AS 300 (junior) curriculum).
- The AS400 (senior) curriculum was updated to expand upon terrorism and other forms of asymmetric warfare. Enhancements were also made to the conflict resolution section and cultural awareness sections. Updated information includes Air Force organizational and policy changes.

Any information prior to the 2006-07 year is maintained at the Holm Center.

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Dept. Head/ Director Date Dean Date VPAA Date

Adapted from: University of Alabama SACS site (<http://sacs.ua.edu/degreeInfo2.cfm?college=2&dept=50>) and

University of Western Kentucky SACS Accreditation Review Process (<http://www.wku.edu/sacs/assessmentmanual.htm>)

Dr. Marila Palmer, LeTourneau University, presentation materials from SACS 2008 Summer Institute

Aerospace Studies Course Learning Outcomes

AS 1001 and AS1002:

- Know the basic history of our Air Force, how it's organized and what it does for our country (fight and win America's wars)
- Know what career opportunities are available to you as an Air Force officer
- Know the benefits afforded members of the military
- Know and develop productive life skills
- Demonstrate basic oral and written communications skills

AS 2001 and AS 2002:

- Know key terms and definitions used to describe air and space power
- Know events, leaders and technological developments surrounding the evolution of air and space power
- Demonstrate basic verbal and written communication skills
- Know the USAF core values and examples through the evolution of air and space power

AS 3001 and AS 3002:

- Comprehend selected individual leadership skills and personal strengths and weaknesses as applied in an Air Force environment
- Comprehend the responsibility and authority of the Air Force officer, the Air Force officer's responsibilities in the counseling and feedback process, and duties and responsibilities as a subordinate leader
- Comprehend and apply the concepts of ethical behavior as well as comprehend concepts, principles, and theories of Air Force leadership and management
- Apply listening, speaking, and writing skills in Air Force unique formats and situations with accuracy and clarity

AS 4001 and AS 4002:

- Know the basic elements of national security policy and process
- Know the air and space power functions and competencies
- Understand selected roles of the military in society and current issues affecting the military profession as well as selected provisions of the military justice system
- Comprehend the responsibility, authority, and functions of an Air Force commander
- Apply listening, speaking, and writing skills in Air Force particular formats and situations with accuracy, clarity, and appropriate style
- Understand the factors that facilitate a smooth transition from civilian to military life

AS 1000:

- Provide first-year cadets an informative and motivational program designed to recruit, retain, and familiarize cadets with the Air Force way of life and foster leadership, followership, teamwork, and esprit de corps
- Provide cadets scheduled to attend field training with the mental and physical skills needed to succeed in the AFROTC field training environment
- Provide cadets returning from field training sufficient opportunities to demonstrate and develop the leadership and management skills needed to successfully function as an active duty officer

- Provide cadets to be commissioned additional opportunities to demonstrate and develop the leadership and management skills needed to successfully function as an active duty officer and to adequately prepare them to transition from the ROTC environment to active duty

DIRECTOR OF AEROSPACE STUDIES

Section 1. The Commander of the Valdosta State University Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps and Director of Aerospace Studies is appointed by the United States Air Force. The Director holds office at the pleasure of the Air Force. The Director is a person who has achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel-select, Lieutenant Colonel, or Colonel and is granted full professor status. The Director of Aerospace Studies is responsible to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Section 2. Under the discretion of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Director of the Aerospace Studies:

- commands, leads, directs, and manages the Valdosta State University AFROTC unit, which administers a college-level officer training program;
- serves as senior Air Force officer at geographically separated unit; ultimately, the commander determines which students are commissioned;
- chairs the Department of Aerospace Studies, managing a unit budget of \$250K;
- exercises general supervision over the division's curricula and over the academic work of students seeking degrees granted by the division;
- presides at all regular and special meetings of the faculty of the division; and
- teaches courses in the program as required or appropriate.