

Basic Information Sheet for Lincoln Air Force Junior ROTC

First of all, please realize that there is **no** military commitment associated with joining our Air Force Junior ROTC program. In fact, it is actually illegal for the two program instructors to actively recruit cadets for the military (we are allowed to talk about it, but only if the cadet initiates the conversation). We are retired from the military ourselves.

Nationwide, only about 8% of Air Force Junior ROTC cadets join the military, which shows that our program is not focused as a military recruitment endeavor. We have a wide range of students who find our program enjoyable. Even if your student is not interested in joining the military after high school, we believe there are many benefits to their taking our course, such as improved self-discipline, attention to detail, teamwork, confidence, and leadership skills, just to name a few. Of course, there are additional benefits if someone is looking at the military as a career.

Speaking of students, we have cadets who attend our program from many Lincoln schools. Even though our program is housed at Lincoln Northeast, we are represented this year by cadets from East, Northeast, North Star, Lincoln High, Southeast, and Southwest within the Lincoln Public School District. In addition to those LPS schools, we have historically had cadets attending from Parkview Christian, Pius X, Lincoln Christian, and Lincoln Lutheran. For the most part, the non-Northeast cadets are of driving age, as that is their means for getting here. As the Lincoln Public School District does not provide transportation to get to our class, it is the responsibility of the cadet (and/or their family) to get them here and/or back to their home school. This is usually the biggest issue for families of cadets from other schools to overcome.

We have five available classes during every school day. Of those, the zero-hour and 7th-period classes are the most easily accessible for non-Northeast students to fit into their schedule. When I refer to zero-hour, this is the class that takes place prior to the normal school day (from 7:00am-7:50am).

In order to get enrolled in our program, simply speak with your student's counselor at your home school. Know that your counselor will recognize the JROTC program as "Aerospace Science", because that's what it is called in their curriculum guide. They will need to work out what period works out best for your student to attend over here, due to transportation times (many times, this means a period off at the home school for travel time). For LPS students, once that is done, then you are enrolled. However, for non-LPS students, you will then need to come to Northeast to dual-enroll your student here after you have your home school's schedule worked out, which allows them to actually take the class here. Please call 402-436-1303 and ask for the Counseling Department to get that set up.

Our grading system is broken down into six distinct categories, as follows (along with the percentage of the grade that each category represents):

Homework/Classwork:	25%
Tests/Quizzes:	20%
Uniform Inspections:	20%
Physical Training:	20%
Community Service:	10%
Leadership/Teamwork:	5%

Allow me to describe a few of these. The first two are self-explanatory as they are just like any other class. The third, Uniform Inspections, takes place on Tuesday and that is the day that every cadet wears their uniform in school all day (with a couple of exceptions I'll cover in a bit). On that day each week, the instructors will inspect how the cadet wears their uniform, including all accoutrements that go

with it. Regarding the exceptions I mentioned...if a cadet has a class such as pottery, PE, woodworking, or something else that could cause damage to the uniform, we expect the cadet to change out of their uniform for that class, and then change back into it after the class is over. Wearing of the uniform is **NOT** considered a valid excuse for avoiding anything to do with another class. You do **NOT** have to purchase the uniform or pay for it up front at all, as long as your student doesn't allow it to become damaged or lost. Consider it on loan and that you are liable for loss or damage just like a rental would be.

Physical Training takes place on Fridays, and can be anything from circuit training to a mile run to agility drills to team sports of some sort. Wear of tennis shoes is a requirement, as is bringing a resealable container with plain water (to stay hydrated during the workout).

Community Service is a big part of our program, and is something that we expect all of our cadets to take part in. We want to instill the idea that not only is it a good thing to help out people in their community, but it can be very enjoyable and personally rewarding. Within our program, we have many things that we do as a group, although rarely are these mandatory. This allows each cadet to pick and choose from among those events that they feel would be most enjoyable or worthy for them personally. There is a minimum expectation for this category over the course of each semester (15 hours).

Finally, we have the Leadership/Teamwork grade. This grade is determined by the amount of leadership combined with teamwork that we see from each cadet. Obviously, not every cadet is ready for a leadership role, though we expect that they will be by the time they graduate. But every cadet can be and is expected to show good teamwork skills and behaviors.

Our course is a semester-course in length, though we have eight distinct sets of curricula. This means a cadet can participate in our course for a full four years and never repeat the same material. Each year, we teach one leadership-related curriculum and one aviation-related curriculum. Any brand new cadets would take what we call our "first year curriculum" while the returning cadets would rotate between three different sets of curricula. Here is a very brief depiction of our eight curricula and I have highlighted the curricula we are covering this current school year:

Leadership

Basic Leadership Skills and Health (brand new cadets)

Communication Skills

Life Skills and Careers

Fundamentals of Management

Aviation

Aviation History (brand new cadets)

Survival Skills

The Science of Flight

Exploration of Space

I would also add that our courses are generally considered only Elective credit as far as graduation goes, unfortunately. However, we do have two exceptions that - the first exception to that is the new cadet Leadership course is worth PE Credit. In addition, that same course teaches enough Health information to receive Health credit for it, but we are required to include the state-mandated Sex Education in our curriculum for that semester. So the very first full year of our course is a combination of PE and Health credit, and all other semesters are Elective credit only.

Finally, I would like to put in a plug for our YouTube page. If you're interested in seeing videos of our cadets in action, whether it is learning how to march, being inspected, providing a Color Guard or performing as a member of our drill team, our YouTube page is the place to find them, which can be accessed at <http://www.youtube.com/LincolnAFJROTC> . In addition, you can visit our school website (which is still very basic but being improved!) at <http://wp.lps.org/afjrotc/> . If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact us and thank you for your interest in our program!