

WHY THE MARINE CORPS?

As a college student, you may be thinking about what you'll do after earning your degree. There are many options. If you are interested in learning how to lead, shouldering enormous amounts of responsibility and developing analytical and interpersonal skills that are crucial to executive management, consider becoming an officer in the United States Marine Corps. You'll find rewards, challenges, and excitement that few other careers can match.

Unlike the other American armed services, the Marine Corps does not have its own service academy. We prefer to find potential leaders among America's college and university undergraduates and graduates.

The Marine Corps officer programs are designed to bring out the best in you by putting you through the toughest training and evaluation you have ever faced. We make no apologies for the fact that our Officer Candidate School is extraordinarily challenging. It has to be. Marine Officers take on responsibilities well beyond their years. The training will force you to search your own desire and commitment to succeed in the face of extreme adversity. To excel, it takes someone who is a self-starter, reliable—someone who doesn't settle for second best or for a job half done.



“What sets the Marine Corps apart from other training institutions—and in particular, from an MBA program...is that it unabashedly favors breeding generic, high-speed chaos-proof leadership. Experts and specialists are a dime a dozen. What the world needs is someone who can grasp the workings of an entire organization, understand people, and motivate them.” -Inc. Magazine, April 1998

WHAT IS A COMMISSIONED OFFICER?



As a Commissioned Officer, the President of the United States, with the consent of the U.S. Senate, places *“special trust and confidence”* in you to protect our Constitution. You distinguish yourself as one who possesses the character, leadership, and intellectual capacity to lead America's sons and daughters in the daily defense of our way of life – and into harm's way if called upon. On the basis of your commission, you, as an officer, are afforded uncommon authority, incredible responsibility, and total accountability. On the basis of this commission, you are also granted special status and privileges in our society.

BUILDING A CORPS OF LEADERS

The common denominator for Marine officers is leadership. Marine officers must lead and are selected based on their potential to lead and to continue to develop as leaders. After selection and commissioning, the Marine Corps devotes nearly an entire year to training new officers before they take charge of enlisted Marines. You'll be entirely prepared for that moment when you first stand before your Marines and utter the words, “Follow me.” Read on to find out more about our officer programs.

PLATOON LEADERS CLASS

Platoon Leaders Class (PLC) is a program designed specifically to provide **college freshmen, sophomores, and juniors** enrolled full-time in an accredited college or university with the opportunity to earn a Marine Officer's commission.

One great aspect of this program is that **all training is conducted during the summer so participation in PLC does not detract from your studies – or from your college experience.** After summer training at Officer Candidate School (OCS), you will return to campus and enjoy your time at college just like every other student. Once accepted into PLC, the only obligation you incur is to attend OCS. If you successfully graduate from summer OCS training, you'll have a big decision to make during your senior year. "Do I accept my commission and begin serving as a Marine officer, or do I decline my commission and pursue another path after college?" Participating in PLC allows you to earn the option of becoming a Marine officer after you graduate from college. It also provides the Marine Corps with the chance to assess your leadership during the summer to determine whether or not you have what it takes to lead Marines. We both get to "test drive" the idea of you becoming a Marine officer without either of us incurring a post-college obligation.

In this program freshman and sophomores attend two six-week summer courses at Officer Candidates School (OCS) in Quantico, Virginia. Juniors attend one ten-week course. Upon graduation from OCS, you will return to school. There are no military requirements during the school year. You simply stay in touch with your Officer Selection Officer, keep up your academic standing, and maintain good physical condition.

You'll be paid during your summer training, and once you have completed one summer of OCS (first six-week session for freshmen and sophomores; ten-week session for juniors), you will also become eligible for some very significant financial assistance:

- *Financial Assistance Pay*
- *College Tuition Assistance Program*

Platoon Leaders Class—Aviation Option: This program is designed for students who are interested in becoming pilots. Those who qualify and who are selected for this program will be **guaranteed assignment to flight training** for designation as Marine Corps aviators.



- *Fully trained members of the PLC-Aviation option who have agreed to accept their commission and are within one year of college graduation may also enroll in the Flight Indoctrination Program, which provides for extensive civilian flight instruction.*

Platoon Leaders Class—Law Option: This program is open to college seniors and first and second year law students. You must meet the basic requirements for the PLC ground program and achieve a minimum score of 150 on the Law School Aptitude Test (LSAT). After completing a ten-week session at OCS, you are commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps and placed on inactive duty without pay or allowances while you complete your law degree. You will receive credit for your time in service for promotion and pay purposes while you are in law school. Upon graduation from law school and admittance to the state bar of your choice, you will attend The Basic School, followed by the Naval Justice School in Newport, Rhode Island. Then you will serve as a Judge Advocate (attorney) for the Marine Corps.

PLATOON LEADERS CLASS
BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- U.S. Citizen
- Education:
 - Graduate from an accredited four-year college or university
 - Full time college freshman through junior (enrolled in 12 or more credit hours)
 - Minimum grade point average of 2.0
- Open to men and women
- Less than 30 years old when commissioned a Second Lieutenant
- Standardized Test Scores (any one of the following to qualify)
 - ACT combined Math and English score of 45 or better
 - SAT score of 1000 or better
 - ASVAB score of 74 or better AFQT
- Medical
 - Pass Armed Forces Entrance Physical
- Physical Fitness
 - Men's Physical Fitness Test (PFT) consists of maximum crunches in two minutes, maximum pull-ups, and a timed three-mile run
 - Women's Physical Fitness Test (PFT) consists of maximum crunches in two minutes, maximum flexed arm hang, and a timed three-mile run
 - Score of 225 points is the minimum standard for qualification. Refer to the PFT scoring chart in this document
 - Meet the Marine Corps' height and weight standards. Refer to the height and weight chart in this document
 - Meet the Marine Corps' body fat standards: 18% males, 26% females
- Moral
 - Be of solid moral character
 - No felony convictions
 - Misdemeanors evaluated on a case-by-case basis
- Whole Person Concept
 - The Marine Corps not only evaluates test scores but also considers external activities such as community activities, school activities, sports participation, and work experience to select those candidates who will attend Officer Candidate School.

PLC AVIATION ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- No more than 27.5 years when commissioned a Second Lieutenant
- Pass the Navy/Marine Corps Aviation Selection Test Battery (ASTB)
- Be found medically qualified for flight training
- Minimum vision requirements are 20/40 -- correctable to 20/20

PLC LAW ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Be a full-time college senior enrolled in 12 or more credit hours
- Accepted to an ABA-accredited law school, or already a first or second-year law student
- LSAT score of 150 or better
- Less than 33 years old when transitioning to active duty

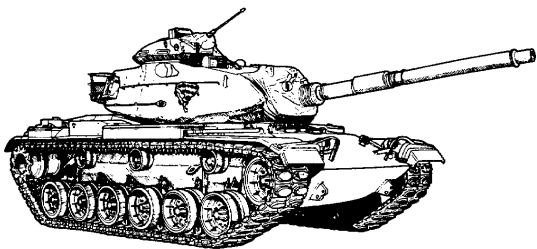
THE OFFICER PROGRAMS PROCESS

Prospect Phase- During this phase, you will gather information in order to make a *well-informed decision*. The Officer Selection Officer will initially screen you to determine your qualification to apply for a Marine officer program, conduct an interview or perhaps several interviews, and answer all of your questions. The aim in this phase is to ensure that you know enough about the Marines to make a well-informed decision, and for both you and the Officer Selection Officer to confirm that you are, indeed, Marine Corps officer “material.” Married prospects are encouraged to bring their spouse to the interview(s). Information about Marine officer programs can come from a variety of sources, but the best source, by far, is the Officer Selection Officer. Other resources include publications, pamphlets, and brochures, insights provided by current and former Marine officers, Marine Corps Officer Programs DVD, and the Marine officer web-site: <http://www.marineofficer.com>. Your goal should be to learn as much as you can about our programs and what Marine officers do in order to make a sound decision about whether to pursue an application for one of our programs.



Applicant Phase- During this phase, you will apply for acceptance to a Marine officer program. The process consists of several different steps, to include mental testing (as required), a physical exam at a Military Entrance Processing Station, a physical fitness test, a background check, and gathering your academic credentials. This phase can be accomplished in a short period of time for applicants who meet the qualification standards. At times, an applicant will not initially meet the standard in a particular area. Through dedicated time and work, these prospects can rise to meet the standards for qualification. The Marine Corps is looking for the applicant who is willing to demonstrate dedication and determination. This phase culminates when the applicant’s “package” is sent before the National Marine Officer Candidate Selection Board for review and competitive consideration. The Board convenes several times throughout the year to select the most highly qualified applicants. Once selected, you become a Marine Officer Candidate.

Candidate Phase- This phase is broken down into three stages: pre-OCS, OCS, and post-OCS. During the pre-OCS period, you continue to learn what will be expected of you at OCS and prepare yourself to meet those expectations. The Officer Selection Officer will continue to prepare you both mentally and physically for the rigors of OCS. The OCS period starts when you “ship” from the Officer Selection Station to Quantico, Virginia. Your Pay Entry Base Date starts here...an important date impacting your future pay as an officer. You will attend OCS for either two six-week sessions or one ten-week session, depending upon when you enter the PLC program. OCS is designed to test you to ensure that you possess the physical capabilities, character, intellect, and leadership potential required of all Marine officers. As stated previously, upon completion of OCS you will return to school. Approximately four to six months prior to earning your Bachelor’s Degree, you will make the decision to accept or decline your commission. If you accept your commission, you will be appointed to the rank of Second Lieutenant and assigned to active duty (ground officers and lawyers for four years; aviators for six to eight years upon graduation from college).



Freshman timeline: Complete freshman school year -- attend OCS junior course for 6 weeks
Complete sophomore school year – no OCS training this summer
Complete junior school year – attend OCS senior course for 6 weeks
Complete senior school year -- decide to accept or decline commission

Sophomore timeline: Complete sophomore school year -- attend OCS junior course for 6 weeks
Complete junior school year -- attend OCS senior course for 6 weeks
Complete senior school year -- decide to accept or decline commission

Junior timeline: Complete junior school year—attend OCS combined course for 10 weeks
Complete senior school year—decide to accept or decline commission

**Note: For pay purposes, it is more advantageous to enter the PLC program as a freshman or sophomore because you will receive an earlier Pay Entry Base Date. In PLC, you build service longevity pay while you are still attending college.*

“Some people have spent an entire lifetime wondering if they have made a difference in this world. The Marines don’t have that problem.” -Ronald Reagan

Marine Officer Initial Training Phase-All Marine officers begin their active service by attending The Basic School (TBS) for a period of about six months. As the name implies, TBS will give you the basic skills needed to serve as a company grade officer in the Fleet Marine Force. At OCS, you prove that you possess the potential to be a Lieutenant of Marines. Upon graduating from college, you become one. At TBS, you learn how to be an effective lieutenant before assuming your first assignment leading Marines. Upon completion of TBS, you will be assigned to your Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) school. Officers with an aviation guarantee will begin flight training in Pensacola, Florida. Officers with a Judge Advocate guarantee will attend Naval Justice School in Newport, Rhode Island. Ground officers are assigned their particular MOS near the completion of The Basic School – a decision that takes into account your personal desires, your performance at TBS, and the needs of the Marine Corps. You will attend the appropriate MOS school based on this assignment. Upon completion of your MOS school, you will be assigned to the Fleet Marine Force.

PAY AND BENEFITS

Candidate Status:

- You will be paid as an E-5 while attending six or ten weeks of OCS
 - Approximately \$ 2,400.00 single candidates; \$ 3,100.00 married candidates (six-weeks)
 - Approximately \$ 3,600.00 single candidates; \$ 4,900.00 married candidates (ten-weeks)
 - Financial Assistance Pay and College Tuition Assistance Program pay for candidates who complete their first six-week (or combined ten-week) summer at OCS.*

Marine Officer Status:

- Your salary as a Second Lieutenant will exceed \$ 40,000.00 per year with pay increases annually
- Full medical coverage for you and your family
- Full dental coverage and family plan
- 30 days’ paid vacation annually
- Tuition assistance
- Post-graduate educational opportunities
- Retirement after 20 years of active service



- Adventure and daily professional challenge
- Transferable and marketable skills. *Inc. Magazine* has described Marine Corps officer training as “the best management training in the world.”
- Unmatched camaraderie, pride, and esprit de corps

“The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the area -- whose face is marred by dust, sweat, and blood... a leader who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause -- who, at best if he wins, knows the thrills of high achievement, and if he fails, fails while daring greatly -- so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.”

–Theodore Roosevelt

COLLEGE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CTAP)

- Candidates who have completed OCS junior course (six weeks) or OCS combined course (ten weeks) may apply to receive CTAP
- CTAP will pay up to \$5,200 per school year for qualified candidates... up to three years for books, tuition, and lab expenses... example: *a freshman signs up for PLC – ships to OCS and completes the six week junior course – then may receive CTAP for the entirety of his/her sophomore, junior, and senior years*
- PLC lawyers are eligible for CTAP while in law school provided they did not receive CTAP as an undergraduate
- Age qualifications are slightly different than general eligibility for the PLC program. Applicants pursuing a baccalaureate degree must be 27 years old on June 30th of the calendar year in which the candidate is projected to be eligible for appointment as a commissioned officer (up to 30 years old if prior military service, dependent upon length of prior service).
- By accepting CTAP, a candidate incurs an active service commitment for Ground PLC of five years versus the normal four years... Aviation candidates remain six to eight years.
- Candidates who are not already active Select Marine Corps Reservists when they enroll in PLC who accept CTAP will receive a pay entry base date (PEBD) on the day they report to TBS. So while in college, candidates who receive CTAP and are not prior-service Marine reservists will not accumulate longevity for pay.
- Candidates not accepting CTAP keep the Pay Entry Base Date assigned to them when they first report to OCS.

WEIGHT STANDARDS FOR MARINES

Male Marines (regardless of age)

Height (inches) **64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78**

Weight (pounds)

Minimum **105 106 107 111 115 119 123 127 131 135 139 143 147 151 153**

Maximum **160 165 170 175 181 186 192 197 203 209 214 219 225 230 235**

Woman Marines (regardless of age)

Height (inches) **58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73**

Weight (pounds)

Minimum **90 92 94 96 98 100 102 104 106 109 112 115 118 122 125 128**

Maximum **121 123 125 127 130 134 138 142 147 151 156 160 165 170 175 180**

* MMPM OFFPROC – Figure 2-43.—Height and Weight Standards *

MARINE CORPS PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST SCORING

Points	Pullups/Flexarm/Crunches	Run(m/f)	Points	Pullups/Flexarm/Crunches	Run(m/f)				
100	20	70	100	18:00 / 21:00	50	10	45	50	26:20 / 29:20
99			99	18:10 / 21:10	49			49	26:30 / 29:30
98		69	98	18:20 / 21:20	48		44	48	26:40 / 29:40
97			97	18:30 / 21:30	47			47	26:50 / 29:50
96		68	96	18:40 / 21:40	46		43	46	27:00 / 30:00
95	19		95	18:50 / 21:50	45	9		45	27:10 / 30:10
94		67	94	19:00 / 22:00	44		42	44	27:20 / 30:20
93			93	19:10 / 22:10	43			43	27:30 / 30:30
92		66	92	19:20 / 22:20	42		41	42	27:40 / 30:40
91			91	19:30 / 22:30	41			41	27:50 / 30:50
90	18	65	90	19:40 / 22:40	40	8	40	40	28:00 / 31:00
89			89	19:50 / 22:50	39		39	39	28:10 / 31:10
88		64	88	20:00 / 23:00	38		38	38	28:20 / 31:20
87			87	20:10 / 23:10	37		37	37	28:30 / 31:30
86		63	86	20:20 / 23:20	36		36	36	28:40 / 31:40
85	17		85	20:30 / 23:30	35	7	35	35	28:50 / 31:50
84		62	84	20:40 / 23:40	34		34	34	29:00 / 32:00
83			83	20:50 / 23:50	33		33	33	29:10 / 32:10
82		61	82	21:00 / 24:00	32		32	32	29:20 / 32:20
81			81	21:10 / 24:10	31		31	31	29:30 / 32:30
80	16	60	80	21:20 / 24:20	30	6	30	30	29:40 / 32:40
79			79	21:30 / 24:30	29		29	29	29:50 / 32:50
78		59	78	21:40 / 24:40	28		28	28	30:00 / 33:00
77			77	21:50 / 24:50	27		27	27	30:10 / 33:10
76		58	76	22:00 / 25:00	26		26	26	30:20 / 33:20
75	15		75	22:10 / 25:10	25	5	25	25	30:30 / 33:30
74		57	74	22:20 / 25:20	24		24	24	30:40 / 33:40
73			73	22:30 / 25:30	23		23	23	30:50 / 33:50
72		56	72	22:40 / 25:40	22		22	22	31:00 / 34:00
71			71	22:50 / 25:50	21		21	21	31:10 / 34:10
70	14	55	70	23:00 / 26:00	20	4	20	20	31:20 / 34:20
69			69	23:10 / 26:10	19		19	19	31:30 / 34:30
68		54	68	23:20 / 26:20	18		18	18	31:40 / 34:40
67			67	23:30 / 26:30	17		17	17	31:50 / 34:50
66		53	66	23:40 / 26:40	16		16	16	32:00 / 35:00
65	13		65	23:50 / 26:50	15	3	15	15	32:10 / 35:10
64		52	64	24:00 / 27:00	14		14	14	32:20 / 35:20
63			63	24:10 / 27:10	13		13	13	32:30 / 35:30
62		51	62	24:20 / 27:20	12		12	12	32:40 / 35:40
61			61	24:30 / 27:30	11		11	11	32:50 / 35:50
60	12	50	60	24:40 / 27:40	10	2	10	10	33:00 / 36:00
59			59	24:50 / 27:50	9		9	9	33:10 / 36:10
58		49	58	25:00 / 28:00	8		8	8	33:20 / 36:20
57			57	25:10 / 28:10	7		7	7	33:30 / 36:30
56		48	56	25:20 / 28:20	6		6	6	33:40 / 36:40
55	11		55	25:30 / 28:30	5	1	5	5	33:50 / 36:50
54		47	54	25:40 / 28:40	4		4	4	34:00 / 37:00
53			53	25:50 / 28:50	3		3	3	34:10 / 37:10
52		46	52	26:00 / 29:00	2		2	2	34:20 / 37:20
51			51	26:10 / 29:10	1		1	1	34:30 / 37:30

Scoring: Points are assessed according to performance in each event. Maximum attainable score for any one event is 100 points, while 300 points represents an overall perfect score.

Events: The PFT is comprised of three events:

- a. Pull-ups (male), Flex Arm Hang (Female)
- b. Crunches – 2 minutes timed
- c. 3-mile timed individual run