

Marines

The Few The Proud The Marines



**Officer Commissioning Programs
For
College Seniors
And
Graduates**



THE PATH TO BECOMING A MARINE CORPS OFFICER

Every journey starts with a first step. Your first step in making a decision to join the ranks of the elite starts here.

By reviewing the information in this pamphlet, you'll be able to discuss options with the Officer Selection Officer and gain an understanding of not only what the Marine Corps can offer you, but what we expect of you as well.

The specific training path you will follow depends on where you are in your college education, your qualifications, and your preferences. The information and charts on the following pages outline the training paths for college seniors and graduates. To find out more information **contact Captain Kozel at 814-237-8578.**



OCC

OFFICER CANDIDATE CLASS PROGRAM



GENERAL

The Marine Corps looks to the nation's colleges and universities for its officers. Primarily, because one of the main prerequisites for obtaining a commission in the Corps is a college degree. The Marine Corps also obtains a limited number of its officers through the Naval Academy and the NROTC program. However, these programs do not supply the number of officers required each year by the Marine Corps. Recognizing this, the Officer Candidate Class (OCC) Program was adopted by the Corps and is the only program through which college seniors and graduates (both men and women) can **apply** to obtain a commission in the Marine Corps. You cannot simply "join" the Marine Corps as an officer. You must meet and surpass certain criteria to be a competitive applicant for the limited number of Officer positions that the Marine Corps has available every year.



DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

The OCC Program has ground aviation and law options and is available to **college seniors** and **college graduates** (both men and women) who are in good academic standing and meet a variety of moral and physical requirements. In essence, you apply to attend Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Quantico, Virginia, after completion of your degree. This pre-commissioning training at OCS consists of one ten-week training session. The OCC classes have traditionally been conducted 3 times per year during September, January and June.

The mission of OCS is to provide a physically challenging and mentally stressful training environment in which candidates can be evaluated on their leadership ability and potential to serve as United States Marine Corps Officers. Officer Candidate School may well be the most demanding challenge you ever faced.

Upon completion of Officer Candidate School (OCS) and graduation from a four-year college, you'll be offered a commission as a Marine Officer. If you choose to accept this 'job offer' you will serve on active duty in the Marine Corps for three and a half years (more if you choose). Your commission is the beginning of a career (whether you serve 4 years or 20+ years) with many opportunities for advancement and a broad array of exciting jobs.

USMC Officer Training Sequence
OCC Ground

Apply as a college
Senior or
Graduate

**Officer Candidates Course
(if selected)**

Attend one 10-week
session at Officer
Candidate School

meet all requirements

The Basic School
6 months

Schools for
occupational
specialties

Fleet Marine
Force Tour

Post-graduate
educational
opportunities

Second tour
opportunities

“What sets the [Marine Corps] apart from other training institutions---and in particular, from a M.B.A. 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

The cover story of the April 1998 edition of *Inc*, **The Magazine for Growing Companies**, detailed the experience that Marine Officers receive throughout their careers. The article goes so far to call the Marine Corps “the best management training in America.”

There are over 25 Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) in the Officer Corps of the United States Marine Corps.



- Financial Management Officer
- Military Police Officer
- Surface to Air Weapons Officer
- Air Support Control Officer

- Communications Information Systems Officer
- Signals Intelligence Officer
- Ground Intelligence Officer
- Human Source Intelligence Officer
- Air Intelligence Officer
- Administrative Officer
- Adjutant
- Infantry Officer
- Logistics Officer
- Field Artillery Officer
- Engineer Officer
- Tank Officer
- Assault Amphibian Vehicle Officer
- Naval Aviator
- Naval Flight Officer
- Judge Advocate
- Supply Officer
- Motor Transport Officer
- Air Defense Control Officer
- Public Affairs Officer
- Aircraft Maintenance Officer
- Air Traffic Control Officer

The following rank structure depicts the levels (ranks) through which you can reasonably expect to be promoted (provided your performance is good). You will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. In about 4 years you could be a Captain with more responsibility than virtually ALL of your college peers!

- Second Lieutenant
- First Lieutenant
- Captain
- Major
- Lieutenant Colonel
- Colonel
- General Officer



BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for the OCC program **must**:

Be at least 17 years of age and less than 31 at time of appointment to commissioned grade (ground applicants). In short, this means that all pre-commissioned training and degree requirements must be completed before age 31. The maximum age of aviation applicants at time of appointment to commissioned grade is 29 1/2.

College seniors must be working toward a 4-year baccalaureate degree and must complete that degree prior to attending OCS. College graduates must show proof of degree and official transcripts of all colleges attended.

Pass a written and physical examination and must meet minimum visual acuity, height and weight requirements as follows.

VISUAL ACUITY, GROUND APPLICANTS

Must be correctable to **20/20**.

VISUAL ACUITY, AVIATION APPLICANTS

20/400 uncorrected, but **must** correct to 20/20.

HEIGHT

66" TO 78"

WEIGHT

In accordance with Marine Corps Standards.

Additionally, applicants for flight training must be found physically qualified and aeronautically adapted for duty involving the actual control of aircraft. Applicants for flight training must also take and pass the Navy/Marine Corps Aviation Selection Test.

There are no marital restrictions, however, a waiver is requested for applicants with more than 1 dependent.

ACTIVE DUTY REQUIREMENTS

Ground Officer ---- 3 1/2 years after commissioning

Naval Aviator ---- 6 to 8 years after completion of flight training and upon designation as a Naval Aviator.

RANK / PAY WHILE AT OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL

All applicants are enlisted with the rank of Private and are administratively promoted to the rank of Officer Candidate E-5 upon being ordered to active duty for the Officer Candidate's Course.

During training candidates are paid an amount equal to that of a Sergeant. Depending on longevity and marital status, the pay for ten weeks of training varies. Candidates can expect to be paid approximately \$5,297 dollars while at training.

ASSIGNMENT AFTER COMMISSION



All officers are initially assigned to The Basic School (TBS) at Quantico, Virginia for 6 months. Upon completion of TBS, ground officers are assigned to duty within their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), normally at a major command, or to a school, if their MOS requires it. Aviators are assigned to NAS Pensacola, Florida, for flight training. Upon completion of flight training, they are then assigned to a tactical squadron for duty and further training, normally within the



continental limits of the United States. Lawyers are assigned to Naval Justice School in Newport, Rhode Island.

PHYSICAL FITNESS



The **10-week** training program at Officer Candidate School is oriented toward men and women who have led a physically active life. All applicants must undergo the Marine Corps physical fitness test during the application phase. Physically marginal applicants will have to work on physical conditioning prior to further processing of their application.

As potential Marine Corps Officers, you are expected to lead from the front. The incorporation of grueling physical fitness courses allows the instructors to observe your leadership ability under intense physical exertion.

ADVANTAGES OF THE OCC PROGRAM

Available to both men and women.

No training on campus.

Guaranteed assignment to flight school or as a Staff Judge Advocate (if qualified).

Choice of ground or aviation option (depending on qualification).

Allows you to experience Marine Officer Training with **NO** obligation unless you want it.

Successful completion leads to an offer of full time position after college.

Rewarding job with regular promotions and career broadening opportunities.

Full medical and dental coverage for service-members and their families.

Starting salary that is competitive with "Corporate America" plus 30 days paid leave.

Income pay raise each year, longevity pay increases.

Extra Aviator Pay for pilots.

Valuable job experience in any of 25 occupational specialties.

No-cost 20-year retirement with medical benefits.

Base housing with NO cost for utilities - a major saving.

On base military grocery and department store with 20% savings plus sales tax savings.

Membership privileges in service-related organizations for additional savings (e.g. auto insurance).

Space-available, low-to-no-cost travel on military aircraft.

All travel and required moves paid for by Marine Corps.

Low-cost life insurance up to \$300,000 (\$18 per month).

Opportunity to compete on All-Marine Sports Teams

The Marine Corps Sports Program compliments the individual and unit training of Marines. By participating in the sport of your choice you will develop a winning edge and strengthen your 'esprit de corps.' It takes teamwork, leadership and discipline to make a successful team. No single person wins a battle and no single person wins a basketball game.

You can play virtually every sport you have played or have dreamed of playing in high school or college. The Marine Corps Sports Program also sponsors the following sports that can lead to All-Marine, interservice, national, international and Olympic levels of competition:

Boxing - Basketball - Wrestling - Volleyball - Bowling

Track & Field - Softball - Golf - Rugby - Soccer

Furthering Your Education as a Marine Officer

The Montgomery GI Bill can provide up to \$15,000 towards a Masters Degree, plus up to \$3,500 annually for tuition assistance towards a Masters Degree. You choose the field of study and attend school on a part time basis.

The Marine Corps offers many fully-funded Masters Degree opportunities to junior Marine Officers in many different fields ranging from Business to Computer Science to Engineering.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE OFFICER CANDIDATE CLASS (OCC) PROGRAM

YOU MUST:

Pass the ASVAB, with an EL score of 115 or better; or have an SAT score of **1000** or better; or have an ACT of **45** (Math + English)

For Aviation take the Aviation Selection Test

Pass a physical examination

Pass a rigorous Physical Fitness Test (PFT)

Be a senior student or have graduated with better than a 2.0 GPA

Be a U.S. citizen

Be of sound mind and moral character

DISENROLLMENT

OCC candidates may request disenrollment from the OCC Program at any time after the 7th week of training at OCS. Additionally, candidates may be dropped from OCS for medical reasons and deficiencies in the areas of academics, leadership and physical fitness.

If the candidate is disenrolled from the program for any reason prior to acceptance of his/her commission, he/she will be discharged with **no further** obligation to the Marine Corps.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I apply for the OCC program early? ANS: You will be more competitive if you apply early.

How will I pay off my college loans with this program? ANS: Your earnings as a Marine Officer will enable you to pay off your college loans with financial room to spare.

I'm interested in advancement opportunities. What does the Marine Corps offer? ANS: Officer promotions occur on a regular basis, with corresponding pay raises.

What kinds of jobs are there for officers? ANS: There are over 25 different occupational specialties for Marine officers.

How much will my salary be as a Marine Officer? ANS: You will start with a salary and benefits package that is extremely competitive with 'corporate America.'

What if one of my goals is to get a Masters Degree? ANS: There are many opportunities for obtaining your Masters Degree while serving as a Marine Corps Officer.

What are the opportunities for women as officers in the Marine Corps? ANS: There are many avenues for college women to take as Marine Officers.

What is the difference between this program and enlisting in the Marine Corps? ANS: These are Officer Candidate programs ONLY. You will NOT be enlisted into the Marine Corps by applying for and being accepted to attend OCS.

What obligations do I have to the Marine Corps after I attend OCS? ANS: There is NO OBLIGATION to the Marine Corps after attending OCS training unless you choose to accept an officer commission.

What opportunities are there for college athletes after graduation? ANS: The Marine Corps Sports Program allows athletes to compete on several levels, including at the Olympics.

What is my next step? ANS: Your next step towards OCS is to contact the Officer Selection Station nearest you for an informational interview.