

Marines

The Few The Proud The Marines



**Officer Commissioning Programs
For
College Freshman
through
Juniors**



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 charts and information on the following pages outline the training paths for college freshman through juniors. To find out more information **contact Capt Kozel at 814-237-8578.**



PLC

PLATOON LEADERS 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 (PLC) 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.



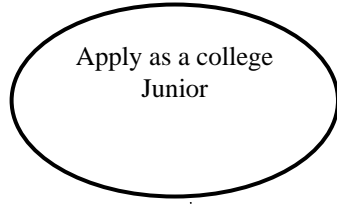
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM

The PLC Program has both ground and aviation options and is open to **college freshmen, sophomores and juniors**. Freshman and sophomores take their pre-commissioning training at Quantico, Virginia in two separate six-week training sessions over two summers **without interrupting their academic career**. One session takes place at the end of the first year following acceptance into the program and the other session is conducted at the end of the junior year of college. College juniors accepted into the PLC Program attend 10 weeks of training after the end of their junior year. After completion of all training requirements and upon receipt of degree,

candidates are commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. Immediately thereafter, assignment to active duty commences.

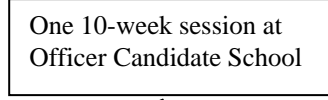
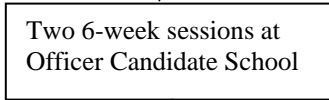
The mission of OCS is to provide a physically challenging and mentally stressful training environment in which candidates can be evaluated on their leadership ability and potential to serve as United States Marine Corps Officers. Officer Candidate School may well be the most demanding challenge you ever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

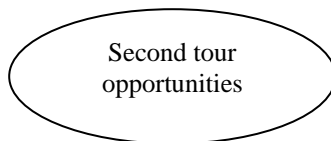
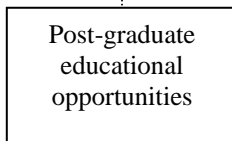
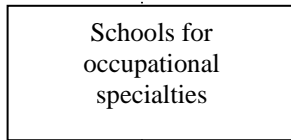
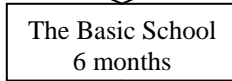


**Platoon Leaders Class
(if selected)**

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(if selected)**



meet all requirements



“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.

- 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
- Motor Transport Officer
- Financial Management Officer
- Public Affairs Officer
- Aircraft Maintenance Officer
- Air Traffic Control Officer
- Supply Officer
- Air Defense Control Officer
- Military Police Officer
- Surface to Air Weapons Officer
- Air Support 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 PLC 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.

Be regularly enrolled, full time student at an accredited baccalaureate degree granting institution. Have at least a grade point equivalent to a "C" or higher. Must have completed at least one semester, trimester, or quarter, as appropriate. If attending a Junior College, a statement of intent to transfer to a 4 year baccalaureate degree granting institution that

will accept Junior College credits, must be submitted.

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 proportion to height, 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 in the Junior, Senior or Combined-training course.

During training, candidates are paid an amount equal to that of a Sergeant. Depending on longevity and marital status the pay for six weeks of training varies from \$2342.00 for an unmarried candidate with no prior service to as much as \$3178.00 for a married candidate with no prior service. The unmarried Junior applicant attending the 10-week course will be paid approximately \$3903.00; the married Junior applicant will be paid approximately \$5297.00

ASSIGNMENT AFTER COMMISSION



All officers are initially assigned to the 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 allow the instructors to observe your leadership ability under intense physical exertion.

ADVANTAGES OF THE PLC PROGRAM

Available to both men and women with NO OBLIGATION to the Marine Corps.

Earn up to \$5297 during training.

Intense leadership training.

EXTRA PAY IF ACCEPTED AS A FRESHMAN OR SOPHOMORE!

25 FREE hours of flight time for those guaranteed a pilot slot (available to women and men).

Academic credit for summer training (most colleges).

No uniforms or military study on campus.

Accrued longevity.

Tax-free financial assistance of up to \$9450. After acceptance into the program and completion of the first training increment...PLC Candidate are eligible to receive \$2600 per semester in exchange for additional active duty. This is payable for the school year only, not to exceed three years.

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 (PLC) 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).

Pass a physical examination.

Pass, and be competitive, a rigorous Physical Fitness Test (PFT).

Be a full time student with better than a 2.0 GPA.

Be a U.S. citizen.

Be of sound mind and moral character.

DISENROLLMENT

PLC candidates may request disenrollment from the PLC Program at any time prior to acceptance of their commission. Additionally, they may be disenrolled by the Commandant of the Marine Corps for cause (i.e., failure to correspond, failure to maintain a "C" average, physically unfit, failure to complete training, failure to maintain 12 hours or more, etc.).

If the candidate is disenrolled from the program for any reason prior to acceptance or his/her commission, he/she will be discharged with no further obligation to the Marine Corps. Exceptions to this rule are candidates who have accepted financial assistance from the Marine Corps.

When contracted for the six-week course, you are required to attend the first four weeks before you are eligible for voluntary disenrollment. When contracted for the ten-week course, you are required to attend the first seven weeks before you are eligible for voluntary disenrollment.

Additionally, candidates may be dropped from OCS for medical reasons and deficiencies in the areas of academics, leadership and physical fitness.

What You Could Earn as a Marine Officer

The below example is an average monthly paycheck (minus COLA's) for a PLC program Second Lieutenant who entered the program his freshman year and is married. In this example, the officer is not a pilot, and therefore does not collect the extra Aviator Pay.

1st Year (2ndLt) in Fleet Marine Force (FMF)

Salary (monthly base)	\$2,416.20
Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)	\$1,083.00 (non-taxed)
Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS)	\$187.49 (non-taxed)
COLA (non-taxed)	\$Will depend on where you are stationed
Monthly Total	\$3,686.69
Annual Total	\$44,240.28

3rd Year (now a 1stLt)

Salary (monthly base)	\$3170.10
BAH (non-taxed)	\$1232.00
BAS (non-taxed)	\$187.49
COLA overseas (non-taxed)	\$Will depend on where you are stationed
Monthly Total	\$4,589.59
Annual Total	\$ 55,075.08

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I apply for the PLC program early, as a college freshman or sophomore? ANS: You will be more competitive if you apply early. Additionally, you will receive extra pay for applying and being accepted earlier.

How will I pay off my college loans with this program? ANS: Your earnings as an Marine Officer will enable you to pay off your college loans with financial room to spare. Additionally, the PLC program can offer students \$2700 in financial aid after the first summer of training.

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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.