ACE Frequency Asked Questions

What if I don’t have a security clearance?

We know that ROTC has changed its policy and cadets do not submit paperwork for a security clearance until they go up for job selection. However, a PDT is a special case. Students can apply for ACE without having a clearance, but once selected for ACE, the students must submit security clearance paperwork through their detachments as soon as possible. We want to have everyone who attends ACE to have a security clearance because some of the topics we cover stretch into classified topics and some of the internships require a security clearance. If your detachment will let you, please submit security clearance applications as soon as you plan to apply for the program.

What if my major isn’t specifically electrical engineering, computer science or computer engineering? Can I still qualify?

Our goal is to have everyone who comes to ACE be very interested in Cyberspace security issues and have enough background in computers and coding to really be able to gain something from the experience. Therefore, we use these three major disciplines as a guideline for advertising. However, if a student has an interest in the program and has some background knowledge of computer security/cyber security concepts, the student is welcome to apply.

We understand that there are some degree programs that offer more focused cyber security based topics such as Information Assurance and Computer Forensics. Degree programs in those areas would qualify students to attend ACE. Students must submit transcripts as part of the ACE application and the transcripts show that the students have enough background to attend ACE.

Some students might be self-taught as well and not majoring in one of the specified degrees but are very interested in the program. If this is the case, the student may still apply and provide an explanation of their qualifications through their 100 word biography and commander recommendation portions of the application.

Cyberspace security is a broad field and the 17D/17S career field pulls students from many majors, therefore we do not want to limit ACE to electrical, computer engineering and computer science majors but do try to use these degree programs as a guideline so that the students attending ACE have an interest in the topics we teach and enough background in the topics so that they can be taught at a rather detailed level.

What if I fit all of the eligibility requirements but didn’t receive an eligibility letter from my detachment when my other classmates did? Can I still apply?

ROTC headquarters uses their database to supply our office with a list of names of qualified students. We try to reach out to these students to make them aware of ACE and encourage them to apply. However, the database and the data pull occasionally have a wrong entry or miss a qualified person. If students meet all of the eligibility requirements, we want to encourage them to apply and apologize for missing their name during our process.
Do I get paid for my time at ACE?

Students will not receive training pay for the four weeks they attend ACE. The requirement to pay cadets has been eliminated by reducing the course length to 28 days. However, cadet travel, lodging, and food is paid for by the program and not charged to the cadets.

Will I receive per diem while at ACE?

No, because ACE is now held at Wright-Patterson AFB, cadets must eat at the Wright-Patterson dining facility and will therefore not receive any per diem for the duration of the program. Students on scholarship are allowed per diem on their travel days, however students not on scholarship are not provided per diem for their travel days.

Can I drive to the program or do I have to fly?

We follow the AFROTC PDT guidelines for student travel, which are found in the PDT Manual. Cadet travel should be arranged so cadets arrive to the PDT location approximately 1200 (but no later than 1800) local time. Departure flights should be made approximately 0800 and not later than 1200.

The point of departure (POD) indicated on your orders is the one you specified on your PDT Volunteer Statement. Cadets may drive their Privately Owned Vehicles (POV) to their PDT assignment if their destination is 350 miles or less from the POD or the PDT lasts more than 30 days, otherwise cadets will be transported by commercial ground and/or air transportation from their POD to the PDT location. Cadets within 200 miles (from their POD to their PDT location) must either drive their POV or apply for commercial ground (bus) transportation through their detachment.

Cadets are not authorized to have a rental car at the TDY location, but transportation will be provided by the ACE program for daily activities and to/from the Dayton Airport.

What format should the commander’s nomination have?

Nominations can be as formal or informal as the commander wants to make them. The intent is for the commander to have a chance to share things about the applicant that are not reflected on a transcript. A simple memo stating that the cadet is in good standing in the detachment can be uploaded as part of the application. Commanders may also send nominations directly to Capt. Solmonson if desired.
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Will I share a room with another student?

No. The Wright-Patterson Inns facility houses the students for four weeks. Students stay in individual rooms. Students may have visitors but must abide by AF PDT guidelines.