The Department of Military Science offers courses applicable to all branches of the United States Army and through which a student can earn an academic minor. These courses give students a broad knowledge of Army leadership, management, and technical skills thereby preparing them for an Army commission and subsequent entrance to an officer’s basic branch course at one of the Army service schools. The objectives of producing officers through the ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) program are to
1. provide officers a broad educational base;
2. provide a basic military education for students;
3. teach basic fundamentals and techniques of leadership and management;
4. develop, in conjunction with other academic disciplines, individual character and attributes required of an officer in the U.S. Army.

Military Science Curriculum

Military Science courses are designed to fulfill the educational and training requirements for commissioning in the U.S. Army (Regular Army, U.S. Army Reserve, or Army National Guard). The curriculum consists of a basic course (first two years) and an advanced course (final two years). The basic course is open to all MTSU students without incurring any military service obligation. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force basic training graduates can be placed directly into military service obligation. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force basic training graduates can be placed directly into the advanced course. Advanced placement may also be earned by attending the four-week leader training course at Fort Knox, Kentucky, normally between the sophomore and junior years. The advanced course is offered during the last four semesters of Military Science and includes a five-week Leader Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Lewis, Washington. Upon successful completion of the advanced course and upon graduation from the University, the student will be commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army.

Minor in Military Science

A minor in Military Science consists of 20 semester hours and is available to those students who complete all advanced level requirements. The following courses are required of all students: MS 3110 (3 hrs.), 3120 (3 hrs.), 3130 (6 hrs.), 4110 (3 hrs.), 4120 (3 hrs.); and MS 3080 (2 hrs.)

Army ROTC Scholarship Program

Students enrolled at MTSU are eligible to apply for two- and three-year Army ROTC scholarships which pay for tuition, fees, and a book allowance, plus a monthly stipend per year. High school seniors are eligible to apply for a four-year scholarship during the senior year. Additionally, there are National Guard and Army Reserve Scholarships available.

ROTC Nurse Summer Training Program

This three-week clinical leadership experience is open only to nursing students who have completed one clinical nursing course and MS 3130. The student receives pay; in addition, travel, lodging, and most meal costs are defrayed by the U.S. Army. There is a 120-hour clinical assignment with an Army Nurse Corps preceptor at an Army hospital in the U.S. or overseas. Nursing students receive 3 semester hours of credit for NURS 4035 Special Topics in Nursing.

Uniforms and Pay

Students enrolled in the basic course do not wear uniforms and are not required to have a particular haircut. Textbooks are provided free of charge.

Advanced course students, junior and seniors, are provided uniforms and textbooks free of charge. They must sign a contract with the U.S. government and complete the advanced course, resulting in an active Army, National Guard, or Army Reserve commission as a 2nd lieutenant upon graduation. While enrolled in the advanced course, the student receives $4,500–5,000 per year and approximately $1,000 plus travel costs for LDAC attendance.

Courses in Military Science [MS]

1000 Military Science Practicum (Elective). One credit per semester for up to four credits. Corequisite: Enrollment in MS Basic or Advanced Course or permission of PMS. For those interested in enrichment activities which contribute to the development of leadership and management abilities, including the Forrest Raiders (adventure training and small unit military tactics), Blue Brigade Drill Team (drill and ceremonies under arms).

1010 First-Year Basic Military Science. Two credits. Practical application in adventure-oriented skills such as rappelling, marksmanship techniques, and survival. Focuses on leadership development with a hands-on approach to classroom instruction. Also includes a general overview of the army’s mission, organizational structure, and customs and traditions. Meets twice weekly, 85 minutes per class.
1020 First-Year Basic Military Science. Two credits. Prerequisite: MS 1010 or permission of PMS. Further development in adventure-oriented skills. Hands-on approach to basic rifle marksmanship, land navigation, and first aid. Students fire the M16A2 rifle, conduct a land navigation course, and learn first aid skills through practical application. Continued focus on leadership development. Meets twice weekly, 85 minutes per week.

2010 Second-Year Basic Military Science. Two credits. Prerequisites: MS 1010 and 1020 or permission of PMS. Development of leadership potential through practical experience. Leadership, small unit tactics, first aid, basic rappelling, weapons familiarization, oral communication exercises, and team-building skills.

2020 Second-Year Basic Military Science. Two credits. Prerequisites: MS 1010, 1020, and 2010 or permission of PMS. Application of basic map reading and compass principles, unit organization at squad level, small unit tactics, branches of the army, discussion of the advanced program. Practical exercises, land navigation, first aid, current events, marksmanship, water safety training. Continues team-building development.

3000 Basic Military Science. Six credits. Prerequisite: Permission of PMS. Four-week training normally taken during the summer between the sophomore and junior academic years by students who have not taken all basic MS courses. Training conducted at a designated U.S. Army installation; practical experience in leadership, small unit tactics, weapons, drill, and communications under field conditions. The U.S. Army pays the student approximately $765.

3080 U.S. Army History. Two credits. Prerequisites: MS 1010 and 1020 or permission of department chair. Introduces students enrolled in the ROTC program to the U.S. Army’s development and role in military operations from colonial times to the present.

3110 First-Year Advanced Military Science. Three credits. Prerequisites: MS 1010, 1020, 2010, and 2020; or MS 3000; or equivalent credit for previous military service. Formal instruction in troop leading procedures, army problem solving, branches of the army, combat orders, leadership traits and principles, small unit tactics based on infantry rifle squad and platoon, map reading and land navigation skills, and military briefings. Focus on leadership development, instilling the warrior ethos, and preparation for the Leader Development and Assessment course and potential for service as a junior officer.

3120 First-Year Advanced Military Science. Three credits. Prerequisite: MS 3110. Formal instruction in leadership, principles of war, small unit tactics, situational training exercises, patrolling techniques, map reading and land navigation. Hands-on application of troop leading procedures, written and oral combat orders, maneuver techniques, and field craft. Focus on leadership development, instilling the warrior ethos, and preparation for the Leadership Development and Assessment course and potential for service as a junior officer.

3130 Military Science Field Methods. Six credits. Prerequisites: MS 3110 and 3120. Six weeks of training normally taken during the summer between the junior and senior academic years. Training conducted at a designated U.S. military installation; practical experience in leadership, military teaching, weapons, and communications under field conditions. The U.S. military pays the student for attending the training.

4110 Second-Year Advanced Military Science. Three credits. Prerequisites: MS 3110 and 3120. Seminar in leadership and management designed to prepare the senior student for active duty responsibilities. The commander, the staff, the military team, and army ethics are the main focus. Emphasis on instilling warrior ethos.

4120 Second-Year Advanced Military Science. Three credits. Prerequisites: MS 3110, 3120, and 4110. Seminars in leadership and management to prepare the senior student for active duty responsibilities. Focus is military law, army writing standards, and organizational skills. Emphasis on leading soldiers in the complex situations of current military operations.