Defense Civilian Training Corps (DCTC) Student Call for Applications
Cohort 1

Applicants are required to submit their application for the Defense Civilian Training Corps (DCTC) online by **March 31, 2024, at 11:59pm EST.** Before the end of the Spring 2024 semester, successful applicants will receive a tentative offer contingent upon passing an initial background check and have one week to accept. The initial background check will be performed within two months of receipt of the tentative offer.

Students selected to DCTC must:

- register for the 2-credit hour DCTC 301 course in the Fall 2024 semester, and
- register for a 2-credit DCTC course in each of the three subsequent semesters leading up to graduation.

If selected, students are strongly encouraged to join the DCTC Research Review event in **Washington, DC, July 29-31, 2024** (stipend provided).

ABOUT THE DEFENSE CIVILIAN TRAINING CORPS (DCTC):

Vision - DCTC strategically develops talent that can immediately contribute to solving the Department of Defense's (DoD) most challenging problems and adapt to the future.

Mission - The DCTC integrated curriculum and development program provides scholars from a broad array of majors across the Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM), finance, business, law, and policy fields with the critical skills and experiences needed to jump-start a career in the civilian acquisition workforce. DCTC is designed to provide a multidisciplinary cohort-based learning environment, match scholars to a project-based summer internship with DoD organizations, facilitate a security clearance before graduation, and establish a pathway to employment.

Defense acquisition delivers business and weapon systems that strengthen our national security. Defense acquisition enables offensive and defensive combat operations and situational awareness across the battlespace, delivering critical capabilities like submarines, space-based systems, ground vehicles, helicopters, and aircraft with cybersecurity safeguards. It also enables humanitarian missions, reconstruction projects after hurricanes or earthquakes, building infrastructure like bridges and schools. Defense acquisition is responsible for tools, equipment, training, materials, fuel, food, uniforms, software systems and so much more. We innovate to win. We use modern development approaches to rapidly prototype and meet war fighter needs on time and at cost, in the required quantities, and with the training to operate and maintain them.

Members of the defense acquisition workforce collaborate with defense contractors and non-traditional suppliers to innovate, source, design, develop, test, produce, field, ship, equip, and maintain systems.

Critical Skills - The DCTC program is designed to prepare scholars for the DoD Acquisition Systems' most critical skills through development in three areas: Specialty, DoD Acquisition, and Employability.

> Specialty - DCTC scholars acquire knowledge and experience that demonstrate the ways in which their chosen fields of study contribute to and align with the DOD acquisition system.

> DoD Acquisition - DCTC scholars gain knowledge and skills related to the DoD acquisition process and community. Potential roles include research and development, contracting and procurement, project and finance management, production and supply chain management, and test and evaluation.

> Employability - DCTC scholars acquire essential employability and character-building skills vital for their personal and professional development, e.g. leadership, strategic and critical thinking, resilience and adaptability, collaboration, intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, integrity, communication, etc.

Internship to Employment Pathway - DCTC project-based summer internships, which provide a pathway to employment, give scholars experience applying their studies, working with DoD organizations who may hire the scholar, and solving real-world DoD challenges.

DCTC Scholarship Provides - full tuition + a monthly stipend of $2,000 + a summer internship support stipend + a book allowance (subject to availability of funding).

Who Can Apply –

- Applicants' interests should align with a desire to serve in a national security role that supports the research, development, and production of military capabilities.
- Applicants must plan to become a DoD civilian upon graduation and complete a two-year service obligation (one year of service obligation for each year of scholarship).
- Applicants must be a citizen of the United States at the time of application. Nationals and permanent residents are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants must have (and maintain) a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Applicants must have 4 semesters remaining before graduation (i.e. an expected graduation date of May 2026). The DCTC curriculum includes four 2-credit courses that must be taken over four semesters as part of Cohort 1.
- Applicants must be able to qualify for a security clearance and will be subject to a background check before final acceptance into DCTC.
- Applicants must be enrolled in a full-time, in-person bachelor's degree program or accepted as a full-time in-person transfer student from a community college.
- Applicants must currently be unencumbered by another federal scholarship and/or internship-type program.

ABOUT ME:

<u>**CONTACT INFORMATION**</u>

1. **Name –** Enter your full name and any other name that might appear on your transcript.
2. **Email –** Enter your primary email where you can be reached during the application review process and an optional alternate email.
3. **Resident state –** Enter the state of which you are a permanent resident for tuition purposes.
4. **Mailing address –** Enter the address (street, city, state, postal code) where you would like official DCTC letters delivered.
5. **Telephone numbers –** List a primary number where you can be reached during the application review process and an optional alternate telephone number.

<u>**CITIZENSHIP & SELECTIVE SERVICE STATUS**</u>

6. **US Citizen: Y/N** (dropdown menu).
7. **If you have ever been a dual citizen of the U.S. and another country, identify the second country (you may be required to renounce citizenship to the second country)** (dropdown menu).
8. **Birthplace information:** Enter the city, state, and country of birth.
9. **Please indicate whether you are registered for the Selective Service.** Failure to register (if required) may prohibit you from being eligible for DCTC.

<u>**DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)**</u>

The information provided in this section **will not be disclosed** to the evaluators and **does not affect your eligibility** for the program. Its purpose is to assess the level of awareness and participation of individuals from diverse segments of the eligible population.

10. **Gender** (drop down menu).
11. **Race/ethnicity** (drop down menu).
12. **Self-identify a disability.**
13. **If you have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, please select your service and enter your start/end dates** (drop down menu + fill in the blank).

<u>**AREA OF STUDY**</u>

14. **Major.**

15. **2nd Major/Minor** (if applicable).
16. **Enter your cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale.**
17. **Have you attended or are you currently enrolled at a community college** (Y/N)
18. **What are your educational goals beyond the undergraduate level?** (If you are selected for the DCTC scholarship, you will be required to complete a two-year service obligation immediately after earning your bachelor's degree).
19. **Expected date to receive undergraduate degree** (indicate Semester and Year).

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

20. **Prepare a statement in response to each of the following items (250-word limit for each statement).**

   a. **Describe your educational and professional goals.**
   b. **Describe your interest in public service.**
   c. **Describe your interest in national security.**
   d. **Explain how working as part of the Department of Defense (DoD) civilian workforce will further your professional goals and interest in public service.**
   e. **Discuss any national security challenges that interest you and that you would like to contribute toward as part of the DoD civilian workforce.**
   f. **Explain how your experiences demonstrate leadership, teamwork, and a commitment to service.**
   g. **Identify any existing connection you have to DoD activities (through academia, a DoD organization, or the commercial sector).**
   h. **Is there anything else you want us to know about you?**

INTERNSHIP AND SECURITY CLEARANCE

21. **DCTC scholars are required to complete an 8-10 week summer internship during the summer before the final two semesters of undergraduate studies. Have you already accepted and/or committed to an internship for Summer 2025?** (drop down) **If yes, please identify the internship.**
   (The required DCTC Summer 2025 internship is designed to provide valuable project-based and team-based work experience, which will help the scholar become familiar with DoD civilian service.)
22. **Do you currently have a security clearance?** (drop down menu with clearance levels)

23. **Are you eligible for and able to maintain a security clearance?** Failure to be able to obtain a security clearance is grounds for dismissal from DCTC. You must be able to obtain the required clearance for the position selected. Follow the instructions in the footnote for more information about background investigation and clearance requirements.[1]

RESUME, TRANSCRIPT, & ACADEMIC PLAN
24. **Upload an electronic version of your most current resume.**
    a. Be sure to include all relevant professional experiences (internships and positions of employment) pertaining to your field of study and professional goals.
    b. Also include relevant community and volunteer work.
    c. Note any publications or presentations pertaining to your field.
    d. List all scholarships, academic honors, honorary societies, student leadership roles, and other recognitions relevant to your field.
25. **Upload an electronic version of your most recent unofficial transcript.**
26. **Upload an academic plan of study approved by your academic advisor that shows you will complete all degree requirements in 4 semesters.**

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[1] You may be required to undergo certain tests, including drug and polygraph tests, to obtain and maintain a clearance. Before you awarded a scholarship or hired by DoD, you will be required to complete certain forms to initiate the security clearance process. Some of these forms will require that you reveal extensive information about your background, such as potentially sensitive information about your financial circumstances and any arrests and/or convictions for offenses of any kind. You must agree to all these conditions of employment, and you must complete these forms as a condition of financial assistance and appointment.

The current link to the National Background Investigations Bureau is HERE for your review and consideration in determining whether you will be eligible for a security clearance. They may not be all inclusive, however, it is highly recommended that you review and understand the requirements prior to signing up to participate in DCTC.

Are you uncertain of your suitability for a background investigation? Click HERE to take the optional Digital Clearance Readiness Assessment. It's a private assessment to evaluate your readiness to undergo a background investigation that leads to a decision on your clearance. It is not associated with you or your application and is completely confidential. Only you will see your own results.