

## AWC STUDENT LIFE

1. **STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS:** Click on the title of this paragraph to see an overview of the nations, components, career fields, and other demographics of the current AWC class; this breakout is fairly representative of what you should expect for your class.
2. **SPOUSE/FAMILY PROGRAMS:** Historically, most spouses have elected to accompany their AWC students and join in their experiences.
  - a. **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** There are many opportunities for interested spouses to become involved in the Air War College experience! Some of these opportunities include:
    - i. *AWC Alumni Association Gift Shop*: The “AWC Store,” located in the same hallway as AWC seminar classrooms, is managed by spouse volunteers. Proceeds from its AWC-themed gifts and apparel support the AWC Alumni Association private organization, which donates funds throughout the year in support of class events, such as the Air Force Ball.
    - ii. *International Dependents English Course (IDEC)*: Interested volunteers support the Spaatz Center’s International Officers School (IOS), to teach a six-week course to help spouses and young-adult (post-high school) dependents of international AWC and ACSC students become more proficient in the English language and US customs and culture. No prior experience or language skills are required, although experience with TESOL/ESL, Foreign Language, or Teaching experience would be extremely useful to the program. IDEC teaching teams are comprised of an experienced lead teacher working with an assistant, from 0830-1200 hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings for six weeks in the early Fall.
    - iii. *Maxwell-Gunter Officers Spouses Club (MGOSC)*: The MGOSC is a group of active duty and retired military officers' spouses, international officers' spouses and spouses of civilian GS-7s and above. MGOSC offers its members many opportunities for social interaction with monthly programs and a variety of special activities. MGOSC supports our military & civilian communities through charitable donations/work. See <https://www.facebook.com/MGOSC>
  - b. **AWC SPOUSE’S ORIENTATION:** AWC conducts an orientation program for the spouses of AWC students during the first week of class. Refreshments are provided and representatives from various on-base and off-base agencies are on-hand to provide information on services, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities. Spouses will be welcomed by the AWC Commandant and his staff and then will be escorted to seminar classrooms to meet with the seminar teaching team and the other spouses in their seminar.
  - c. **COMMANDANT LECTURE SERIES (CLS):** Air War College invites senior civilians and general/flag officers from the US government & allied countries and US leaders in industry to address the Class on a wide array of topics. **Spouses are welcome to attend or watch these briefings!**
3. **STUDENT GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:** Each AWC Class is divided into 16 academic seminars comprised of 12-16 students.

- a. **HORIZONS ASSOCIATION:** The Horizons Association is the private student organization for each AWC class. All current Air War College students and their spouses are members. Each class updates the association constitution and bylaws to document organizational processes and manage and commit class funds on behalf of Horizons Association members.
  - b. **BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG):** The BOG is the governing body of the Horizons Association, comprised of the Class Presidents (US & International), Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Senior Civilian, Guard, Reserve, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard students. These Class leaders represent all students/families and interface often with the AWC Commandant.
  - c. **FIRST 30:** The 30 most senior inbound US Air Force students attend a one-week leadership and orientation program prior to AWC class start. This group includes the most senior Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve students, and the senior JAG and Chaplain. The Class President will be selected from this group. The First 30 will then be joined by the senior civilian, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard students, to establish the Class Vision, Mission, and Goals and set the “battle rhythm” for your class. Once selected, the Class President will also appoint sixteen members from this group to be Seminar Leaders (SLs) and others to fulfill the role of committee chairs for a variety of class activities, such as Projects & Community Support, Air Force Ball, Athletics, Yearbook, Strategic Communication, and others.
  - d. **SEMINAR ADDITIONAL DUTIES:** On the first day of class, students within each seminar will be asked to lead their seminar’s additional duties as Social, Athletics, Yearbook, Administrative, Treasurer, Special Projects, Information Technology, Security, and Spouse Outreach Officers.
4. **CLASS EVENTS:** The following summarizes the traditional student-led class events which your class is expected to execute as part of your Air War College experience.
- a. **CLASS MOVE-IN, HOLIDAY, and GRADUATION PARTIES:** The Class Social Lead and designated seminars will organize these events.
  - b. **COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS:** The Class Projects Chairperson will organize class support of selected community activities such as the Combined Federal Campaign and Air Force Aid federal fund-raising campaigns, and other community service activities including Mentoring Programs.
  - c. **MENTORING PROGRAMS:** AWC students routinely volunteer to provide Senior Officer Perspectives to military members and to mentor younger leaders in the Maxwell-Gunter area.
    - i. Civilian Acculturation and Leadership Training (CALT): AWC volunteer civilian students mentor new Air Force civilian employees to prepare them for future supervisory, management, and leadership positions.
    - ii. Barnes Center for Enlisted Education: AWC volunteer military students mentor USAF Senior Noncommissioned Officers (E-7/E-8) who are learning to become First Sergeants, providing their perspective of senior officer expectations on First Sergeant Duties and Commander / First Sergeant working relations.

- iii. *Squadron Officer School (SOS)*: AWC volunteer military and civilian students spend an afternoon with a class of 10-12 USAF Captains (O-3) providing them with senior officer perspectives and addressing queries on leadership, discipline, and motivation.
  - d. **AIR FORCE BALL**: The Class Air Force Ball Lead and one designated seminars contributes to the AF Ball planning and execution. Another seminar will take the lead in the spring to help plan / coordinate the next year's Air Force Ball for the following year's class.
  - e. **TASTE OF AMERICA (TOA) AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURE FESTIVALS**: The Class Social Lead and US students in the designated seminars organize a Class TOA event in October to introduce their International student classmates and families to the diversity of US food and culture. In the spring, the AWC International President and International Students and families conduct an event for their US classmates and families. In this case, all AWC International students participate to highlight the food and culture of their 40+ foreign nations.
  - f. **CLASS YEARBOOK**: The Class Yearbook Chairperson, in collaboration with the Seminar Yearbook Officers, contract for an annual class yearbook. This includes official and unofficial photos and descriptions documenting academic, social, and personal highlights during the academic year.
  - g. **SECAF NATIONAL SECURITY FORUM**: Each Spring, AWC hosts the Secretary of the Air Force's National Security Forum (NSF), to expose influential citizens to senior US and international officers and senior civilian leaders, and engage in a dialogue to better understand each other's ideas and perspectives on Air Force, national and international security issues. It is an opportunity for AWC students, as our future military leaders, to interact with a broad cross-section of civilian leaders from businesses, universities, industry, media, law, the clergy, and state and local governments. Guests are hosted by AWC students and spend several days in-seminar engaging directly with seminar members and faculty.
5. **ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENT**:
- a. **ACADEMIC SEMINARS**: The basis for learning at AWC is seminar teaching, where small groups of diverse students challenge each other to defend and support their positions, under the guidance of an assigned faculty member. AWC has 16 seminars, which function similar to "homerooms," each comprised from a diverse mixture of career fields and experiences. A designated faculty Seminar Director (SD) leads other faculty members who comprise a seminar teaching team for the year. The SD is the student's day to day supervisor, who monitors student academic progress, provides counseling, approves student absences, and guides the students and seminars to execute their academic and project expectations.
  - b. **DUTY HOURS**: The duty day for all students includes time reserved from 0700-0830 for individual physical fitness. Academic events usually begin at 0830 daily, typically via a lecture to all students from faculty or distinguished guests associated with the topic at hand, followed by a faculty-led discussion in each seminar based on the lecture, assigned readings, and experiences/perspectives of seminar students. Occasionally, student electives, language classes, guest speakers, and other scheduled events may extend class activities as late as 1700 (5pm).

- c. **DEAN'S DAYS:** Specific dates are designated "Dean's Days" on the academic calendar. These are intended to allow students personal time outside of the classroom to reflect and prepare for upcoming academic requirements.
  - d. **REGIONAL & CULTURAL STUDIES (RCS):** All AWC students will participate in a focused academic program in the spring semester to become more familiar with the history and culture of a specific region of the world (e.g., Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, Northeast Asia). RCS studies culminate with a visit to the region, to meet and interact with senior military and government leaders of the nations under study. RCS field trips are official business (family members are not allowed). International Student RCS studies focus on US history and culture, travel to several US cities and interact with senior US military & federal/state leaders.
  - e. **PROFESSIONAL STUDIES PAPER:** All US students and those International students admitted to the Master's Degree program must successfully author a Professional Studies Paper (PSP). The purpose of the PSP is for students to conduct research and analysis on an issue of interest to the US Air Force or Department of Defense, and to produce a paper of 4,000 to 5,000 words (excluding endnotes) suitable for publication in a professional journal or periodical.
  - f. **SEMINAR ROOM AND FACILITY INFORMATION:** Each seminar room includes desks with dedicated electrical and internet hookup for your government-issued laptop, small refrigerator, and coffee maker. Parking is located a few hundred feet from the facility and students may access the facility after-hours or on weekends with their CAC once registered by the facility manager into the system (CAC registration is scheduled to take place on the first day of class).
6. **UNIFORMS/ATTIRE:**
- a. MON-FRI: Utility or Flight Suit (military); open collar shirt and slacks/khakis (male civilians); blouse and slacks/skirt (female civilians).
  - b. Bring Class B (Short Sleeve blue Shirt) to facilitate a limited number of official functions held off-base, where utility uniform is not appropriate.
  - c. Bring Class A/Service Dress (Civilians: Suit/tie or dress) to facilitate official photos and a limited number of mandatory formal academic events.
  - d. Bring Mess Dress (Civilians: Tuxedo/suit or cocktail dress) to facilitate attendance to the Air Force Ball, Marine Corps Ball, and other Air University or formal community social events.