

Army Medical Department Enlisted Commissioning Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: On the 4187, who signs it, my Company or Battalion commander?

A: Your Battalion Commander, normally O-5 or higher.

Q: If you already have a Bachelor's degree can you still participate in this program?

A: Yes.

Q: If you already have a Bachelor's degree can you get Tuition Assistance (TA) for the required prerequisite classes?

A: Yes. See MILPER message 06-348 dated 12/11/2006. Contact the AECF Program Manager with you intention to use TA for prerequisite classes.

Q: If I already have a Bachelor's Degree, can I pursue a Masters in Nursing Degree through the AECF?

A: No. The AECF is only for the completion of a Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN-RN).

Q: Can I apply to the program if I have a permanent profile?

A: Yes and No. P3 profiles are ineligible to apply for the AECF. P2 profiles are considered on a case-by-case basis as a waiver only. All profiles are subject to review by the Chief Nurse HQ USAREC and the HQ USAREC Command Medical Officer.

Q: Can I use MFR format type letters of recommendation from my Commander, First Line Supervisor or the Chief Nurse?

A: The preferred format is an MFR for letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation should address (as applicable) the applicant's duty performance, competency, oral and written communication skills, motivation, character, maturity, potential for the successful completion of training/nursing school, and potential as an officer and a leader.

Q: Is the DA photo required to apply for AECF?

A: No.

Q: Do I need to provide all of my transcripts with my application?

A: Yes, you must provide all official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended since High School, otherwise your application will not be considered by the board. The cumulative GPA is calculated based on the quality points awarded by each university for each college level class. The AECF Program Manager uses each transcript to review each applicant's GPA to ensure the minimum standard is met.

Q: Can I have my transcripts reviewed by AECF to ensure eligibility?

A: All transcripts should be reviewed the applicant's assigned AMEDD recruiter. Contact the AECF Program Manger if questions arise regarding GPA eligibility.

Q: Is the GT score requirement waiverable?

A: No. Waivers will not be considered with regards to this requirement.

Q: Is there an age cut off for AECF?

A: Yes and No. If you will be over the age of 32 at the time of commissioning, then you will need a Age waiver. If you will be over the age of 42 at the time of earliest projected commission date, then you are not currently eligible to apply for participation in the AECF. IAW the provisions of 10 U.S.C. subsection 532(a)(2) and AR 601-100 par. 1-9 in reference to your Age at the time of commissioning you must be able to complete 20 years of Active Federal Commissioned Service and be out of the ARMY by your 62nd birthday.

Q: How do I determine my earliest projected commission date?

A: The nursing school's letter of acceptance (conditional or unconditional) provides the earliest projected graduation date. The projected graduation date determines the earliest projected commission date. This is based the soldier reporting to the AMEDD Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) to commission. BOLC typically occurs in the following five months of each year: January, March, July, August and October. If a participant were to graduate in Dec 2018, the earliest projected commission date would be Mar 2019 to allow for testing and processing to obtain their RN license (required prior to commissioning as a Nurse Corps officer).

Q: Do I have to have been at my current duty station for 12 or more months in order to apply?

A: No. The Time on Station (TOS) requirement only applies if you are accepted by the AECF board and by an accredited BSN program (as defined in the AECF Guidelines). Then at that point it is up to your Branch whether or not to release you (waive the TOS requirement).

Q: Will the ARMY PCS me if I am accepted to a school located somewhere other than my current duty station?

A: Yes. A PCS move under the AECF is a Full Cost PCS move if relocation is required.

Q: Does the AECF offer any Cash Bonus or Loan Repayment?

A: No and No.

Q: Does time in the AECF still count as Active Duty years of service towards retirement?

A: Yes.

Q: Can I be commissioned at a higher rank for any reason?

A: No. Completion of a BSN-RN is the minimum Degree requirement for an Active Duty commission as an ARMY Nurse Officer. All AECF graduates will be commissioned as 2LT/O-1E.

Q: Once I complete my BSN-RN, will I be able to choose my next duty location?

A: The ARMY Nurse Corps will ask for your preferences for a first assignment, but the decision rests with the ARMY Nurse Branch at HRC.

Q: Is there a USAR, ARNG or AGR option for AECF?

A: No. USAR, ARNG and AGR members may apply for the AECF, but they will be brought back into the Active Duty component through MEPS and incur the same 4 year Active Duty Service Obligation (ADSO) as AD Soldiers who are entering the program.

Q: Can members of the USAR, ARNG or AGR who are single parents apply to the AECF?

A: No. IAW AR 601-210 Chapter 3-8 Prior Service applicants who are single parents are ineligible to apply for enlistment into the Active Duty component thus also making them ineligible to apply for the AECF. (waivers are not authorized)

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I AM SELECTED

Q: Can I be deployed after I have been selected?

A: Yes. This decision is up to your unit and your Branch Manager.

Q: What happens if I am deployed while waiting to start school?

A: One of two things can happen; your Branch may release from theater to come home and attend school or if your Branch will not release you to come back then you may be deferred (subject to approval by the ANC until your return. Being deployed does not preclude you from applying to schools in order to get an unconditional letter of acceptance.

Q: What are my chances of being activated if I am put on the OML?

A: If you are activated off of the OML do not expect it to be any earlier than the June through Sep time frame. Request from you school that your acceptance into their program be in line with this.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I START SCHOOL

Q: I am currently on jump status or other special duty; do I continue to receive jump pay and special duty pay?

A: No, you are no longer entitled to any special pays while in the AECF.

Q: Do I still receive MY BAH? What about BAS?

A: Yes, it will be based on the zip code of your school and your E grade. Yes.

Q: Can I live in or stay in government quarters if my school is near an installation?

A: That is up to the installation's housing policies.

Q: Who is my main point of contact (POC) while I am in school?

A: The AECF Program Director at Fort Knox is your POC for academic affairs (grades, tuition/fees issues, course curriculum). See the AECF Guidelines. The AMEDD Student Detachment (ASD) in San Antonio is your POC for personnel issues (leave, attachment while not in school, finance, personal records, etc.).

Q: How often do I make contact with the Program Director?

A: At a minimum monthly, more often if you are having any problems that would impact your ability to stay focused on your studies and/or to complete your program on time.

Q: What if I change addresses or phone numbers during my program?

A: YOU MUST immediately notify the Program Director and ASD of any changes in your contact information.

Q: What paperwork do I need to send to the Program Director at the end of each semester?

A: A DA form 2125 listing the courses just completed with the grades and the classes (and costs of) that you will be taking in the next semester on page 1. You need an updated signature on page 1 (from the student), and an updated signature with THE DATE SIGNED from the academic advisor and the student.

Q: Is my tentative assignment offer (next duty location) etched in stone?

A: No, at this point you are a “place holder” and until you pass your program, NCLEX and BOLC, your assignment can change. This does not happen often but be aware, the Nurse Corps retains the right to place personnel where needed.

Q: I am married to another service member or I am planning on getting married, how will this affect my assignment?

A: If you are already married to a service member (ARMY, Air Force, Marine or Coast Guard etc.), you must make sure that you are enrolled into the Army’s Married Couples Program (Joint Domicile). When submitting your Assignment request; in the comments section list the Branch manager’s contact information (phone, email and address) for your spouse.

Q: If I am an E4 or E5 in the program, is there any possibility that I may be boarded for the next rank? What about E6-E8?

A: No, the Student Detachment does not conduct or convene E5 or E6 promotion boards. Yes, but keep in mind that you will not be currently serving in your MOS nor receiving an NCOER during the time that you are in school.

Q: Can I change schools while in the program?

A: No.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I GRADUATE

Q: Once I graduate what do I do next?

A: You have 90 days to study and apply for your NCLEX. After you obtain your authorization to test (ATT) letter schedule your test date (the time will not exceed 45 days after graduation) and inform the Program Director of the date.

Q: What happens if I fail the NCLEX?

A: You will be given a second opportunity to take the NCLEX. The wait time in between test depends on the state but it is usually 30 – 45 days later.

Q: What if I fail the NCLEX a second time, will I be able to retake it a third?

A: Unless there are extraordinary mitigating circumstances, the answer is no; you would receive orders returning you to your MOS at the needs of the ARMY. The final decision is taken to vote via a five-member AECF Academic Review Board chaired by the Army Nurse Corps Branch Proponency Officer.