MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING
AND LEADERSHIP
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING (AOC) LEADER DEVELOPER PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The AOC master’s program is a specialized intensive one-year curriculum for enhancing the leader development skills for air officer commanding or leading a cadet squadron at the United States Air Force Academy, USAFA. This training program was piloted in 1999, formalized in 2003 and is an ongoing collaboration between the UCCS College of Education’s Department of Counseling and Human Services and the United States Air Force Academy.

ABOUT

The AOC development program is a comprehensive graduate program that includes theory-based practice, fieldwork, ongoing and topical colloquia, and personal and professional assessments designed to support leader development. This degree program facilitates critical thinking, enhances interpersonal effectiveness and cultural awareness, broadens perspectives on coaching and mentoring, develops influencing skills, and improves AOC’s ability to lead and develop cadets. The job description of an Air Officer Commander, from COCI 36-3522, requires officers to be “competent in mentoring, capable of leading, teaching, and evaluating cadets through all aspects of cadet and military life, able to enforce standards, demonstrate nearly impeccable role modeling, competent in guiding the squadron’s leadership team, and skilled in counseling cadets, individually and as a group”.

AOC’s are selected by the United States Air Force for admission to this highly selective program. The program features partnerships and integration across all mission elements found at USAFA and instruction from faculty in the Department of Counseling and Human Services (UCCS), Center for Character and Leadership Development (CCLD), and the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership (USAFA).

APPLICATION PACKAGE

- Complete selection process with AFIT and USAFA
- Complete Online Graduate School Application
- Official Transcripts
- Application Fee
CORE COURSES (45 CREDITS)
All courses listed are 3 credits each.

SUMMER (15 CREDITS)
AOCC 5010 – Theories of Motivation and Behavior Change
AOCC 5020 – Laboratory in Developmental Counseling
AOCC 5210 – Characteristics of the Effective Leader
AOCC 5290 – College Student Development
LEAD 5700 – Introduction to Research and Statistics

FALL (15 CREDITS)
AOCC 5100 – Group Dynamics and Group Leadership
AOCC 6500 – College Teaching and Learning
AOCC 5750 – Mental Health Triage and First Aid
AOCC 5250 – Leader and Leadership Development
COUN 0000 – ELECTIVE

SPRING (15 CREDITS)
AOCC 5330 – Ethics and Character Development
AOCC 5600 – Leading Diversity
AOCC 5280 – Teams and Organizational Leadership
AOCC 5160 – AOC Field Experience
COUN 0000 – ELECTIVE

YOUR DEVELOPMENT IS OUR MISSION!