OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL

South Carolina Palmetto Military Academy
OCS Mission Statement

2nd Battalion (OCS), 218th Regiment (LDR) trains and evaluates candidates in the fundamentals of leadership and basic military skills as part of TASS, Region C, to commission reserve officers in the United States Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve.
Minimum Requirements

- GT score of a 110 or higher on the ASVAB / AFCT
- Be able to commission before your 42\textsuperscript{nd} birthday
- 90 college credit hours to enter OCS
- Must pass a Chapter 2 physical
- Possess a “Interim” Secret Security Clearance to enter OCS
- Civil Conviction Waiver (if needed, must be approved prior to Phase I)
- Pass the 3-event APFT
- Commander’s recommendation
Why Become an Officer?

- To lead and develop soldiers!
- Be in a position to make a difference!
- Officers are leaders and problem solvers.
- *Increase in pay and retirement*
- *You may qualify for a $10,000 bonus*
- *You may qualify for up to $50,000 in student loan repayment*
- *Pay grade during training: E-6*
OCS Paths

1. Traditional OCS (14 months)
2. Accelerated OCS (8 weeks)
   - Winter Accelerated
   - Summer Accelerated
Traditional OCS

- **Phase 0:** 3 IDT periods (March-May)
- **Phase I:** 2 weeks Annual Training (June)
- **Phase II:** 14 IDT periods (June-July)
- **Phase III:** 2 weeks Annual Training (July-Aug)
Phase Zero

- **Purpose**: Pre-OCS (Preparation Phase)
- **Location**: McCrady Training Center, Eastover, SC
- **Length**: IDT for March, April, and May
- **Focus**: Packet building, land navigation and map reading, drill and ceremony, SOP, and PT
- Phase zero is the only phase of OCS that is optional (but **HIGHLY** encouraged)
Phase I

- **Purpose**: Initial OCS training and screening
- **Location**: McCrady Training Center, Eastover, SC
- **Length**: 2 weeks Annual Training
- **Focus**: Leadership development, team building, drill and ceremony, training management, physical fitness, troop leading procedures, map reading and land navigation, WTBD and LRC.
1. Training Management
2. Map Reading and Land Navigation
   - Written Exam
   - Day Land Navigation Course
   - Night Land Navigation Course
Phase I Requirements

1. Successfully pass all written and practical exams with a min of 70% (Training Mng and Land Nav)
2. Successfully complete 5-mile ruck march
3. Successfully complete all WTBD tasks
4. Complete peer evaluation # 1
5. Must receive and complete a minimum of one leadership position evaluation (LER)
6. Must be recommended by the OCS Company Commander to start Phase II
Phase II

- **Purpose**: Core officer training
- **Location**: McCrady Training Center, Eastover, SC
- **Length**: 14 IDT periods at MTC
- **Focus**: Leadership development, organization, planning, briefings, OPORD, troop leading procedures, tactics, and physical fitness (Diagnostic APFT every drill period)
Phase II Examinations

1. Military Leadership
2. Military Justice and Law
3. Military History
4. Military Intelligence
5. Supply Operations
6. Tactics
7. Call for Fire
8. Army Operations
Other Blocks of Instruction

- Oral Communication and Presentation
- Written Communication
- Military Briefings
- Communicate by Tactical Radio
- U.S. Army Organization
- Planning and Rehearsals
- Cultural Awareness
- Drill and Ceremony
- Establish a Physical Fitness Program
- Soldier Team Development
- Squad and Platoon formations, movement techniques and tactics
- WTBD (Warrior Task Battle Drills)
Phase II Requirements

1. Successfully pass all **8 exams** with a min of 70%
2. Complete peer evaluations #2 and #3
3. Successfully complete the **7-mile** and **10-mile** road marches within the required time
4. Must receive and complete a minimum of one leadership position evaluation (LER) with a **S or E**
5. Successfully pass a “record” APFT within 60 days of starting phase III
6. Must be recommended by the OCS Company Commander to start Phase III
Phase III

- **Purpose**: Field Leadership
- **Location**: Ft McClellan, AL
- **Length**: Two weeks Annual Training
- **Focus**: Tactics, TLP, squad and platoon lanes, and field leadership
Phase III Requirements

1. Successfully complete the Combat Water Survival Test
2. Successfully complete Obstacle Course
3. Successfully complete the Leadership Reaction Course
4. Will receive and complete a minimum of two leadership position evaluations (One for the LRC and one for FLX II Operations). Candidate must attain an “E” or an “S”)
5. Must be recommended by the OCS Company Commander as possessing the leadership skills, attitudes and knowledge required of a Second Lieutenant prior to graduating Phase III and OCS.
Role of the TAC officer

• The “Black Hats”
• Teach, Assess, Counsel
• Platoon Trainers
• Subject matter experts
• “Motivate You”
• Evaluate your leadership skills and leadership potential
Role of the Instructors

- Teach the required classroom blocks of instruction
- Conduct reviews and study halls
- Administer exams
Why Candidates Do Not Succeed

- Failing the APFT (Not Physically Fit)
- Lack of Motivation (DOR)
BOLC (Basic Officer Leadership Course)

• BOLC-A (Commissioning Source)
  1. College ROTC
  2. OCS
  3. Direct Commission
  4. US Military Academy

• BOLC-B
  - Leadership Training (small unit leadership and tactics)
  - Branch Training (Your designated Army Branch)
## Army Officer Branches

### Fire and Maneuvers Branch
- Infantry
- Air Defense Artillery
- Armor
- Aviation
- Corps of Engineers
- Field Artillery
- Special Forces

### Combat Support
- Chemical
- Signal
- Military Intelligence
- Military Police

### Combat Service Support
- Adjutant General
- Medical Specialist
- Medical Service
- Medical Corps
- Army Nurse
- Chaplain
- Dental
- Finance
- Judge Advocate General
- Ordinance
- Quartermaster
QUESTIONS?