

**BY ORDER OF THE  
SUPERINTENDENT**

**HQ UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
ACADEMY INSTRUCTION 36-3533**

**24 NOVEMBER 2020**

**Personnel**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION**



**COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY**

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(Dr. Thomas R. Mabry)

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This instruction implements Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD 36-35), *United States Air Force Academy*, and defines the requirements for graduation from the USAF Academy as established by the USAF Academy Board. It applies to United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) cadets, faculty, and staff. This publication does not apply to Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) units or the Air National Guard (ANG). Refer recommended changes and conflicts between this and other publications to HQ USAFA/DFR, 2354 Fairchild Hall, Suite 2G13, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado 80840, on Air Force (AF) Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*. The authorities to waive requirements in this publication are identified with a Tier 3 (T-3) number following the compliance statement. See AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, for a description of the authorities associated with the Tier numbers. Submit requests for waivers through the chain of command to the appropriate Tier waiver approval authority. The waiver authority for non-tiered requirements in this publication is the (United States Air Force Academy Board). Ensure all records generated as a result of processes prescribed in this publication adhere to Air Force Instruction 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and are disposed in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule, which is located in the Air Force Records Information Management System.

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

This change updates the resident semester hours required for graduation and clarifies the graduation requirement to pass the Air Force Fitness Assessment.

**1. Eligibility.** Cadets will attend the USAF Academy not less than 4 academic years (8 semesters) to be eligible for graduation.

**2. Graduation Requirements:**

2.1. To graduate from the USAF Academy and be awarded a Bachelor of Science degree, a cadet must demonstrate an aptitude for commissioned service and leadership, be satisfactory in conduct, and meet all military training, physical education, and academic requirements.

2.1.1. To fulfill the military training requirements, a cadet must satisfactorily complete the professional and character development curriculum and all core training requirements. Additionally, all cadets must meet a minimum standard of a cumulative military performance appraisal (MPA) of 2.00.

2.1.2. To fulfill the athletic graduation requirements, a cadet must satisfactorily complete the physical education (Phy Ed) curriculum (5.0 semester hours), earn a cumulative physical education average (PEA) of at least a 2.00, pass the Air Force Fitness Assessment, and participate in approved competitive athletics (intramural, club, or intercollegiate) in each semester of residency. PEA is a function of three performance scores: cadet physical fitness test (PFT), cadet aerobic fitness test (AFT) and Phy Ed courses.

2.1.3. To fulfill the academic requirements, a cadet must satisfactorily complete the core curriculum (or equivalent) and an academic major or the Bachelor of Science Program. Additionally, cadets must meet a minimum standard of a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00, have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 in the core curriculum, and have a cumulative GPA of 2.00 in their major or in the Bachelor of Science Program, and complete 125 semester hours in residence.

2.2. Cadets who satisfactorily complete the requirements for graduation with the Bachelor of Science degree as described above are awarded a diploma consisting of a stainless steel shield on a wood backing and a paper diploma with the following words inscribed: "By virtue of the authority vested in the Secretary of the Air Force (name of graduating cadet) having completed the required course of study as a member of the XX graduating class has been judged worthy to receive the degree of Bachelor of Science in XX and is admitted to that degree with all the rights, privileges, and honors pertaining thereto. In witness whereof we have set our hands and fixed the seal of the United States Air Force Academy this XX day of XX in the year of our Lord XXXX."

This diploma is signed by the Superintendent (HQ USAFA/CC), the Commandant of Cadets (HQ USAFA/CW), the Director of Athletics (HQ USAFA/AD), and the Dean of the Faculty (HQ USAFA/DF).

2.3. Students from foreign countries are designated International Cadets. International Cadets for whom English is a second language will be awarded validation credit for their native language. International Cadets must fulfill all other Academy graduation requirements to earn a Bachelor of Science degree. Those International Cadets who do not meet all other Academy graduation requirements are awarded a certificate of completion, which will state that they attended the USAF Academy for four years.

### 3. Special Cases:

3.1. Normally, the academic program is completed by cadets in residence. A semester in a USAFA-sponsored exchange program or study abroad program, and the courses completed/transferred/validated during that semester (up to a maximum of 24 semester hours), count toward the residency requirement for graduation. A cadet can participate in one, but not more than one, exchange or study abroad program during his/her cadet career.

3.2. The USAF Academy Board may make exceptions to the procedures and requirements stated above. Normally, exceptions are considered by the USAF Academy Board upon recommendation of the Academy's various deficiency review committees.

3.3. Cadets who pass away prior to successful completion of their degree may only be posthumously awarded a degree by the USAFA if at least six semesters have been successfully completed. If the surviving family member(s) of the deceased cadet wishes to pursue the awarding of the degree, the family must initiate the request in writing to the USAFA senior leadership for consideration. There will be no automatic initiation/granting of posthumous degrees. If six semesters have not been successfully completed, family members or the cadet squadron may request the presentation of a USAFA *Certificate of Attendance*, which will normally be presented during an appropriate squadron ceremony during graduation week.

**4. References.** The academic, physical education, and military training curricula are described in the *Curriculum Handbook*. Determination of proficiency in aptitude for commissioned service is outlined in USAFAI 36-3523, *Review and Disposition of Deficient Cadets*. Weight standards are in accordance with AFI 36-2905, *Fitness Program*, and deficiencies in conduct are defined in current Air Force Cadet Wing instructions.

ANDREW P. ARMACOST, Brigadier General,  
USAF  
Dean of Faculty

**Attachment 1****GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, 22 March 2020

AFPD 36-35, *United States Air Force Academy*, 13 Mar 2018

AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, 1 December 2015

AFI 36-2905, *Fitness Program*, 20 Oct 2013

USAF AI 36-3523, *Review and Disposition of Deficient Cadets*, 5 Dec 2018

***Adopted Forms***

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**AF**—Air Force

**AFMAN**—Air Force Manual

**AFPD**—Air Force Policy Directive

**AFRC**—Air Force Reserve Command

**AFRIMS**—Air Force Records Information Management System

**AFT**—Aerobic Fitness Test

**ANG**—Air National Guard

**GPA**—Grade Point Average

**MPA**—Military Performance Appraisal

**OPR**—Office of Primary Responsibility

**PEA**—Physical Education Average

**RDS**—Records Disposition Schedule

**USAF A**—United States Air Force Academy