

**BY ORDER OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT**



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

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Incorporating Change 1, 29 March 2012

Personnel

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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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*. Ensure all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at <https://www.my.af.mil/afirms/afirms/afirms/rims.cfm>. See Attachment 1 for a glossary of references and supporting information.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This interim change updates the opening paragraph, paragraph 2.1.3. and adds Attachment 1. A margin bar (|) indicates revisions from the previous edition.

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 average (MPA) of 2.00.

2.1.2. To fulfill the athletic graduation requirements, cadets are required to complete the physical education curriculum and earn a cumulative physical education average (PEA) of at least a 2.00 as explained in AFI 36-2020, *Disenrollment of United States Air Force Academy Cadets* (will convert to USAFAI 36-2020). PEA is a function of three performance scores: cadet physical fitness test (PFT), cadet aerobic fitness test (AFT) and PE classes.

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 131 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 who do not 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 completely described in the *USAF Academy Catalog* and the *Curriculum Handbook*. Determination of proficiency in aptitude for commissioned service is outlined in AFI 36-2020, *Disenrollment of United States Air Force Academy Cadets*, and USAFAI 36-3523, *Review and Disposition of Deficient Cadets*. Weight standards are in accordance with AFI 10-248, *Fitness Program*, and deficiencies in conduct are defined in current Air Force Cadet Wing instructions.

5. DELETED.

MICHAEL C. GOULD, Lieutenant General, USAF
Superintendent

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

AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 1 March 2008

AFPD 36-35, *United States Air Force Academy*, 25 May 2011

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 Average

OPR—Office of Primary Responsibility

PEA—Physical Education Average

RDS—Records Disposition Schedule

USAFA—United States Air Force Academy