



INVESTING IN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

►► Endowed Faculty and Research Support at the U.S. Air Force Academy

SINCE 1955

the United States Air Force Academy has developed outstanding leaders of character for the nation. The Academy challenges cadets with a combination of academic rigor, training in the profession of arms, physical education and competitive athletics and character development. At the end of their 47-month experience, cadets graduate and become the leaders and warfighter-scholars the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force require to protect and defend the nation.



[Photo by Trevor Cokley/USAFA]

NO. 3 PUBLIC SCHOOL
U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

NO. 1 IN
UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH



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Forbes



USAFA's academic program, led by the dean of the faculty, educates and inspires warfighter-scholars by ensuring that all cadets acquire the knowledge and skills they need to lead others as airmen and guardians.

The academic mission element outlines nine outcomes that define and distinguish the USAFA cadet experience and what it means to be an Academy graduate:

- Critical thinking
- Application of engineering problem-solving methods
- Scientific reasoning and the principles of science
- The human condition, cultures and societies
- Leadership, teamwork and organizational management
- Clear communication
- Ethics and respect for human dignity
- National security of the American republic
- Warrior ethos as airmen and guardians.

USAFA's focus on achieving these outcomes has established it as one of the nation's finest academic institutions and a universal model of leadership development.

Further, it lights the way for USAFA to achieve its strategic goals for continued academic excellence:

1. Inspiring and reinforcing a culture of living honorably among all cadets
2. Preparing for future conflict
3. Fostering a culture that embraces innovation, fueled by airmen and guardians
4. Executing operations in an integrated, accountable and agile manner
5. Establishing a world-class reputation.



[Photos by Trevor Cokley/USAF A]

ENDOWED FACULTY SUPPORT

The Air Force Academy is a top-tier undergraduate institution that not only upholds the highest academic standards, but also serves as a training ground for future Air Force and Space Force officers. Government funding is sufficient to meet the baseline needs of USAFA academics and other mission elements. An even higher level of excellence is attainable, however, through private funding, attracting truly distinguished experts in their fields. Endowed funding can attract national leaders and preeminent scholars to devote their time and talent toward teaching and mentoring cadets and faculty. With academic leaders of this caliber, the Academy can provide research projects of national security importance across its 24 research centers and institutes, 21 departments and numerous majors and minors that will boost the level of academic achievement and real world understanding for cadets.

“Excellence in all we do” is one of the U.S. Air Force’s core values. Endowed funding can help future officers develop the habit of attaining excellence in all they do, benefiting the nation.

Philanthropic support for USAFA’s faculty impacts several areas:

- **ATTRACTING AND RETAINING TOP TALENT** — Endowing a position enables USAFA to attract and retain top-notch professors, instructors, fellows and researchers dedicated to teaching, guiding, mentoring and helping mold cadets into warfighter-scholars and leaders of character. It also allows USAFA to bring highly specialized experts to the Academy to develop programs

focused on the specific needs of the Air Force and Space Force.

- **DRIVING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE** — Endowed support provides a steady stream of funding for top-performing faculty members to invest in research, continuing education, state-of-the-art equipment and technology, industry partnerships and other projects tangibly benefiting cadets and advancing overall academic excellence.
- **FURTHERING RESEARCH** — USAFA operates 24 research centers and institutes. Within the past four years, cadets have helped secure 18 patents. Indeed, USAFA stands apart as the nation’s top funded undergraduate research university. Endowed support allows faculty members to work with cadets in pursuing impactful research projects that bring real-world insights and understanding, help solve problems through innovative thinking and approaches, nurture industry partnerships, and more — all providing engaging learning and leadership development.
- **BOLSTERING REPUTATION** — USAFA already has a reputation as an elite undergraduate institution. By enhancing the Academy’s ability to recruit and retain teaching and research talent, endowed faculty support the Academy’s reputation and, in turn, further USAFA’s ability to attract top college-bound students, engage key industry partners and develop challenging projects and programs.



[Photo by Trevor Cokley/USAF A]

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DONOR IMPACT

Through the Air Force Academy Foundation, donors have rich, meaningful opportunities to perpetually fund and drive academic and research excellence at the Air Force Academy. This ensures top-notch training, classroom, laboratory and field experiences for cadets.

Gifts that provide endowed funding for faculty:

- Empower the Air Force Academy to recruit elite talent in a specific discipline or area
- Amplify the interest of cadets who are inspired to learn, grow and train with the most distinguished minds in their field of interest
- Accelerate and enhance the research and educational capacities of a named chair, center or program.

Each year, about 4.5% of an endowed fund supports a range of activities according to the donor's intent. Funded activities may include research, conferences, travel, equipment, technology and cadet projects.

Endowed funds help drive academic excellence at USAFA and create an enduring opportunity for donors to support areas of the Academy that interest them and connect to strategic priorities. Additionally, an endowed fund is a meaningful way donors can bolster and invest in emerging academic priorities at the Academy, such as the Institute for Future Conflict. In other cases, a donor or family may feel particularly grateful to a faculty member or department and wish to show appreciation by creating an endowed fund.


Whatever the interest or motivation, an endowed fund provides perpetual support, giving the donor a meaningful opportunity to establish an enduring legacy.



[Photo by USAFA]



[Photo by Trevor Cokley/USAFA]



HOW TO CREATE AN ENDOWED FACULTY FUND AT USAFA

[Photo by Rayna Grace/USAFA]

Donors can establish an endowed faculty fund through a gift starting at \$100,000. There is no upper limit for an endowed fund. Depending on the level of investment, a donor can name an endowed fund, an endowed chair, a program, a center or an institute. The Air Force Academy Foundation will manage the fund and provide regular reporting, updates and recognition to the donor.

The following are examples of impactful ways to advance faculty excellence — and thereby academic excellence — at USAFA through endowed support:

FUND: \$100,000+

A gift of \$100,000 or more may establish a named endowed fund supporting a particular academic area or discipline of the donor's interest. These funds can support a variety of activities, including research, conferences and travel for continuing education, as well as programs and initiatives.

FELLOWSHIP: \$1 MILLION+

A gift of \$1 million or more may establish a named fellowship to support a fellow in a donor-designated department or field of study. Endowed fellowships are a prime way for donors to help USAFA attract the top minds in a discipline or area of focus to assist in curriculum development, hands-on research opportunities, and cadet training and education. Fellowships also help fund research projects.

VISITING LECTURESHIP: \$2 MILLION+

A gift of \$2 million or more may establish a named visiting lectureship. Like many higher education institutions, USAFA invites highly specialized experts to spend time with cadets, to share their knowledge about a specific subject. A visiting lectureship enables focused seminars, courses and experiential

opportunities that expose developing leaders to pertinent topics, fields, disciplines and perspectives.

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE: \$3 MILLION+

Similar to a visiting lectureship, a scholar in residence is a subject matter expert whom USAFA invites to spend a specific period of time at the Academy lecturing, leading seminars and discussions, conducting research, and engaging with cadets, faculty, staff and graduates. They may also help inform curriculum development. Whereas a visiting lecturer may spend weeks or potentially months at the Academy, scholars in residence typically stay for an extended period, from a semester to an entire academic year.

CHAIR: \$5 MILLION+

A gift of \$5 million or more will establish a permanent endowed chair position. Endowed chairs are highly prestigious and are filled by a recognized scholar in their field of study. Endowed chairs also bolster USAFA's ability to recruit and retain leading experts who have achieved their terminal degrees. The donor may designate the scholar's department or general field of study.

PROGRAM: \$10 MILLION+

A gift of \$10 million or more may establish a named academic program to support a critical Academy priority in perpetuity.

CENTER: \$15 MILLION+

A gift of \$15 million or more may establish a named academic center that will permanently support a critical Academy priority.

YOU HAVE A ROLE IN DEFINING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT USAFA



[Photo by Rayna Grace/USAFA]

Our future security and stability as a nation depend on our ability to train and equip the next generation of leaders — to serve with integrity and agility and anticipate and confront future conflict.

Private funding allows the Academy and faculty members to seize strategic opportunities and develop programs more nimbly than the standard appropriations process allows.

The Air Force Academy Foundation invites you to consider advancing the Academy's excellence through an endowed fund supporting academic excellence.



For more information, visit www.afacademyfoundation.org