



Hi,

my name is Adam Messer—I am a senior ROTC cadet studying systems engineering with a concentration in mechanical engineering, and a minor in writing.

DURING MY JUNIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, I received the Army ROTC Engineers letter from Lee outlining the program and all that WashU has to offer. A few months later, I met with some Army ROTC cadre and staff, and learned about the Gateway Battalion—a program renowned as one of the best in the nation. I quickly decided to begin the ROTC scholarship application process.

WHEN I RECEIVED MY ADMISSIONS LETTER, and a four-year Army ROTC Scholarship, WashU officially became a reality for me and I could not have been more excited!

My first encounter with ROTC as a student was at first-year orientation in 2016. Here I immersed myself in the campus and met a few friends that I still often see today. At first, I anticipated ROTC to simply be another class requirement, however it turned out to be my favorite part about the university. I truly believe no other organization on campus can develop the same level of discipline, responsibility, and camaraderie.

BEING A PART OF ROTC has not only given me a great group of friends, but it has also given me some amazing experiences during my undergraduate years such as ROTC training in the summer. In my first summer, the Army sent me to Honduras for a month to train with the nation's military. The team and I slept out in the forests, trained our marksmanship, flew in UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, and assisted in humanitarian relief missions. After my sophomore year, I attended the Army's Air Assault School – 10 days of intense physical and mental training that culminated with a 90-foot rappel from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. These have been by far some of the coolest things I've ever done in my life.

AS MY TIME AT WASHU COMES TO AN END I am excited for my future and the things I learned in the McKelvey School of Engineering and ROTC. In May 2020, I will commission into the Army as a Cyber Officer. I'll serve a minimum of four years in Active Duty service before I can decide between continuing my military career or pursuing other interests outside of the Army. When I reach that point, I'm unsure what I'll do, but I have long-term goals. I want to attend law school and pursue a career in patent law—utilizing my engineering degree, my interest in law, and my cyber experience as well.

FROM THE DAY YOU APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP until the day you commission into the Army as a Second Lieutenant, ROTC allows those that try hard to reap the benefits of their labor – what you put in is what you get out of it. I hope you will consider this program that helped give me a great college education, friends, personal growth, a job, and a future.