

## **Motion to approve priority registration for contracted GSU ROTC students**

Approved by Admissions & Standards 2-22-17

Approved by University Senate 4-13-17

This proposal seeks to achieve priority registration for contracted Georgia State University ROTC students. These students receive scholarship money from the government via the military in various forms. Most contracted ROTC students receive 100% scholarship benefits that carry with them the expectation that these students graduate within four years so that a commission into the military can occur within a timely and financially efficient fashion.

### ***Rationale***

All contracted Georgia State University ROTC students are required to register as full-time students and carry a 15 credit-hour load minimum in order to maximize their hard-earned education benefits by graduating in accordance with an approved graduation plan. All ROTC students must enroll in ROTC courses adding 3 credit hours to their course load each semester. In addition, ROTC implements various mandatory extra-curricular activities for ROTC participants, often totaling double-digit hours per week. GSU Navy and Air Force ROTC students must commute to Georgia Tech for all their ROTC courses and extra-curriculars, bearing an extreme burden on detailing an executable course schedule. For technical majors to graduate on time, they must take upwards of 19 credit hours per semester, every semester. Deserving students are sometimes granted extra semesters for scholarship, but this is not the standard. Priority registration for these students would allow them to register for their required courses early, thus allowing them to maximize the use of their limited education benefits.

### ***Background***

Most contracted ROTC students have their tuition paid in full through one of several different programs and scholarships offered by the different branches. Most GSU ROTC students earn a scholarship after spending a semester or two or more in college demonstrating their academic and personal aptitude for success in college and compete for a scholarship. After earning a scholarship, these students are not granted extra time to graduate, but must instead graduate on time with all the additional ROTC requirements including taking the entire 24 credit-hours of ROTC courses on top of their major and minor courses. For many students this can be a seemingly impossible task.

### ***Recommendation***

Priority registration would allow these students to register for their required courses early and would thus eliminate their need to register for unnecessary courses. Priority registration would also allow them to maximize their education benefits, increase graduation and retention rates, and minimize the number of semesters needed to graduate.

Priority registration would allow these students to properly execute their degree plans to graduate on time and commission as officers in the United States military. Granting priority registration would be the single, greatest act GSU administration could perform to empower ROTC students with the opportunity to succeed.