

## **AFIT PhD APPLICATION BOARD**

### **TPS Faculty-Pipeline PhD Program**

1. Every year USAF Test Pilot School (TPS) chooses graduates to attend the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) in residence for three years to earn a Doctor of Philosophy degree in engineering. The primary purpose of this program is to ensure the TPS curriculum and research programs reflect the state of the art in engineering and science. In addition, it creates a cadre of officers within Air Force Materiel Command who combine current flight test experience with a high level of theoretical knowledge. The suspense for all application packages is **31 Jul 2017**.
2. The TPS Ph.D. program is open to all U.S. Air Force officers who meet the eligibility criteria. The losing agency must consider assignment restrictions prior to submission.
3. Interested officers must contact their AFPC core assignment team and obtain releasability to the program in the event of their selection.
4. Officers selected for the TPS Ph.D. program are ineligible to apply for any special selection programs (Astronaut, DARPA, etc.) that, if selected, will not allow completion of their entire Ph.D. before their selected program start date.
5. Selected candidates should expect to attend AFIT. On occasion, when beneficial to TPS, a candidate may request an academic waiver to attend a civilian institute (CI). This may be granted by Air University based on the uniqueness of the engineering program, the breadth of academic experience it would give the candidate and TPS faculty, and the relevance to the TPS curriculum.
6. **Eligibility Criteria**
  - A. USAF, Navy, EPNER, or Empire Test Pilot School graduate.
  - B. At least two years of flight test experience since TPS graduation at AFIT start date.
  - C. At least two years time on station prior to AFIT start date.
  - D. Master of Science (MS) degree in engineering from an institution other than a test pilot school with a minimum 3.5 GPA.

### **7. Application Procedures**

- A. Provide a cover letter with the following information:
  1. Rank, name, and category of applicant (Pilot, RPA, CSO or FTE)
  2. Full contact information (phone, email, work address)
  3. TPS class and GPA
  4. Desired Ph.D. program(s) (degree, research focus, location)
  5. Commander's name and phone number
- B. Resume emphasizing educational experience, job experience, flight experience and hours (military and/or civilian), test experience, APDP certifications, professional accomplishments and honors (e.g. DG, Top Third, R. L. Jones), description of undergraduate and graduate thesis research, and a list of any scholarly publications.
- C. Copies of transcripts from every college or university attended showing degrees awarded and GPA.

8. Email application package to the USAF TPS/CS Workflow [s531dc@us.af.mil]. If materials contain Personally Identifiable Information (PII), they may be sent to the same workflow using AMRDEC. Materials that cannot be sent electronically may be mailed to

USAF TPS/CS

Attn: Maj. Dan Montes

220 S. Wolfe Ave.

Edwards AFB, CA 93524-6485.

**9. Application Timeline**

- 31 Jul 2017: Application due at TPS
- Sep 2017: Primary and alternate candidates notified
- NLT Feb 2018: Candidates receive official AFIT and/or CI Letter of Acceptance
- Fall 2018: Candidates begin AFIT or CI Ph.D. program

10. Upon graduation, the officers will be assigned to TPS staff for a three-year tour in an advanced academic degree (AAD) coded position. The officers will also receive a five-year active duty service commitment (ADSC) in accordance with AFI 36-2107.

11. The POC is Maj. Dan Montes, USAF TPS/CS, DSN 527-9775, commercial (661) 277-9775.