

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 (Ph.D.) in an engineering or science field. The primary purpose of this program is to ensure the TPS curriculum and research programs reflect the state of the art. In addition, it creates a cadre of officers within AFMC who combine current flight test experience with a high level of theoretical knowledge. The suspense for all application packages is **31 Jul 2023**.

2. The TPS Ph.D. program is open to all U.S. Air Force officers who meet the eligibility criteria. Interested officers must contact their AFPC core assignment team and obtain releasability to the program. Their losing agency must consider assignment restrictions prior to submission.

3. Officers selected for the TPS Ph.D. program are ineligible to apply for any special selection programs (DARPA, etc.) that, if selected, will not allow completion of their entire Ph.D. before their selected program start date.

4. 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.

5. Eligibility Criteria

- A. USAF, Navy, EPNER, or Empire Test Pilot School graduate.
- B. At least two years of 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 or science from an institution other than a test pilot school with a minimum 3.5 GPA.

6. Application Procedures

- A. Provide a video submission of the applicant teaching a short class or mission instructional brief. Contact Major Shawn Stephens for the video topic and requirements.
- B. 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
- C. 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.
- D. Copies of transcripts from every college or university attended showing degrees awarded and GPA.

7. 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 DoD SAFE. Materials that cannot be sent electronically may be mailed to

USAF TPS/CS

Attn: Maj Shawn Stephens

220 S Wolfe Ave

Edwards AFB, CA 93524-6485

8. Application Timeline

- 31 Jul 2023: Application due at TPS
- Sep 2023: Primary and alternate candidates notified
- Sep 2023: Primary and alternate candidates apply to AFIT
- NLT Feb 2024: Candidates receive official AFIT and/or CI Letter of Acceptance
- Fall 2024: Candidates begin Ph.D. program

9. 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.

10. The POC is Maj Shawn Stephens, USAF TPS/RD, 661-277-4649 (DSN 527).