

## **Space Test Fundamentals – Frequently Asked Questions**

*(as of 27 Jul 21)*

*Make sure to check back periodically, since content may change over time.*

Q: The PSDM and website state that a release is required by the career manager. What is sufficient?

A: No formal document is required. A simple email note from your career manager is sufficient.

Example: “You are released to compete for CY22 Space Test Fundamentals board. Should you apply for a different program, it will require a separate release. Good Luck! –/signed Career Manager”

Q: Why is a release required if there is no follow on assignment?

A: The release is for tracking purposes at AFPC. There will be no required payback or ADSC incurred for the CY22 STF classes. You will be tracked by AFPC and USSF/TE for future vectoring.

Q: I’m a government civilian or joint military member. Do I need a release?

A: No. Release is for Dept of the Air Force (i.e. USSF or USAF) military members only.

Q: May reserve component personnel apply?

A: Yes. The TDY will still be centrally funded by USSF. However, duty days will not be provided.

Q: Can members of other services apply to the STF Course?

A: Yes.

Q: Do applicants have to be accepted to the USSF?

A: No.

Q: If there are more applicants than slots, will any applicants be “wait-listed”?

A: No. However, personnel may apply in following years. Also, there will be alternates selected by the selection board.

Q: What is lodging like during the ~4-month course?

A: Group lodging reservations will be made for each class at the High Desert Inn, Edwards AFB. Students will be placed in suites with access to a communal kitchen area, or in TLFs. Suites include a small living area and a bedroom. A small microwave and mini-fridge are provided. If placed in TLFs, students will be sharing the facility (e.g. 2-bedroom TLFs will be shared by 2 students). TLF placement is based on availability based on inbound/outbound PCS requirements.

Q: Can I obtain a waiver to eligibility requirements?

A: Yes. Waivers requests to eligibility criteria should be submitted to USAFTPS.STF.Applications@us.af.mil for consideration by USSF/TE. Submit as a memorandum for USSF/TE.

Q: Is the Space Test Fundamentals course application and board process separate from the regular TPS board?

A: Yes.

Q: Is this a TDY? If so, is it unit funded?

A: Yes, this is a TDY course. TDY costs will be centrally funded by USSF. Accompanied travel is not approved. Dual lodging during class field trips will also not be approved.

Q: Is there an automatic follow-on at a space test squadron?

A: Not at this time. However, expect prioritization into space test related assignments.

Q: Does attending the STF Course disqualify you from applying to or attending the traditional TPS program as an FTE?

A: No.

Q: Are there any grade/time in service restrictions?

A: Yes. Military applicants should have between 2 and 12 years of government service. Civilian applicants should be in the grade of GS-13, or equivalent, and below with at least 2 years of government service.

Q: Where is the STF Course held?

A: Edwards AFB, CA

Q: Will the board select all classes for the upcoming calendar year?

A: Yes.

Q: Will the STF course be offered via distance learning?

A: No.

Q: What is considered a relevant degree for eligibility?

A: Relevant degrees would be Astronautical Engineering, Space Operation, or similar. Other STEM degrees with relevant coursework could also be acceptable. Relevant coursework would include such items as orbital mechanics, space propulsion, satellite design, etc. Contact [USAFTPS.STF.applications@us.af.mil](mailto:USAFTPS.STF.applications@us.af.mil) if you have specific questions.

Q: What level of commander endorsement is required?

A: Squadron commander (or equivalent).

Q: My undergraduate transcript doesn't show calculus, but I've had courses in differential equations and other higher level math classes. Am I eligible?

A: Probably. Contact [USAFTPS.STF.applications@us.af.mil](mailto:USAFTPS.STF.applications@us.af.mil) to verify.

Q: Are there any rank or years of service requirements for this course?

A: Yes. Military applicants should have between 2- and 12 years of government service. Civilian applicants should be in the grade of GS-13, or equivalent, and below with at least 2 years of government service.

Q: Would the core astronautical engineering course at the Air Force Academy meet the relevant coursework requirement for eligibility?

A: Yes.

Q: Can students bring family members with them to Edwards AFB for the STF course?

A: Yes. However, no special accommodations or funding will be provided.

Q: Will transcripts direct from my college be accepted?

A: Yes. However, it is preferred that you include an informal copy of the transcript in your application package.

Q: Are there AFSC/Job Series limitations?

A: Not at this time. However, selections will be weighted toward individuals who will be in a position to affect Space T&E programs. CY21 classes included the following AFSCs and job series: 13S, 62E, 63A, 1C6, 14N, 17D, 3D0, 1N2, 1550, 1515, 861, 801.

Q: Will the selection board pull OPRs digitally?

A: No. The selection board will consider OPRs included with the application package. Please include only the most recent OPR in the application packages.

Q: Is a letter of recommendation required?

A: No.