



WELCOME TO SOS, CLASS 25D!

You have been registered to participate in the SOS In-Residence course **25D** from **21 Apr – 22 May**.

***If you find this message to be an error, please contact your unit training manager (and cc the SOS Student Services org box sos.od.studentservices@us.af.mil) to be removed from the course immediately.**

This letter will outline your expectations and what you need to know to successfully complete the SOS In-Residence course. **Please read the welcome letter in its entirety for detailed instructions.**

You are expected to complete between 120 -130 hours of instruction, which includes self-paced readings and homework assignments, electives, and guest speakers.

1. To complete class assignments and participate in class discussions you will need:
 - i. Internet access (**provided by on-base lodging and SOS bldg.**)
 - ii. A personal or government laptop or computer with a webcam and microphone.
****Defense Health Agency (DHA) laptops are not compatible with the Air University WIFI****
 - iii. CAC reader
 - iv. Access to the following apps (recommend they be downloaded to your device)
 - a. Microsoft Teams
 - b. Google Calendar
 - c. Okta Verify App (if not using a government computer)
2. All SOS lesson modules and assignments are located on AU Canvas (al-ims.okta.com) You will be able to access SOS course material starting Day 1.

3. Education Day 1

- i. Your first event will be in the SOS main building, Bldg 1403, Polifka Auditorium at **0800 CST**.
- ii. UOD:
 - a. (Military): OCPs/FDUs
 - b. (Civilian): Professional and casual business attire
- iii. **USAF & Civilian Students:** Last PFA Scoresheet showing all passing components and date current through graduation.
 - a. **USSF Students** enrolled in the biometric program must show proof of the device (PFA Score sheet not required).
 - b. **USSF Students** not enrolled in the biometric program must show current and passing PFA sheets.
- iv. Air Force Reserves: Bring 2x copies of your orders.

****FAILURE TO SHOW CURRENT & PASSING PFA WILL RESULT IN BEING SENT HOME AT YOUR UNIT'S EXPENSE****

4. Your Flight Commander may contact you. If your Flight Commander decides to send an email, they will be contacting you **NET 1630 CST on 17 Apr**. Please check your .mil email as this is likely the only initial contact information your Flight Commander has for you.

If you want your Flt/CC to send to a different email address, please provide your secondary email contact information to SOS Student Services.



If you do not receive an initial contact from your instructor **and** have any issues, please email Student Services at sos.od.studentservices@us.af.mil.

5. If you have any issues with the Maxwell AFB University Inn, please inform your Flight Commander and **talk to the front desk.**

If you have further questions, please visit our website at <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/SOS> or contact SOS student services.

Email sos.od.studentservices@us.af.mil - DSN 493-3231 - COMM (334) 953-3231

Follow us on social media for additional messages as your class date approaches.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/squadronofficerschool>

Instagram: [Squadron Officer School \(@squadron_officer_school\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/squadron-officer-school/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SOSUSAF>



Squadron Officer School Resident Program

Program Description:

The Squadron Officer School (SOS) resident program is a PME course targeting four-to-seven-year Air Force captains, select Department of the Air Force civilians of equivalent grade, and international officers. The post-baccalaureate PDE curriculum covers four core learning areas—Thinking, Warfighting, Leading and Communication. Throughout SOS, students team build and apply theories, principles, and practices from the core learning areas through experiential exercises, written assignments, briefings, and personal and collaborative reflection culminating in a capstone event for each core learning area.

Leader Prep:

Students will accomplish the readings and other preparation requirements ahead of the associated lesson. Check Canvas daily for required readings, activities, and videos. Please be prepared each day with a laptop/personal device with video and audio ON for each virtual lesson.

Squadron Officer School Electives

SOS Electives

SOS electives are sessions taught by SOS faculty on a variety of subject. Upon the start of SOS, students will have the opportunity to select from a list of electives they would like to participate in during the five-week course.

As an SOS student you will participate in one of three types of electives during the five-week course.

- **Air University Advance Research (AUAR) elective**
- **Think Tank**
- **General Electives**

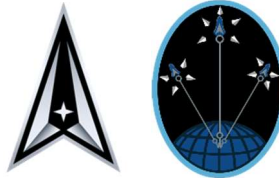
Air University Advance Research

The Air University Advanced Research (AUAR) Elective is an opportunity for a selective group of students to conduct independent research on topics of strategic concern. This is a five-week elective requiring approximately 20-40 hours beyond SOS curriculum. Selected students are assigned mentor(s) who guide research efforts and define deliverables. Student researchers receive a bullet on their AF 475 Training Report. Student benefits include advanced study on exciting topics, networking with communities of interest throughout the research experience, briefing Department of the Air Force senior leaders & originations, publish research papers, and the opportunity to shape the Air Force's and Space Force's future.

Think Tank

Think Tank is an opportunity for a select group of students to tackle a major issue and present creative solutions to current and active stakeholders. It is physically, mentally, and emotionally challenging and students are expected to work well beyond the SOS curriculum. Students present the fruit of that labor, live, to USAF/USSF decision makers. Team members receive intensive coaching on design principles adapted from the best practices in industry, academia, and militaries from across the world. You will learn and practice strategic thinking skills that are directly applicable and highly valuable to leaders of all levels. Join us for our open house on ED1 to learn more! **Welcome Day is when students will receive the current topic.**

United States Space Force at Squadron Officer School



Spacepower Education and Advanced Readiness (SPEAR) Track

Who: All United States Space Force (USSF) Guardians and select United States Air Force (USAF) Airmen

Welcome to space education at Air University! Squadron Officer School (SOS) offers the Spacepower Education and Advanced Readiness (SPEAR) track for Guardians and Airmen in space operations or space-related duties. SPEAR students lead, think, and communicate their way through a curriculum focused on delivering combined arms effects for combatant commanders. Unlike the mainline SOS program, SPEAR is predominantly a warfighting track, augmenting airpower curriculum with space-centric objectives.

SPEAR graduates earn the same in-residence primary developmental education (PDE) credit as mainline SOS graduates. While Guardians and Guard/Reserve space professionals are the intended audience, all Airmen are eligible and may apply by contacting SOS Student Services at SOS.OD.StudentServices@us.af.mil. Application does not guarantee admission due to limited seats. Guardians are automatically enrolled in SPEAR; there is no need to contact student services. Recommend Guard/Reserve/Civilian space professionals verify your SPEAR enrollment with student services prior to arrival.

Students will engage with several topics previously limited to USAF's Air Command and Staff College or USSF's Schriever Scholars at Johns Hopkins University. For instance, students complete coursework involving the most current space doctrine, spacepower theories, and play a custom-built wargame. Additionally, students receive lessons from other schools such as the Army Captains Career Course, and write about developing the Space Force's warfighting competencies. SPEAR students experience a distinct space operations take on SOS.

Special Considerations: SPEAR includes one classified briefing. *Students must have a TS-SCI clearance with SI/TK/HCS-P/G caveats to attend. SPEAR students without access will participate in an unclassified equivalent.*

NOTE: Your clearance/investigation date must be current within 5 years and loaded in DISS. We cannot accept clearances listed in Scattered Castles.

Your SPEAR instructor will submit a visit request for the SPEAR classified briefing on your behalf.

****IF YOU ARE A GUARDIAN CIVILIAN OR A DAF GUARDIAN CURRENTLY IN OR NOMINATED BY AN USAF UNIT, EMAIL SOS STUDENT SERVICES (sos.od.studentservices@us.af.mil) IMMEDIATELY TO ENSURE YOUR PLACEMENT IN THE SPEAR TRACK****

Semper Supra!



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Do we need to bring blues/service dress?

-No, blues or service dress are not required for SOS.

What does the average day look like at SOS?

- Students can expect to be in class from 0800-1630, with some variation depending on the events of the day. You are afforded an hour for lunch.

I'm overseas and I'm arriving [Saturday] night, will my room be available?

-Yes, please call the University Inn prior to your arrival so they can adjust your reservation. Contact your Flight Commander if there are any issues.

Will we have holidays off?

-Yes, SOS observes all Federal holidays and AETC family days.

Are there facilities for laundry in lodging and how much do they cost?

-Yes, there is a laundry room in each of the buildings in lodging. The machines are free, but you need to bring/purchase your own detergent and dryer sheets.

How much of the course is dedicated to USSF curriculum for USSF personnel?

-All USSF Guardians are organized in their own flight, following a USSF curriculum, separate from the USAF curriculum received by the Airmen. All students will participate in the same experientials and team leadership exercises.

Are we allowed to travel on the weekends? How far can we travel?

-Yes, you are allowed to travel on the weekends. You will need to get all travel plans approved through your Flight Commander/Squadron Commander. Each squadron will go over their travel policy and weekend locator requirements.

I'm flying in and my unit won't issue me a rental car. Will I be able to walk to get where I need to go?

-University Inn is across the street from the SOS building, the Maxwell Fitness Center is also nearby, and the DFAC is about a third of a mile walk. The BX and commissary are about a 1-mile walk.

I'm working DTS, but I have not received my LOA, can you help me?

-**SOS does not handle the LOAs**, that is an AETC TDY-to-School function. They can be contacted DSN 487-2971/COMM 210-652-2971 or tdy.school@us.af.mil. HOWEVER, they have stipulated all service requests must go through their TTS website (see Reporting Guide). They should cross-org you the LOA a few days after you have signed and returned your RIP.

Do we book lodging through DTS?

-SOS reserves the lodging for students so you do not need to book it through DTS. **Any Non-Availability letter or notification of no lodging available received through DTS is void and should be ignored.**

If you received permission from SOS Student Services to reside off-base during your class, you should book your off-base option in DTS or provide a justification in DTS for using a commercial lodging option that does not appear in DTS.

How do we get from the airport to Maxwell?



-SOS does not offer transportation services. There are several taxi companies that can get on base. Some Uber/Lyft can also get on base, but you would have to make sure the driver has access.

Uber/Lyft drivers that do not have base access will be required to drop you off at the front gate.