

New Students Faced With Elective ROTC

By FLOYD PASEMAN

Freshman men at the University this year will, for the first time, have the opportunity to take ROTC as an elective course. Previously, the program of Army and Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps were compulsory courses for all freshman and sophomore men enrolled as regular full-time students at the University.

While the decision to abolish compulsory ROTC may seem a relief to some students, it creates a new burden to others. Beginning this fall, each freshman male will have an additional factor to consider in formulating his plans for college. That factor is his military obligation.

NOW, BECAUSE ROTC is an elective course, the student must make a decision about what he will do with ROTC. Previously, that decision could be put off until the junior year.

What is ROTC? At the University there are programs in both Army and Air Force ROTC which are open to any male student who is physically and mentally qualified for appointment to a commission in either the United States Army or Air Force.

As an undergraduate, the student enrolls in the first year of the two-year "basic" course when he is a freshman. He attends class one hour a week, and participates in a one-hour drill period each Thursday.

As a sophomore, he attends class twice a week, for two hours, plus attending Thursday drills. After two years, he has accumulated six credit hours toward his graduation from the University and has received 180 hours of actual instruction in military and related subjects.

BY THE END of his sophomore year he may apply to enter the "advanced" course. He receives a thorough medical examination, completes a series of tests, and is interviewed by a board of officers. If he is selected as qualified for the advanced course he will be

enrolled in the fall of his junior year and will begin to receive a month of subsistence allowance.

As a junior, the student attends class four hours a week and participates in the weekly drill session as a cadet noncommissioned officer. During the spring term he will participate in weekly field maneuvers and attend classes two hours a week. During the first half of the summer that follows, he is required to attend six weeks of intensive field training at Fort Lewis in Washington.

AS A SENIOR, the student returns to four class hours a week and serves as a cadet officer during the weekly drill period. By the end of his fourth year of college, he has accumulated 480 hours of instruction and 30 credit hours toward graduation. But more important, upon graduation, he is simultaneously commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army in the branch of his choice.

WHAT OF THE graduate who earns a commission? In the Army he is obligated to serve two years active duty in the Army Reserve, or, if he is selected, three years in the Regular Army. Following his active duty, he may revert to reserve status, which will return him to civilian life but require him to attend weekly drills and two weeks summer training each year for the remainder of a six-year overall obligation. A request may also be made for another

tour of active duty as an officer.

Thus, the entering freshman male this fall will have to decide whether this program fits in with his college plans.

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