

2026 Fall Job Shadow Day Career Choices

1. **Accounting:** For students to have the opportunity to observe daily operation at WPAFB, learn about 8 different career fields, and see how professionals apply their skills in a real-world Air Force Environment.
2. **Acquisition Logistics:** How the AF acquires weapons systems, interacts with other disciplines (PM, FM, PK).
3. **Acquisitions:** Participate in program and division meetings. Listen in on collaborative discussions with IPT on a highly complex program.
4. **Aerospace Engineer:** Work with other groups to see different jobs around the base
5. **Aerospace Engineer:** The CGOS in AFRL/RA Flight Test is working with AFIT to give a tour of our wind tunnels, hypersonic wind tunnels, as well as assets from AFIT including 3-D Lab, Supersonic Wind Tunnels, Space Propulsions Testing and possibly UAV testing and labs.
6. **Aerospace Engineer:** Discover what it takes to guarantee the safe takeoff and landing of aircraft. Tour our Landing Gear Test Facility and shadow an engineer to see how we test advanced aircraft wheels, brakes, and struts from initial setup to real results.
7. **C-17 Aircraft Maintenance/Fabrication:** Will see how 3 work centers work together to repair, overhaul, rebuild and manufacture parts and assemblies for the C-17 Globemaster. This will include machining, welding, painting, programming, carbon fiber repair and non-destructive inspection methods.
8. **Chemical Engineer:** Tour labs, describe the career path(s) of a researcher, meet researchers at different stages of their careers.
9. **Chemical Engineer:** Day in the Life of an Air Force Chemist and Officer: Lab Tour & Career Overview, observe daily analytical workflows, and STEM career and educational pathways with the Air Force Petroleum Office. Learn how aerospace fuel chemistry directly supports mission readiness and flight safety worldwide.
10. **Chemical Engineer:** Tour some operations systems (high level) fuel system simulators, walk through labs & see analytical equipment that we use to analyze our samples. We have one in four (in the world) NMR systems that we can also show and walk through
11. **Chemical Engineer:** Meet several research scientists and engineers to get a firsthand look at our daily work and how we demonstrate materials for aerospace applications, including metals, ceramics, polymers, and their composites. Material Characterization: Learn how we characterize polymers, ceramics, and metals from nano to macroscales. Non-Destructive Evaluation: See a demonstration of X-ray computed tomography across various materials. Thermal Analysis: Discover how we analyze material behavior, including flow and cure kinetics. Mechanical Testing: Observe micro to macro scale tensile and compression testing. Student Q&A: Meet with current undergraduate and graduate co-op students to gain their perspectives on balancing work and school.
12. **Chemistry:** Shadow an AFPET chemist to explore analytical chemistry, quality assurance, and research required to keep military aircraft fueled and mission ready. Tour the lab, observe fuel and lubricant testing, and learn how chemistry directly impacts aerospace safety and defense technology.
13. **Civil Engineer:** Shadow a day in the life of a Civil Engineer Officer Instructor. We will be in the middle of hosting our 10-week Initial Skills Training Course. This course is required for all Civil Engineer Officers so that they can deploy.
14. **Civil Engineer:** Understand the federal workforce structure and potential job opportunities at WPAFB. Meet with a variety of current staff positions with careers in Air Force Civil Engineering and Mission Support to include Security Forces (police equivalent), Firefighter, Civil Engineer, Structural Engineer, Finance, and Services. Students will mostly be interacting with civilian federal workers, but many are retired military members as well.
15. **Contract Specialist:** Show them my day-to-day activities, explain how I chose this profession and my previous life experience as a social worker and the transition to this field.

- 16. Contract Specialist:** Explain government contracting, share work responsibilities, innovation in contracting/ procurement, etc.
- 17. Education Museum Specialist and Program Manager:** spend the day at the National Museum of the United States Air Force with a museum specialist.
- 18. Electrical Engineer:** Expose students to civilian and military careers on WPAFB with a focus on engineering.
- 19. Engineer/Cybersecurity/Program Management:** DEAMS introduction; Engineering; Artificial Intelligence; Program Execution; Contracting; Development; Cybersecurity; Finance; Deputy PAE/GBG Senior Military Leader meet and greet
- 20. Engineering and Construction/Project Management: Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Architect:** How do you change an airplane engine mid-flight? Or better, how do you overhaul a building with active world-class research inside? We'll show you. Come join our Facility Engineering Team for an in-depth behind the scenes tour of the Foundational Technologies Directorate. See what it takes to maintain and modernize our WW2 facilities for world-class research and materials development. During our time together we'll cover planning, design, engineering and construction activities for various engineering disciplines including mechanical, electrical, civil and architectural.
- 21. Environmental Management:** Base tour highlighting all media areas (air, water, hazardous waste, radiation etc.) of environmental management.
- 22. Executive Administrator:**
- 23. Financial Management:** I am an Instructor of Resources (Financial Management of the Civil Engineer Career field.): Tour the Air Force Institute of Technology Campus, to include a Green Screen Studio visit, will discuss the Financial Management career field; how funding flows and personal experiences in the field.
- 24. Foreign Military Sales:** Give students a tour of AFSAC facilities and an overview of different functions with the organization (Finance, case writing, policy, country teams, etc.).
- 25. Foreign Military Sales:** Tour facility, tour building 10, AFSAC headquarters. Introduce students to team members; my daily tasks, reports and updates for countries and give overview on why the job is important. Tour of WPAFB.
- 26. IG Complaints (recently left from working Foreign Military Sales, retired officer who worked HR (Personnel) and taught AFROTC and more):** Tour the base and talk about handling IG complaints, working FMS and traveling the world doing it, showing the AFMC buildings and talking about that mission--along with Center and Wing missions and showing Areas A, B, and Kittyhawk.
- 27. In-Flight Patient Care:** Full tour of the Aeromedical Evacuation school house to include demo of the lifesaving equipment used in flight along with the opportunity to tour the full-size aircraft fuselages where we train Ground Medics and Nurses to become Flight Medics and Flight Nurses. There will be an amplitude of time for pictures on the aircraft and Q&A!
- 28. Information Technologist -Network engineer:** Go behind the scenes of supercomputing. Lead students on a High-Performance Computing (HPC) tour of Buildings 676 & 802 to see what it takes to run a modern Data Center, showcasing the multidisciplinary technical expertise required to operate, manage, and maintain supercomputers. Explore network architecture, highlighting exactly how data travels from one point to another.
- 29. Intelligent:** Meet at the Air Force Museum; Intelligence and STEM discussion at displays in museum; transit to NASIC; Intelligence and STEM discussions as a group.
- 30. IT Project Management:** Tour the 88 Communications Squadron and see the different career options within Cyber. Discuss how my job relates to the career field as well, and what skillsets are required. Meet different key players required to facilitate IT projects on the base. Walk through the basics of project management, potentially meet a customer and shadow a meeting for a project. This is a managerial type of job that focuses on interpersonal skills, time management, collaboration, and upper-level responsibility.

- 31. Materials Chemistry:** My job is within the Biomaterials Branch. Visit two locations: 65X complex and the offsite location at WSU. Students will get to see a variety of facilities (chemistry, biology, optics, 3D printing, etc.) but there will be a focus on automated materials discovery. The plan would be to discuss trends in coupling robotics and AI to rapidly accelerate scientific discovery.
- 32. Materials Engineer:** Materials science overview/presentation, facility tour, high temperature furnace experiments, diamond saws/grinding/polishing, scanning electron microscopy (SEM) presentation, using a SEM. The grinding, polishing, and SEM will be hands on.
- 33. Mechanical Engineer:** As a research materials engineer, I will be in additive manufacturing lab conducting research on 3D printing polymers.
- 34. Mechanical Engineer:** Brief tour of different buildings around the base. Within this tour, students will get an opportunity to see lab space that pertains to mechanical and thermal experiments. Students will be able to briefly talk to different engineers and technicians to better understand what a typical day looks like to be a research engineer for the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL).
- 35. Physics:** Overview of the Foundational Technologies Directorate and what we do, including discussing connections to academia and industry. Visit multiple lab units focused on physics, chemistry, and materials science of new materials. Learn about some of the applications for new magnetic or ferroelectric materials, observe laser and magnet-based characterization techniques, and observe/learn the process of growing a thin film material (e.g. sapphire) in high vacuum.
- 36. Preventive Medicine/Public Health:** Gain an understanding of military medicine by learning about various medical specialties, the educational and training requirements for medical careers, and what it takes to become a preventive medicine professional or public health doctor in the military. Tour the Military Treatment Facility to explore its different sections, learn the role of each specialty (depending on students' interest). Depending on availability, students may have the opportunity to observe hearing booths and other specialized equipment. Students may attend staff meetings, and observe firsthand how healthcare teams collaborate, make decisions, and support Wright-Patterson's mission.
- 37. Program Management:** I come from a research background, in biomedical engineering, but at AFRL I mostly do program management and tech transfer. Shadowing me would teach the student how to have an overall vision for research and a transition plan before getting too much into the details of it so that they forget what the purpose was.
- 38. Program Management:** I would be willing to have open conversations and talk about my experience.
- 39. Program Management:** Show students around the building, introduce them to our team members, let them sit in and listen to some of our meetings, and just explain what we do on a day-to-day basis! We will make it FUN and educational!
- 40. Program Management, Managing Simulators/Simulations:** Start off with an introduction of my career with WPAFB: past, present, and future. Talk about their career paths/goals and how that relates to WPAFB. Show them my day-to-day task as an engineer.
- 41. Research Psychologist:** Describe my daily duties as a research psychologist, projects that our team are currently conducting, a tour of our buildings and the base (Area B), and plenty of time for any questions.
- 42. Security Forces:** Inform them on what it is to be a K9 handler and the importance of it. There will be a military working dog and gear to assist in giving them the best example.
- 43. System Safety Engineer:** Brief overview of the Base and its various missions. Review of the System Safety Engineer's role and duties: Risk Management. Tour of the Air Force Research Labs Foundational Technologies Directorate: Additive Manufacturing, new materials development, material science labs, materials testing.