



# **Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers**

## **QUICK GUIDE**

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## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The presence of military doctors within the irregular military and the Healthcare Service were established by the First National Assembly at Epidaurus in 1822, during the Greek War of Independence. In 1835, German Philhellene Treiber was appointed Head of the Healthcare Service.

In 1863, military doctors, who until then served as military employees, were fully integrated in the ranks of officers.

In 1911, the commissioning practice of Healthcare Officers changed. Up until then, Medical School graduates were directly commissioned into officer grades, whereas after 1911, High School graduates were first sent to Lyon Military Medical School in France. However, due to the amount of expenses incurred as well as the different educational practices in the French Army, a need to create a Hellenic Military Academy based on French standards soon became urgent.

Law No. 4094/1929 and the Legislative Decree of 30.12.1925 established the Military Medical Academy, which was first housed in the 430 Military Hospital of Athens, known as “Elpis” (Hope). The Commander of the Academy was a Medical Officer (Colonel). The Academy was later relocated to Rouf General Warehouse and shortly thereafter, in June 1935, it ceased to operate.

In 1937, the Hellenic Military Services Academy was established. With its headquarters in the French Hospital of Athens, the Academy consisted of four Departments: Healthcare Department, Department of Enlistment, Department of Managers and Department of Automobiles. Due to the outbreak of the Second World War, the cadets were recruited as soldiers and no healthcare student managed to acquire a medical degree.

In 1945, the Healthcare Department of the Hellenic Military Academy (Evelpidon) was founded, however the need for an autonomous Military Medical Academy soon became clear. Thus, in 1946, the Academy was shut down.

On 6<sup>th</sup> July 1946, the Supreme Military Council announced the establishment of the Military Medical Academy (SIS), based in Thessaloniki. High School graduates would enrol in the Academy according to their performance in special exams and they would be required to serve in the Army for 20 years. The first Commander of the Academy was Colonel Doctor Syllaidopoulos.



Following an order of the Hellenic Army General Staff on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1946, the Military Medical School was temporarily established in the 401 Athens Military Hospital until January 1947 when it resumed operation in Thessaloniki. On 5<sup>th</sup> April 1947, the Academy was established in the building of the former German School; it finally commenced its operations on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1947.

In December 1958, the Academy was relocated to the “Kottas” military camp in the wider area of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and in 1962, foreign students, initially from Jordan and later from other Arabic countries, enrolled in the Academy for the first time.

In June 1970, the Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers was founded by Legislative Decree 562/1970. Located in Thessaloniki and operating under the authority of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, its purpose was to provide the appropriate scientific and military training for the needs of the Armed Forces on the following specialties: (a) Healthcare Officers: Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacists, Veterinarians, (b) Judicial, Enlistment and Finance Officers. The Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers began operating on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1970.

In February 1981, after the separation of “Kottas” military camp to two adjacent camps, the camp in which the Academy was housed was named “Captain Doctor Fokas Military Camp”.

In 1989, a woman enrolled in the Academy for the first time and in 2005, a Psychology specialty was introduced.

In 2010, the Enlistment specialty was renamed to Enlistment – Military Legal Advisors specialty.

## MISSION OF THE ACADEMY

The mission of the Academy is to provide cadets with up-to-date scientific and military education in a harmonious combination. This combined education aims to form Commissioned Officers capable of meeting the needs of the Hellenic Armed Forces in the following Corps:

- ❖ Medical Corps (Doctors, Veterinarians, Dentists, Pharmacists, Psychologists)
- ❖ Finance Corps
- ❖ Enlistment - Military Legal Advisors Corps



The mission of the Academy is illustrated in its emblem and motto.



### **The Emblem**

The owl, as a sacred bird and a symbol of goddess Athena, has always represented wisdom and science. Seated on two spears, it symbolizes wisdom (scientific education), which remains vigilant on arms (military education).

### **The Motto: “Obedience is the mother of Success”**

*“When you invoke the gods, do not be ill-advised. For Obedience is the mother of Success, wife of Salvation”* (Aeschylus, Seven Against Thebes: 223-225).

The chorus of the Theban women ask the gods to save the city from the disaster that is looming. Eteocles tells them to stop crying and comply with his orders, because it is Obedience that generates Success. Obedience is the primary force that preserves the cohesion of the Army and makes all other military virtues useful and fruitful. This is the reason it was also set forth as the main principle of the Academy. And while obedience places a lot of weight on military personnel’s shoulders, it is the weight of the shield they have to bear and not that of a yoke.

## **ACADEMY SPECIALTIES**

The Academy Cadets belong to one of the following specialties, each one corresponding to the different Corps and Specialties the Cadets are commissioned into upon graduation:

- ❖ Medicine
- ❖ Veterinary Medicine
- ❖ Pharmaceuticals
- ❖ Dentistry
- ❖ Psychology
- ❖ Finance
- ❖ Enlistment – Military Legal Advisors



## ORGANISATION

The Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers is an independent Joint Military Formation of Brigade level and operates under the authority of the Deputy Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff.

The position of the commanding officer is held by a Major General and the main divisions of the Academy associated with Cadets' education are the Directorate of Studies and the Cadet Battalion.

The Directorate of Studies (commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel originating from the Academy) is responsible for the proper organisation, management, coordination and supervision of academic and military education. The Cadet Battalion, simulating the structure and organisation of an operational Infantry Battalion and consisting of three Cadet Companies, has a mission to develop Cadets' national and ethical education, enhance their leadership skills, provide applied military and physical education as well as to organise daily life in the Academy in accordance with Army standards and rules of conduct.

6<sup>th</sup> Year Cadets are the commanding class of the Cadet Battalion.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING – UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

The Academy offers both academic and military education, striving to achieve the perfect balance between these two types of education.

Academic education, which covers up the greatest part of the curriculum, takes place in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Depending on their specialty, Cadets attend courses in the corresponding Departments of the University (Departments of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmaceutics, Dentistry, Psychology, Economics and Law), together with civilian students. Cadets practice in the laboratories and clinics of the University and have the same obligations as civilian students. The total duration of academic studies for each Department is as follows:

- ❖ 6 years for Medicine
- ❖ 5 years for Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmaceutics
- ❖ 4 years for Psychology, Economics and Law



Military education mostly takes place on the premises of the Academy and includes military courses and applied military training.

The aim of military courses is to provide Cadets with knowledge on main regulations of the Hellenic Armed Forces as well as on regulations and legislation pertaining to the Corps into which Cadets will be commissioned upon graduation.

Applied military training includes day and night field training. Cadets are trained on subjects such as individual fighter tactics, small infantry echelon exercises, applied military tactics and physical exercises. More specifically, during the academic year, the applied military training includes:

- ❖ Basic Cadet Training for three (3) weeks, designed to introduce new Cadets to military life
- ❖ Winter survival training with the participation of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Year Cadets after the completion of February exam period of the University
- ❖ Three-week long summer survival training with the participation of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Cadets in Poseidi, Chalkidiki region after the completion of June exam period of the University. The completion of this activity marks the end of the annual military training cycle.

## ACCREDITATION

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, where the academic education of the Cadets takes place, is a public state-accredited Tertiary Education Institution. It has been accredited by the Hellenic Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency (HQA) for its compliance with national and European standards on Internal Quality Assurance Systems, while the study programs it offers are systematically evaluated.

## ACADEMIC PERSONNEL AND MILITARY TEACHING STAFF

The academic personnel include professors of various ranks, lecturers and researchers belonging to the Departments of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki which are related to the Cadets' specialties.



The military teaching staff comprises officers belonging to the Academy as well as visiting officers specialised in various scientific and military realms.

## CURRICULUM – SYLLABUS

As regards the academic courses, the curriculum is defined by the academic personnel of all related Departments of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Detailed information on the academic curriculum of each Department may be found on their corresponding websites as follows:

Department of Medicine: <https://www.med.auth.gr/en>

Department of Veterinary Medicine: <https://www.vet.auth.gr/en/>

Department of Pharmaceutics: <https://www.pharm.auth.gr/en>

Department of Dentistry: <https://www.dent.auth.gr/?q=en>

Department of Psychology: <https://www.psy.auth.gr/en>

Department of Economics: <https://www.econ.auth.gr/en/econ>

Department of Law: <https://www.law.auth.gr/en>

Military courses are defined by the Academy Regulation and include courses common to all Cadets as well as specialty-specific courses. More specifically:

### Common Military Courses

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| ❖ General Military Regulations                   | ❖ Art of War                        |
| ❖ Armed Forces Organisation & Military Logistics | ❖ Nuclear, Biological, Chemical War |
| ❖ Military English                               | ❖ Principles of Medical Support     |
| ❖ Leadership and Management                      | ❖ Hierarchy and Promotions          |
| ❖ Military Correspondence                        |                                     |
| ❖ Contemporary Military History                  |                                     |
| ❖ Military Criminal Law                          |                                     |
| ❖ International Law                              |                                     |



### **Finance Specialty Courses**

- ❖ Financial Management
- ❖ Principles of Financial Audit
- ❖ Financial Services Organisation
- ❖ Military Procurement / Contracts
- ❖ Computerised Accounting

### **Enlistment/Legal Specialty Courses**

- ❖ Enlistment Regulation
- ❖ Enlistment Services Organisation
- ❖ Military Legal Advice Offices

### **Psychology Specialty Courses**

- ❖ Psychosocial Care

## **ECTS CREDITS AND DIPLOMA**

On the basis of European and national legislation, ECTS credits are awarded to Cadets for the successful completion of academic courses. The detailed allocation of ECTS credits per course as well as the total amount of credits needed for graduation are defined by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and its academic personnel.

When Cadets fulfil all prerequisites for graduation defined by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (successful completion of all compulsory and elective courses as well as a dissertation or unremunerated training when needed), Cadets are awarded a bachelor's degree (Ptychion), which is classified as a Level 6 qualification in the European Qualifications Framework.

## **PREREQUISITES**

High school graduates enrol in the Academy according to their scholastic performance in the nationwide University admission tests, and following successful completion of additional physical, health and mental testing (Preliminary Tests).

All relevant information for the enrolment of new Cadets is published annually, approximately in early March, by the Ministry of National Defence in a Circular Order, which is also posted on the website of the Academy.



## GRADUATION – PROMOTION – CAREER

Cadets are required to graduate from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in order to be able to graduate from the Academy. As noted above, the total duration of academic studies is four to six years, depending on the Department in which a Cadet attends courses. Cadets are able to extend their academic studies for a maximum of two years; if the above limit is exceeded and Cadets have not fulfilled all prerequisites for graduation from Aristotle University, they are expelled from the Academy and are required to compensate the State financially.

Cadets who successfully graduate from the Academy are named Second Lieutenants, Ensigns or Pilot Officers, depending on the Armed Forces branch to which they are commissioned (Army, Navy or Air Force, respectively), with the exception of Cadets of the Enlistment – Military Legal Advisors specialty. These latter are named Second Lieutenants and serve in units and services of all three branches of the Armed Forces. In addition, a limited number of Medical specialty Cadets may be commissioned as officers of the Hellenic Police.

Academy graduates are obliged to remain in the ranks of the Armed Forces after graduation for double the total duration of their studies, i.e. 12 years for Doctors, 10 years for Veterinarians, Dentists and Pharmacists and 8 years for Psychologists, Financial Officers and Enlistment – Military Legal Advisors.

They serve in units and services of the three branches of the Armed Forces related to the Corps they belong to, i.e. military hospitals and pharmaceuticals warehouses, military veterinary hospitals, mental health support units, enlistment services, legal support offices, expenditure auditing and financial management posts. They may also serve in NATO posts abroad as well as participate in EU / NATO missions and Peace Support Operations. In addition, Military Doctors, Dentists and Veterinarians are allowed to practice Medicine as freelance professionals under Private Law.

All graduates of the Academy evolve into excellent scientist officers, with military and academic recognition. They are able to pursue postgraduate or doctoral studies in Universities of Greece or abroad, participate in real-world research and create connections through a variety of professional clubs.

The graduates' promotion prerequisites are defined in detail by corresponding regulations and legislation.



## ACTIVITIES (DOMESTIC – INTERNATIONAL)

Cadets take part in a wide range of activities, both domestically and internationally.

Firstly, Cadets participate in cadet groups as follows:

- ❖ Track and field, team sports and individual sports groups, which participate in annual Armed Forces and University competitions as well as in various sport events.
- ❖ Byzantine and European music choir, orchestra and traditional dance groups, which participate in musical and artistic events organised inside as well as outside the Academy
- ❖ Drill Platoon, which performs exhibitions during official ceremonies (national holidays, oath taking, etc.) in Thessaloniki.
- ❖ “Proseggiseis” (Approaches) scientific magazine group. First published in October 1986, “Proseggiseis” is a magazine published every four months, which aims to highlight students’ opinions and scientific work, while also hosting interesting research and views of scholars outside the Academy.

The Academy also organises lectures on topics of general interest with the participation of renowned guests, as well as educational visits to:

- ❖ museums (archaeological, war and byzantine culture museums),
- ❖ religious sites (Mount Athos),
- ❖ historical sites (forts, war battlefields, etc.) and
- ❖ army units and formations (4<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, 1<sup>st</sup> Raider/Paratrooper Brigade, 71<sup>st</sup> Airborne Brigade, Tactical Air Force Command, Fleet Headquarters).

Furthermore, Cadets participate in activities pertaining to their specialty, such as conferences, conventions, symposiums, student associations and exchange programmes, both domestically and internationally. This enables them to familiarise themselves with rapid changes and modern concepts introduced in their specialties as well as come in contact with prominent scientists and fellow students from around the world.



## FACILITIES

The Academy complex comprises the following facilities:

- ❖ Administration Headquarters of the Academy (which includes the Academy Commander's office)
- ❖ Four (4) Cadet Company buildings, of which three are currently in use; the 1<sup>st</sup> Cadet Company building houses the Cadet Battalion Commander
- ❖ Directorate of Studies (which includes the Director's office)
- ❖ Restaurant
- ❖ Recreation Hall
- ❖ Computer Room
- ❖ Gym
- ❖ Library
- ❖ Studying Rooms
- ❖ Conference Hall

## TRANSPORTATION

The Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers is located in Thessaloniki. Visitors may reach the city of Thessaloniki by bus, train or airplane. The entry points of the city are the following:

- ❖ Central Bus Terminal "Macedonia"
- ❖ Central Railway Station of Thessaloniki
- ❖ "Macedonia" Airport of Thessaloniki

Visitors may reach the Academy from the aforementioned entry points by urban buses (No. 2K, 12, 14).

The Academy is adjacent to the Aristotle University Campus and the University of Macedonia and only a 15-minute walk away from the city centre.



## CONTACT INFO

### Postal Address:

Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers (SSAS)  
1 Plithonos Gemistou Str.  
GR-546 36 Thessaloniki, GREECE

### Telephone & Email:

Call Centre	(+30) 231 096 2000	ssas@army.gr
Enrolment Office	(+30) 231 096 2112	ssas-dspv@army.gr

## OFFICIAL SITE

The official website of the Hellenic Military Academy of Combat Support Officers is **<https://ssas.army.gr/>**