

## Guidance for Academic Goals Essay

**Format: Standard APA**

**Margins:** 1 inch, as here.

**Font:** Times New Roman, 12 point.

**Spacing:** Double-spaced. Most of this document is single-spaced.

**Word Processing Program:** Microsoft Word or compatible.

**Length:** Approximately 2-3 double-spaced pages maximum

**Due:** See Op Orders

**How to Submit:** Because you will likely not be added to ROTC Blackboard until right before MEC begins, please email your completed Academic Goals Essay to [wren.mills@wku.edu](mailto:wren.mills@wku.edu) as an attached file.

**Grading:** Must receive a 70% or higher to pass this assignment

### **Instructions:**

This paper is to be written as a reflective essay. You **do not** need to answer each question one by one; instead, use each section below to guide your thoughts and reflect more generally on the topics.

Try to use good essay form: have an introductory paragraph with a thesis and a concluding paragraph to wrap it all up. This essay's purpose is to both share your ideas on these points and for us to assess if you will need writing support while at MEC and what kind if you do.

1. What are your opinions about academic credentials? What role do you see them playing in the world inside and outside the army? Do you see academic qualifications playing a role in your career success? Are you considering turning your MEC and JST credits into further credentials, whether further certificates, an associate degree, or a bachelor's degree? If not, what might encourage you to pursue this? Could you see yourself completing a master's degree?
2. What aspects of your military experience do you think are most closely related to college classroom learning? What aspects seem least related?
3. What are your impressions of college campuses, college students, and college professors at this point? Be honest. Where do these impressions come from? How do you see this impacting your work? Have you spent time at your duty campus yet?
4. What do you hope to get out of the MEC? How do you anticipate this will help your work with your ROTC cadets?
5. Do you have concerns about your WKU classes? If so, describe your concerns. Have you taken college classes, either in person or on-line, before? If so, how recently?

**Notes:** Use spell check and grammar check and proofread.

### Grading Rubric: Academic Goals Essay

Criteria	Superior (A)	Average (B-C)	Unacceptable, Please Revise (D-F)
	<b>80-72</b>	<b>71-56</b>	<b>55-0</b>
<b>Depth of Reflection</b>  <b>80%</b>	<p>Response demonstrates in-depth reflection.</p> <p>Viewpoints and opinions are insightful and supported where necessary.</p> <p>Clear, detailed examples are provided, as applicable.</p>	<p>Response demonstrates some reflection.</p> <p>Viewpoints and opinions are not well supported.</p> <p>Examples are not provided or are not clearly relevant to the assignment.</p>	<p>Response demonstrates a lack of reflection.</p> <p>Viewpoints and opinions are missing, inappropriate, and/or unsupported.</p> <p>Examples are not provided.</p>
	<b>20-18</b>	<b>17-14</b>	<b>13-0</b>
<b>Structure and Writing Skills</b>  <b>20%</b>	<p>Writing is mostly clear, concise, and well-organized with good sentence/paragraph construction.</p> <p>Thoughts are expressed coherently and logically.</p> <p>There are few or no errors.</p>	<p>Writing is unclear and/or disorganized in parts. Paragraphs may not be detailed/developed.</p> <p>There are several errors, some of which may impede reading.</p>	<p>Writing is unclear and disorganized.</p> <p>Thoughts ramble and make little sense.</p> <p>There are many errors that impede reading.</p>