



Distinguished Graduate Award Evaluation Criteria (Total: 100 Points & up to three winners)

Purpose:

Honor graduates whose life's work is inspirational, elevates the reputation of the Academy, and exemplifies the highest standards valued by cadets and graduates.

1. Scope of Impact on the Nation, Contribution to Society, and Beyond (40 Points)

Definition:

Magnitude, reach, and significance of the nominee's impact through sustained contributions that influence national, international, or global communities. This includes work that advances a profession, strengthens institutions, or contributes to society through innovation, service, or leadership, with lasting and measurable outcomes.

Scoring Ranges:

- **Exceptional (33–40):** Field-defining impact with sustained national or global significance and broad, enduring influence
- **Strong (25–32):** Major contributions with clear national or international impact and lasting influence
- **Moderate (17–24):** Meaningful contributions with measurable impact, primarily regional or limited in scope

2. Exemplary Leadership and Character (25 Points)

Definition:

Leadership demonstrated through integrity, ethical conduct, and service that inspires trust, respect, and emulation. Includes influence beyond positional authority and a sustained commitment to values consistent with the ideals of the Air Force Academy.

Scoring Ranges:

- **Exceptional (21–25):** Widely recognized exemplar of leadership and character with sustained, far-reaching influence
- **Strong (16–20):** Consistent leadership demonstrating integrity and influence beyond formal roles
- **Moderate (11–15):** Demonstrated leadership with positive but more limited or situational influence

3. Sustained Commitment to USAFA, Cadets, and the Long Blue Line (20 Points)

Definition:

Long-term engagement that strengthens the Academy and supports cadets and the graduate

community through mentorship, service, philanthropy, advocacy, or leadership. Contributions may occur at the institutional, cadet, alumni, or community level.

Scoring Ranges:

- **Exceptional (17–20):** Sustained, high-impact contributions with broad and lasting benefit to USAFA and the graduate community
- **Strong (12–16):** Meaningful and ongoing contributions with clear positive impact
- **Moderate (8–11):** Periodic or localized engagement with measurable outcomes

4. Career Distinction and Lifetime Achievement (15 Points)

Definition:

Overall career distinction reflecting sustained excellence, increasing responsibility, and a body of work consistent with the highest ideals of the Air Force Academy. This criterion validates the nominee's long-term credibility and professional standing.

Scoring Ranges:

- **Exceptional (13–15):** Distinguished career with sustained excellence, significant responsibility, and broad recognition
- **Strong (10–12):** Clear progression with notable achievements and professional credibility
- **Moderate (7–9):** Solid career with consistent performance and some distinction