



**Young Alumni Excellence Award
Evaluation Criteria (Total: 100 Points & up to Four winners)**

Purpose:

Honor young graduates who demonstrate outstanding professional or philanthropic achievement, strong character, and meaningful contributions to their communities that enhance the prestige of the United States Air Force Academy.

1. Professional Achievement to Date (30 Points)

Definition:

Demonstrated performance and advancement in military or civilian roles relative to career stage. Includes level of responsibility, execution of duties, and tangible results produced within a limited time horizon.

Scoring Ranges:

- **Exceptional (25–30):** Distinguished performance with results significantly exceeding peers at a similar career stage
- **Strong (19–24):** Notable accomplishments with clear evidence of effectiveness and advancement
- **Moderate (13–18):** Reliable performance with consistent, positive outcomes

2. Leadership, Character, and Initiative (25 Points)

Definition:

Demonstration of personal drive, ethical conduct, and the ability to guide or influence others. Includes initiative, decision-making, accountability, and actions that reflect the values expected of Air Force Academy graduates.

Scoring Ranges:

- **Exceptional (21–25):** Consistently demonstrates initiative and serves as a model of conduct, influencing others through actions and example
- **Strong (16–20):** Regularly demonstrates sound judgment and initiative, contributing positively to teams or organizations
- **Moderate (11–15):** Displays developing leadership behaviors within assigned roles

3. Contribution to Community and Service Orientation (20 Points)

Definition:

Participation in activities that support or improve communities through volunteerism, philanthropy, advocacy, or public service. Reflects commitment to causes beyond professional responsibilities.

Scoring Ranges:

- **Exceptional (17–20):** Sustained involvement producing clear and meaningful benefits to a community or cause
- **Strong (12–16):** Ongoing participation with observable positive effects
- **Moderate (8–11):** Intermittent involvement with some beneficial outcomes

4. Engagement with USAFA, Cadets, and the Long Blue Line (15 Points)

Definition:

Involvement with the Academy or graduate network through mentorship, outreach, participation in programs, or support of institutional initiatives, appropriate to career stage.

Scoring Ranges:

- **Exceptional (13–15):** Active and consistent involvement that supports cadets or alumni initiatives in a meaningful way
- **Strong (10–12):** Regular participation in Academy or alumni-related efforts
- **Moderate (7–9):** Occasional involvement in relevant activities

5. Future Potential and Trajectory (10 Points)

Definition:

Indications of continued growth based on current direction, increasing responsibility, and demonstrated capacity for greater achievement over time.

Scoring Ranges:

- **Exceptional (9–10):** Clear upward progression with strong indicators of future distinction
- **Strong (7–8):** Steady development with credible indicators of continued advancement
- **Moderate (5–6):** Stable progression with some signs of future growth