

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) – CHANGE 1 CAO 2 SEPT 26

### **SOS 3.0 Program (New)**

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Table 1. SOS 2.0/3.0 Program Comparison

## **SOS 3.0 Program (New)**

### **1. What is the SOS DL 3.0 Program?**

Squadron Officer School Distance Learning (SOS DL) 3.0 is a redesigned, outcomes-based Professional Military Education (PME) program. It is a 175-hour curriculum specifically engineered to develop O-3s and GS 9-12s into tactical warfighters. The program emphasizes mission command, ethical decision-making, and tactical operations through a progressive, integrated learning model.

### **2. What are the primary differences between SOS 2.0 and SOS 3.0?**

The transition to SOS 3.0 introduces a shift to Authentic Assessment and Sequential Programming.

- **Progressive Pathing:**
  - Students must complete courses in a strict sequence. (See question 5)
- **Facilitated Integration:**
  - SOS 3.0 includes four facilitated courses which utilize active instructor guidance to provide timely, constructive feedback, and create a collaborative and supportive learning environment to facilitate peer to peer interaction.
- **Evaluative Rigor:**
  - Leadership and Warfighting Suite self-paced courses now include high-stakes assessments\*.
    - *\*Note: See question 6 for more information.*
- **Projected Timeline:**
  - Due to sequential timeline and availability of facilitated iterations, students should plan for an approximate 8-month completion journey\*.

### **3. What is the Capstone experience?**

The SOS DL 3.0 Capstone (CST-531A) is a four-week, high-intensity collaborative exercise that serves as the program culmination. Students work in a simulated operational environment to solve complex problems focused on Agile Combat Employment (ACE) and near-peer conflict. Assessments are based on the student's decision-making process, staff work, and demonstration of professional competencies throughout the wargame.

#### 4. How does the course rollout work?

The EARLIEST dates available to take each SOS 3.0 course are listed below. Because the roll-out of SOS 3.0 courses is still in progress, **there may be instances where a student is eligible to take a subsequent course that is not yet available.** Students approaching their promotion boards must take extra care to complete their self-paced courses, to be eligible for the facilitated courses as soon as they launch to progress through the program as quickly as possible.

- **ORN-531S:** Available now
- **MTC-531S:** Available now
  - Prereq: ORN-531S complete
- **MTC-532A (FACILITATED):** 7 – 20 Sept 2026 (Registration ended 23 Aug 2026)
  - Prereq: MTC-531S complete
  - NOTE: Student can only take one (1) facilitated course per term.
- **LDR-531S:** 21 Sept 2026
  - Prereq: Registering for MTC-532A
- **LDR-532S:** 21 Sept 2026
  - Prereq: LDR-531S complete
- **LDR-533A (FACILITATED):** 2 – 22 Nov 2026
  - Registration ends 18 Oct 2026
  - Prereq: LDR-532S complete
  - NOTE: Student can only take one (1) facilitated course per term.
- **WAR-531S:** 1 Oct 2026
  - Prereq: LDR-532S complete
- **WAR-532S:** 1 Oct 2026
  - Prereq: WAR-531S complete
- **WAR-533S:** 2 Nov 2026
  - Prereq: LDR-533A AND WAR-532S complete
- **WAR-534S:** 2 Nov 2026
  - Prereq: WAR-533S complete
- **WAR-535A (FACILITATED):** 4 – 24 Jan 2027
  - Registration ends 20 Dec 2026
  - Prereq: WAR-534S complete

- NOTE: Student can only take one (1) facilitated course per term.
- **CST-531A (FACILITATED): 1 – 28 Feb 2027**
  - Registration ends 17 Jan 2027
  - Prereq: Active enrollment in WAR-535A
  - NOTE: Student can only take one (1) facilitated course per term.

## **5. What happens if I fail a high-stakes exam?**

High stakes testing is included in all self-paced courses in the Leadership (LDR) and Warfighting (WAR) suites. Students are allowed two attempts to pass the final exam; students who fail the course will be required to re-enroll and start the course from the beginning prior to moving forward in the program.

## **Legacy SOS 2.0 Program (Current)**

### **1. What happens to my current SOS DL 2.0 enrollment?**

Students currently enrolled in SOS DL 2.0 will remain in the 2.0 program and can continue working under existing requirements.

- Current SOS DL 2.0 students will have until the program's sunset on 1 November 2026 to complete **all** requirements.
- SOS 2.0 students may request disenrollment via the AFGC Help Desk and enroll in SOS 3.0 but will NOT receive any transfer credit.
- Anyone who did not complete LDR-504A by August 2026 is unable to progress and is being disenrolled.

### **Program Sunset and Transition**

- **Hard Sunset:** SOS DL 2.0 will be deactivated on 1 November 2026.
- Students who do not complete **all** program requirements by 1 Nov will be disenrolled.
- Students must enroll in SOS DL 3.0 via the AFGC admissions process.
  - There is no automatic migration from SOS 2.0 to SOS 3.0.
- There are **no course equivalencies** or **transfer credits** between SOS DL 2.0 and SOS DL 3.0.
- **Final Offerings of SOS DL 2.0**
  - **Leadership Series LDR-504A**
    - August 2026
    - Registration deadline: 19 July 2026
  - **Warfighting Series AIR-502A**
    - October 2026
    - Registration deadline: 20 September 2026

### **2. If I am in a 2.0 self-paced course during the 3.0 launch, what should I do?**

You have two options:

- **Option A (Complete 2.0)**
  - If you can realistically finish all remaining self-paced courses and enroll in the final facilitated courses (LDR-504A and AIR-502A) by the registration deadlines, you should proceed with completion of SOS 3.0.
- **Option B (Transition to 3.0)**

- You may request SOS 2.0 disenrollment from SOS 2.0 via the AFGC Help Desk and enroll for SOS 3.0 on or after **1 July 2026** via the AFGC admissions process.

### 3. Will this change impact my military records or Reserve points?

- **Personnel Records:** There is no impact on your master personnel record. Both versions grant the same SOS completion credit. Transcripts will reflect the specific course numbers completed.

**Reserve Points:** While AFGC does not award points directly, the contact hours have increased from 135 to 175. Total Force Service Center (TFSC) remains the point of contact for all Reserve point inquiries.

**Table 1. SOS 2.0/3.0 Program Comparison**

| SOS DL 2.0                  | SOS DL 3.0                  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ORN-501S (0 contact hours)  | ORN-531S (0 contact hours)  |
| GSS-501S (10 contact hours) | MTC-531S (10 contact hours) |
| LDR-501S (10 contact hours) | MTC-532A (15 contact hours) |
| LDR-502S (15 contact hours) | LDR-531S (10 contact hours) |
| LDR-503S (10 contact hours) | LDR-532S (20 contact hours) |
| LDR-504A (20 contact hours) | LDR-533A (25 contact hours) |
| WAR-501S (10 contact hours) | WAR-531S (10 contact hours) |
| ISS-501S (15 contact hours) | WAR-532S (15 contact hours) |
| AIR-501S (15 contact hours) | WAR-533S (15 contact hours) |
| JNT-501S (10 contact hours) | WAR-534S (15 contact hours) |
| AIR-502A (20 contact hours) | WAR-535A (20 contact hours) |
|                             | CST-531A (20 contact hours) |