



# Education and Incentives Center

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 3

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## Education & Incentives Center Welcomes New Division Chief, CPT. Danielle O’Keefe

Hello! My name is CPT Danielle O’Keefe, and I am excited to take on the opportunity to serve you as the new Education and Incentives Division Chief. I work with a phenomenal team that is ready to support you, discover your interests and aspirations as well as share all opportunities that are on the table for you and your dependents.

If you have questions about education and incentives, please don’t hesitate to reach out to our office. Whether it’s your GI Bill, Military Family Education Program, Federal Tuition Assistance or Blended Retirement System – Continuation Pay, we can answer your questions, verify eligibility, and get you signed up with the benefits that are available to you. I look forward to working with you.

**Join Our Teams Channel!**

Stay up-to-date on education programs and bonus processing for you and your Soldiers – join the [Education & Incentives Division MS Teams Channel](#) under PAJFHQ\_G1 (External).

## Department of Veteran Affairs Announces New Chapter 33 Rates for 2024-2025

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced the post-9/11 GI Bill rates for the 2024-2025 school year. These rates take effect Aug. 1, 2024.

### Private and Foreign School GI Bill Rates

Effective Aug. 1, those using the Post-9/11 GI Bill at a private or foreign school will see their maximum yearly GI Bill rate increase from \$27,120.05 to \$28,937.09.

### Flight Training

Those who are enrolled in flight schools will see their annual maximum GI Bill benefit increase from \$15,497.15 to \$16,535.46.

### Licensing/Certification/National Testing

You can be reimbursed up to \$2,000 per test for licensing and certification tests. For national testing programs, there is no maximum amount of GI Bill reimbursement. Your entitlement will be charged one month for every \$2,348.36 spent in 2024-2025; currently, that amount is \$2,262.59.

### Correspondence Courses

You can be reimbursed the actual net costs, not to exceed \$14,055.13 annually in 2024-2025. That's up from \$13,172.57 currently.

### Monthly Housing Allowance

The monthly housing allowance (MHA) also changes Aug. 1.

If you attend classroom sessions, your housing allowance is based on the ZIP code of the campus location where you attend most of your classes.

Your MHA is prorated based on the length of your active-duty service and how many classes you are taking.

If you attend a foreign school, you will receive an MHA of \$2,355.00 in 2024-2025. That is the U.S. national average.

If you attend all your classes online, your maximum housing allowance will be \$1,177.50.

Check the rates for the GI Bill program rates

<https://www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/>



## Can I transfer my post-9/11 GI Bill benefits?

You may be able to transfer your post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to a dependent family member if you're on active duty or in the Selected Reserve and you meet all these requirements.

### All of these must be true:

1. You've completed at least 6 years of service on the date your request is approved, and
2. You agree to add 4 more years of service, and
3. The person getting benefits is enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)

\*Your spouse can use these benefits right away whether you're on active duty or have separated from service.

\*Your child can start to use these benefits only after you've finished at least 10 years of service. They can use these benefits while you're on active duty or after you've separated from service.

### How do I transfer my GI Bill benefits?

1. Visit <https://milconnect-pki.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>
2. Choose "Transfer my education benefits" from the middle column.
3. Log in using your CAC.
4. Answer the questions.

\* You will receive an email once the transfer has been approved.

## Federal Tuition Assistance Action List FALL 2024

The Fall semester is quickly approaching! Don't miss out on your FTA because of missing or incorrect information, a forgotten hold on your account, or a missed deadline. Below are 5 items to act on and be mindful of when preparing to submit funding requests for the FALL 2024 semester.

1. Soldiers using the Federal Tuition Assistance Program must navigate to the upgraded version of the ArmyIgnitED portal <https://www.ArmyIgnitED.Army.mil/student> to establish a NEW ArmyIgnitED account to request tuition assistance.
2. Ensure your civilian education level is correct. TA funds will not be authorized for Soldiers whose current civilian education level is incorrect in ArmyIgnitED. To permanently fix this issue, Soldiers must contact their unit S1 administrative staff to have their civilian education code updated in IPPS-A.

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Did You Know?

Pennsylvania National Guard Association (PNGAS) offers a wealth of resources and support to its members. From access to educational and professional development opportunities to information on benefits and services available to Guardsmen and Veterans.

Membership in PNGAS provides you with invaluable networking opportunities. You can connect with fellow Guardsmen, Veterans, and supporters who share your experiences, goals, and challenges.

PNGAS and associated organizations promotes continuous learning and professional growth through education initiatives and scholarship programs. Members benefit from workshops, seminars, and conferences that enhance skills and expand knowledge.

As a PNGAS member, you gain a powerful voice that advocates for the rights, benefits, and recognition of Pennsylvania Guardsmen, Veterans, and their families.

And, if you are a member and are ready to take your advocacy one step forward, please look at joining the National Guard Association of the United States.

<https://www.ngaus.org/membership/member-benefits/scholarships>.

## In-Demand DOD Careers

Ensuring the defense of our country requires more than warfighters. Our talented cadre of over 950,000 non-uniformed Civilians serve in 650 occupations in 94 different countries around the globe. We work in offices and laboratories, shipyards and airfields, medical facilities, and schools. We serve under different flags – Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, or Defense Agencies but support a common ultimate mission, ‘to deter war and protect the security of our nation’. Explore the many opportunities the DOD offers and let us help you find your fit.

Discovering the Nation’s scientific breakthroughs.

Science, Technology & Mathematics

Medical, Health, and Wellness

Intelligence

Energy

Developing technology used for national security

[DOD CIVILIAN CAREERS](#)

## Federal Tuition Assistance Closeout Message

1. ALL TA Requests for FY24 (for courses with a start date up until 30 September 2024) must be submitted and approved prior to 2000 hrs. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) 6 September 2024. No exceptions will be granted.

2. Soldiers may create TA Requests for courses beginning in FY25 (i.e. 1 October 2024 and beyond), between 60 – 8 days in advance of the course start date. As a reminder, FY25 requests are subject to the availability of funds.

3. For additional information/questions, contact your State ESO and/or ESS.

## Credentialing Assistance Closeout Message

1. ALL CA Requests for FY24 (for courses or exams with a start date up until 13 September 2024) must be submitted prior to 2000 hrs. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) 30 July 2024. Soldiers will not have the ability to submit FY24 CA Requests with start dates from 14-30 September 2024.

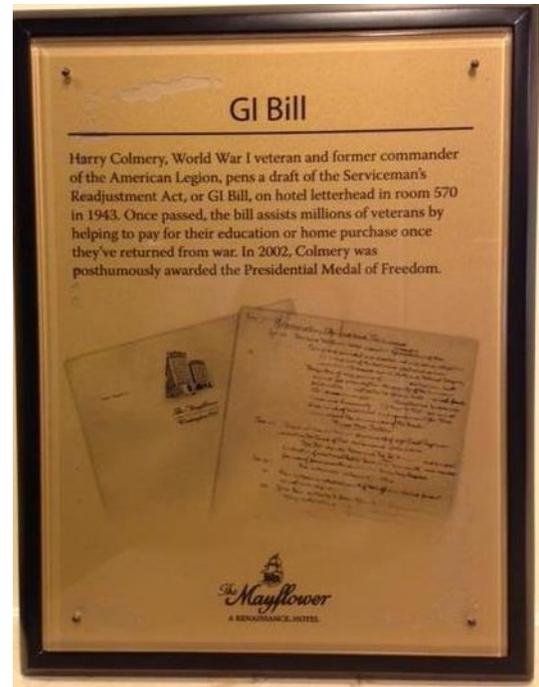
2. Soldiers may submit CA Requests beginning 17 September 2024 for courses or exams that start on or after 1 November 2024 (not to exceed 90 days from submission). As a reminder, FY25 requests are subject to the availability of funds.

3. For additional information/questions, contact an Army CA Virtual Counselor:  
[https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/costs\\_and\\_funding/index.html?credentialingassistance](https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/costs_and_funding/index.html?credentialingassistance).

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Education & Incentives Center is now an authorized CLEP testing center. CLEP exams provide the opportunity for individuals to test out of introductory courses and move to more advanced courses sooner, saving you time and money while pursuing your degree. For more information, please contact the Education & Incentives Center (717.865.4529) OR Education Center West (724.613.1021) for more information.

3. Evaluated Degree Plan (EDP) holds can be resolved by attaching your EDP to an ed center helpdesk message. Your school owns your EDP, contact your school for assistance.
4. Soldiers may submit TA Requests (TARs) within ArmyIgnitED up to 60 days before the term start date **but must** submit the requests no later than eight (8) days prior to the term start date. **NOTE:** Soldiers who miss their 7-day window must submit an Ed Center helpdesk message through the AIED Portal for counselor course load consideration. Late requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
5. The best practice for ensuring your FTA is approved is to be proactive. Start checking your accounts now to clear any holds.



## Do You Know About Harry W. Colmery?

Harry W. Colmery is often referred to as the “Father of the GI Bill” – credited with drafting the first version of the bill back in late 1943/early 1944.

While holed up in Washington's Mayflower Hotel for five months, Colmery handwrote the GI Bill of Rights on the hotel's stationary. Today, over 70 years later, there is a plaque on the 5th floor of The Mayflower Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel that reads: "Harry Colmery, World War I Veteran and former commander of the American Legion, pens a draft of the Serviceman's Readjustment Act, or GI Bill, on hotel letterhead in room 570 in 1943. Once passed, the bill assists millions of Veterans by helping pay for their education or home purchase once they've returned from war. In 2002, Colmery was posthumously awarded the President Medal of Freedom.

Updated: 4 August 2023

# ARMY PERSONNEL TESTING (APT)

**ENHANCE YOUR MILITARY CAREER!**



**WHAT IS IT?**  
APT is comprised of standardized tests used to determine eligibility for specialized training and to support the Army's personnel selection and classification process, including language proficiency testing.

**HOW DO I QUALIFY?**  
Be an active drilling member of the ARNG

**WHAT DO I GET?**  
With APT, Soldiers can take the following tests at no charge to enhance your military career:

**ARMED FORCES CLASSIFICATION TEST (AFCT):**

- Raise GT/Line Scores to Re-class MOS or qualify for Officer Candidate School

**SELECTION INSTRUMENT FLIGHT TRAINING (SIFT):**

- Qualify for Aviation School

**LANGUAGE TESTS (DLPT, DLAB, OPI):**

- Qualify for Foreign Language Billets & Proficiency bonuses

**HOW DO I APPLY?**  
To schedule an APT exam, contact your unit, obtain a DA Form 4187 (Request for Personnel Action), signed by the Unit Commander and submit to your state Education Services Officer (ESO) and/or Test Control Officer (TCO)

**LINKS FOR TEST PREP:**

- Online Academic Skills Course (OASC): <https://dantes.petersons.com>
- MWR Library Online Resources (EBSCO): <http://mylibraryus.armybiznet.com/>
- Defense Language Institute: <https://www.dliflc.edu/resources/>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

- Contact the PA Education Center: 717.865.4529 or [ng.pa.paarnng.list.jfhq-g1-education@army.mil](mailto:ng.pa.paarnng.list.jfhq-g1-education@army.mil)
- Visit us Online: [www.pa.ng.mil/education](http://www.pa.ng.mil/education)
- Education Services Officer, Janet Hooper; 717.861.2434
- Guidance Counselor-West, Steven Wilt; 724.613.1021

Join us on social media @arngeducation



# Pennsylvania National Guard Scholarship Fund Application Deadline Extended to 1 September 2024!

## About the Pennsylvania National Guard Scholarship Fund

Seeing an opportunity to assist its members, leaders of the Pennsylvania National Guard organized the Scholarship Fund in 1976. The original funds were raised through special volunteer projects. In addition, the Officers and Warrant Officers of the PA Army and Air Guard contributed \$20,000 placing the Fund on a sound financial basis. The first scholarship award was given in 1977 (12 scholarships at \$250 each). To date the fund has distributed in excess of \$425,000 in grants.

## Pennsylvania National Guard Scholarship Fund Application Instructions – 2025

**\*\*Application follows on pages 7 and 8\*\***

**ALL** applicants must complete **Section A** and include a one-page minimum, double-spaced, 12 font, typed essay indicating your future military goals and civilian plans. Include life experiences that encouraged you to join the military and attend an institution of higher education. **SIGN YOUR ESSAY.**

**Definition of full-time student and accredited institution:** Full-time is defined as meeting the academic requirement considered to be full-time for the institution in which he/she is enrolled. Accredited institution is defined as a school providing education at a post-secondary level that is qualified by a nationally recognized sanctioning agency.

**CATEGORY I APPLICANTS:** Entering their first year of higher education as a full-time student at an accredited institution. You must provide your high school transcript with your GPA and school or program acceptance memorandum. **You must complete Section B.**

**CATEGORY II APPLICANTS:** Students who are presently attending an accredited institution of higher education full-time. Include a copy of your unofficial transcript and current verification from your registrar's office indicating you are a full-time student. **You must complete Section C.**

**Applicants must obtain their unit commander's signature demonstrating they are in good standing with the Pennsylvania National Guard.**

Complete all attachments within the PNGSF application and send to:

PA NG Education Center  
Fort Indiantown Gap, Iland Ave  
Building 9-54  
Annville, PA 17003-5002

POC is Janet Hooper. She can be reached at (717) 861-2434 or [janet.l.hooper.civ@army.mil](mailto:janet.l.hooper.civ@army.mil)

The **suspense date** for completed applications is **01SEPT 2024.**

**INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.  
ADVANCED DEGREE STUDENTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE**

**Pennsylvania National Guard Scholarship Fund Application**  
Education Center Building 9-54 Iland, Avenue Fort Indiantown Gap  
Annville, PA 17003-5002

**SECTION A – GENERAL INFORMATION (must be completed by all applicants)**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **RANK:** \_\_\_\_\_

(LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MI)

**DATE OF BIRTH:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

(MM / DD / YEAR)

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

(STREET) (CITY) (STATE) (ZIP)

**CIVILIAN EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT and PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE ENLISTMENT EXPIRES (ETS):** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL/COLLEGE EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (Sports/Clubs/etc.)**

ACTIVITY	INCLUSIVE DATES	ADVISOR'S NAME
1.		
2.		
3.		

**COMMUNITY RELATED ACTIVITIES (Church/Organizations/Associations)**

ACTIVITY	INCLUSIVE DATES	ADVISOR'S NAME
1.		
2.		
3.		

\*If your application is based upon eligibility as a dependent of a deceased or permanently disabled National Guard member (See \* below), complete the following:

Former member's name and last known rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Former member's last unit of assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

Former member's present status: Deceased (Y / N) Permanently Disabled (Y / N)

\*Must have died or been permanently disabled as a result of National Guard duty and you are required to submit his or her DD 214.

**COMPLETE SECTION B (CAT I) OR SECTION C (CAT II) ON REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM**

**Pennsylvania National Guard Scholarship Fund Application**  
**Education Center Building 9-54 Iland, Avenue Fort Indiantown Gap**  
**Annville, PA 17003-5002**

**SECTION B – CATEGORY I** (Applicant entering first year at an institution of higher education as a full-time student)

\*To be completed by applicant and accompanied by a copy of their high school transcript with their GPA and a current school/program acceptance letter.

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_ GED Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION C – CATEGORY II** (Applicant presently attending an institution of higher education as a full-time student)

Program/Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

\*If applicant is between two colleges (post associates or starting a new school), the transcripts must be from the last school attended.

**APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION**

**(Must be signed and dated by applicant)**

*To the best of my knowledge, the information furnished herein is true and correct. I agree to remain a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard during the academic year for which the scholarship is granted.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT COMMANDER'S CERTIFICATION**

**(Must be signed and dated by the unit Commander or his/her designated representative)**

*I certify that the above-named applicant is currently a member in good standing of this unit.*

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Commander (Printed Name): \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Commander (Signature): \_\_\_\_\_

## Getting to Know Your Education Benefits

### GI Bill Programs

GI Bill Programs are statutory entitlements that are administered by the military services and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Soldiers may receive up to 36 months in any one DVA educational assistance program and a maximum of 48 months of combined benefits if eligible for two or more DVA educational assistance programs. For the most current GI Bill information visit the DVA website located at [benefits.va.gov/gibill/](https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/)

### Qualifying for GI Bill Programs

#### Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)

Serve at least 90 cumulative days in a period of qualifying Active Duty on or after September 11, 2001.

- Title 10 USC Sections 688; 12301(a), (d), (g), (h); 12302; 12304, 12304a, 12304b
- AGR under Title 10 or Title 32
- Title 32 USC Section 502(f) as follows:
  - Operation Noble Eagle Sep 11, 2001 – May 31, 2002
  - Southwest Border (Operation Guardian Shield) Feb 15, 2019- January 20, 2021
  - COVID-19 Pandemic Response March 22, 2020-Present
  - Capitol Police (59<sup>th</sup> Inauguration): January 11, 2021 – May 23, 2021
- If Soldier has eligibility for another GI Bill program(s), one of the programs must be relinquished when electing Post-9/11.

#### Montgomery GI Bill – AD (Chapter 30)

- Served on Title 10 Active Duty after 30 June 1985.
- Served on Title 32 AGR after 29 November 1989.
- Complete a DD Form 2366.
- Contribute \$1,200.
- Receive an Honorable Discharge

#### Services Members are NOT eligible if they:

- Have ever declined the MGIB-AD.
- Are a Service Academy Graduate.
- Have an initial active-duty period under Title 10 beginning on or before June 30, 1985.
- Have an initial AGR period under Title 32 beginning on or before November 28, 1989.
- Are an ROTC scholarship recipient who completed ROTC on or before Sep 30, 1996.
- Are an ROTC scholarship recipient on or after October 1, 1996, who received at least \$3,400 of ROTC scholarship benefits in any one year of ROTC participation.

#### Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 1606)

- Complete the requirements of a secondary school diploma or its equivalent.
- Agree to a six-year National Guard enlistment obligation (for enlisted this is accomplished using a DD Form 4 or DA form 4836, officers use a DA Form 5447-R).
- Complete Initial Active Duty for Training (IADT) or Basic Officer Leaders Course (BOLC)
- Remain a member in good standing in the National Guard

\*\*Soldiers mobilized on Title 10 Active Duty may receive an extension of their period of eligibility for the length of the mobilization plus four months. This is a DVA process that occurs after the Soldier Separates from the Selective Reserve.

## Funding Received

### Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)

- Tuition and Fees:
  - Up to 100% of in-state tuition at public schools
  - Up to \$27,120.05/year at private or foreign schools
- Books and Supply Stipend:
  - Up to \$1000/academic year (1.67/credit hour)
- Monthly Housing Allowance:
  - Equal to BAH rate—E5 with dependents
  - \$988 if attending only online classes
- Payments pro-rated based on your percentage tier
  - 36 months or purple heart recipient = 100%
  - 30 – 36 months = 90%
  - 24 – 30 months = 80%
  - 18 – 24 months = 70%
  - 6 – 18 months = 60%
  - 90 days – 6 mo. = 50%

### Montgomery GI BILL – AD (Chapter 30)

- A monthly payment paid directly to the Soldier based on amount of active duty served.
  - 3+ yrs of service = \$2,358 per month
  - 2-3 yrs of service = \$1,793 per month
- **Top Up Program:** If on active duty, you can use the MGIB-AD to pay tuition expenses not paid by FTA.
- **Optional Plus-Up Program:** Allows Soldiers to contribute up to an additional \$600 which will increase your monthly benefit up to \$150 per month.

### Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 1606)

#### Institutional Training

- Full-time enrollment: \$466 per month
- Three-quarter time: \$349 per month
- Half-time: \$233 per month
- Less than half-time: \$116.50 per month

#### Apprentice and On-the-Job Training

- First six months of training: \$349.50
- Second six months of training: \$256.30
- Remaining pursuit of training: \$153.65

**IAW PPOM 22-038a dtd 21JUN23: Effective immediately and retroactive to 1OCT22, enlisted Soldiers who change their MOS or UIC no longer require an ETP to avoid termination of their Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) Kicker. Soldiers must remain qualified in their contracted MOS, maintain it as a SMOS, become DMOSQ in their new MOS within 24 months, and remain deployable. UIC changes: new unit must be an MTOE or authorized TDA.**

## Federal Tuition Assistance

Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) is available for both classroom and distance learning college courses. Service members can request FTA by visiting <https://www.armyignited.army.mil/>!



## Qualifying for Federal Tuition Assistance

### Federal Tuition Assistance Eligibility Requirements

- **All Soldiers** should establish an ArmyIgnitED account to access information on voluntary education programs and services.
- Be currently serving in good standing in the ARNG and have a Common Access Card (CAC).
- Soldiers cannot have a hold on their ArmyIgnitED Account (once created).
- Must maintain a 2.0 or higher GPA for undergraduate courses or a 3.0 or higher GPA for graduate courses.

**Soldiers are NO LONGER required to complete Basic Combat Training to utilize FTA but must be issued a CAC by their unit to use FTA benefit**

### Service Req./Obligation:

- **Enlisted:** Have an ETS or MRD after completion of FTA funded course(s)
- **Officers and Warrant Officers:** Subject to a two-year active-duty service obligation (ADSO) or four-year reserve duty obligation (RDSO)

### Additional Criteria:

- Academic Institutions must have a signed DoD MOU to receive TA funding. Check your school here: <https://www.dodmou.com/Home/InstitutionList>
- Use the helpdesk messenger for TA assistance. Link is located on the left side of your student homepage (see next page for example)
- **Contact us first if you have any questions!**

## How Much Does FTA Pay?

- Cost of tuition (no fees) up to \$4000 per Fiscal Year.
- Up to 16 semester hours per fiscal year (Oct 1-30 Sep)
- Lifetime FTA Caps:
  - Undergraduate 130 semester hours
  - Graduate 39 semester hours
  - One Time Academic Certification 21 semester hours

## Things to Know Before Applying!

1. Before requesting TA the Soldier must establish an ArmyIgnitED account. Account registration and activation may require Soldiers to update their personnel record through their unit S1 administrative office. Soldiers encountering problems with ArmyIgnitED should contact their local education center or office or create an ArmyIgnitED helpdesk case for assistance.
2. Soldiers must sign an electronic user agreement acknowledging compliance with Army TA Policies and procedures each time they create a TAR.
3. Soldiers must complete the Virtual Benefits Training after setting up an ArmyIgnitED account and then annually or when prompted by the system.
4. Soldiers must declare an education goal in terms of an associate's, baccalaureate, or master's degree. This goal must be indicated in your ArmyIgniteED Account.
5. Soldiers may submit TARs up to 60 days before the class start date but **no later than** eight (8) days prior to the class start date.
6. Soldiers must request TA in the ArmyIgnitED portal prior to registering with their Academic Institution for classes.

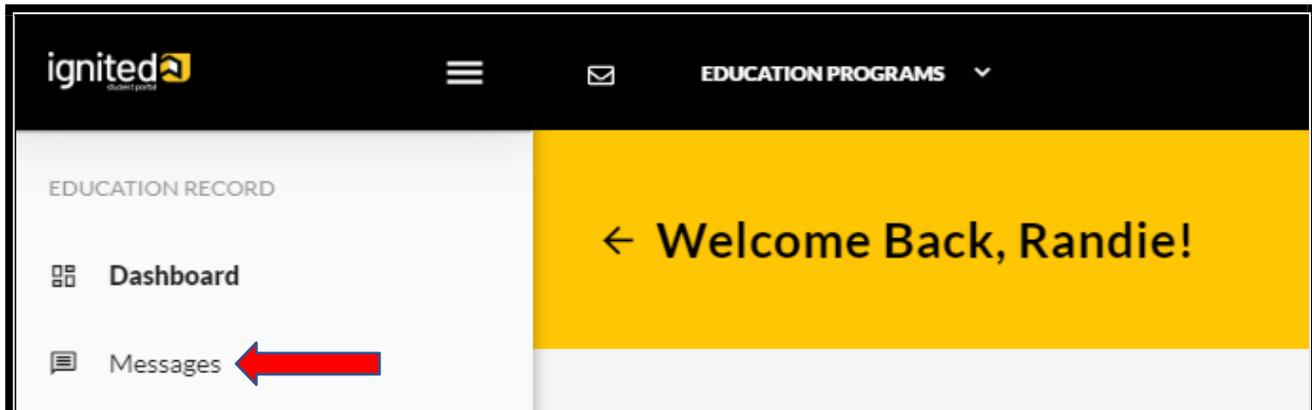
## Who Can I Contact?

Your NGB Education Specialist is Mr. Sean Stricek. Mr. Stricek is the FTA Manager for the Pennsylvania and Delaware ARNG.

Use the AIED Helpdesk Messenger to submit a helpdesk ticket

Please be proactive! Calls, emails, and voicemails may take up to 3 business day to resolve.

## Find the Helpdesk Message Link on AIED!



## Credentialing Assistance

Credentialing Assistance allows Soldiers to develop marketable skills, not necessarily aligned to their military occupational specialty, which will help them find civilian employment post-service. The program supplements the Army's current credentialing programs offered through Army schools as part of institutional training. Credentials offered through this program will have a military nexus to ensure the Army benefits from the program during the Soldier's service. The Army's Credentialing Assistance (CA) Program provides soldiers with funding for more than 1,800 credentials.



## How do I qualify?

- Be currently serving in good standing in the ARNG and have a Common Access Card (CAC)
- Soldiers cannot be flagged
- Complete credential prior to separation/ETS
- Officers no longer incur a Military Service Obligation (MSO)
- **Soldiers are NO LONGER required to complete Basic Combat Training to utilize CA.**

## What do I get?

- Soldiers can be eligible for up to \$4000/fiscal year between Credentialing Assistance and Tuition Assistance
- CA can be used for any credential listed on Army COOL at: <https://www.cool.osd.mil/army> and does not have to be related to the Soldier's MOS
- All expenses are paid prior to course/exam start date (Soldiers who pay out of pocket will not be reimbursed)
- Popular Certifications:
  - CompTIA Network+ and CompTIA Security+
  - Project Management Professional (PMP)
  - Private Pilot, Airplane Single Engine
  - Certified Personal Trainer (NASM-CPT)
  - Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

## How do I apply?

- Ensure your credential is listed on Army COOL at: <https://www.cool.osd.mil/army>
- Apply online at: <https://www.armyignited.army.mil> – CAC REQUIRED!



Request a CA Virtual Counseling Session at:

[https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/costs\\_and\\_funding/index.html?credentialingassistance](https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/costs_and_funding/index.html?credentialingassistance)

Select the CONTACT AN ARMY CA COUNSELOR button and complete the requested information.

## Educational Assistance Program

The Educational Assistance Program (EAP) is a state funded program; it provides educational assistance for eligible members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. EAP funding is awarded regardless of financial need.

## Eligibility Requirements

- Members must have a six-year service agreement with the PA National Guard, sign a Statement of Understanding and a Promissory Note prior to submitting an application.
- Be an active satisfactory participant in the PA National Guard in good standing. (Less than 9 AWOLS in any 1-year period and meet eligibility criteria per updated flag codes in PMR 621-5 – not all flags disqualify SMs from payment.)
- Be an eligible member of PA National Guard prior to the first day of class.
- Be enrolled in a degree-granting or certificate-granting curriculum, course of study or training program required for entrance into a specific career to be pursued on a full-time or part-time basis or its equivalent at a school located in Pennsylvania and approved by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). There are approximately 400 schools.
- A member is not eligible for EAP benefits if receiving a Line ROTC Scholarship. However, if the member is receiving a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship or a Dedicated National Guard Scholarship through the ROTC program, member is still eligible for EAP funding.
- **The 14 State System of Higher Education schools are:**
  - Bloomsburg, California, Cheyney, Clarion, East Stroudsburg, Edinboro, Indiana, Kutztown, Lock Haven, Mansfield, Millersville, Shippensburg, Slippery Rock, West Chester
- EAP can provide full-time funding for students up to the first bachelor's degree. Once a bachelor's degree has been obtained, eligible member can only receive funding up to 11 (part-time) credits or its equivalent, even if the member is enrolled as a full-time student.
- Mobilized members that had to withdraw from classes due to deployment may be eligible for an extended EAP deadline after discharge.
- Eligible EAP members who receive a discharge for a disability incurred in the line of duty may be eligible for EAP benefits after their discharge.

## Funding Received

- Full-time Grants – the tuition plus technology fee or \$4,097.00 whichever is less per semester. Full-time students must take 12 or more credits per semester.
- Part-time Grants for members who may or may not possess a baccalaureate degree – the tuition and technology fee per credit or the \$342.00 per credit tuition and technology rate charged by PASSHE, whichever is less per semester. Part-time students can be funded up to 11 credits per semester.
- The EAP award amount can be applied to tuition costs, fees, books, and room and board up to the allowable cost of attendance for members using FTA and GI Bill (Chapter 33) for the same term.
- Funding is limited to 10 full-time semesters or 120 part-time credits.

## Application Process

To apply for benefits, eligible members must log into [www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org), sign on as a student and complete an EAP Form 2 (Educational Assistance Program Application). Yearly submission of an EAP application is required, the application should be used to request benefits for the entire academic year (i.e., fall, winter, spring, and summer semesters).

**EAP applications for the 2024-2025 academic year (fall-summer 2024-2025) can be submitted on the PHEAA portal starting 1APR24. Students should apply for funding for all semesters they may attend – it's easier to remove semesters than add them later! The 2023-2024 will be closed on the portal 1APR. Submit your applications via [www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org) today!**

## Military Family Education Program

The Military Family Education Program (MFEP) is a state funded program designed to provide educational assistance for dependents of eligible members of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

## Eligibility Requirements

- Members must have completed an initial contract and then commit to a six-year service agreement with the PA National Guard and sign a statement of Understanding (MFEP Form-1) and a MFEP Member Promissory Note, MFEP Form-4 and upload 1172. **\*\*Member cannot be in an MFEP and EAP contact during the same period of service\*\***
- Be an active satisfactory participant in the PA National Guard in good standing. (Less than 9 AWOLS in any 1-year period and meet eligibility per updated flag codes in PMR 621-5 – not all flags disqualify SMs from payment.
- Be enrolled in a degree-granting or certificate-granting curriculum, course of study or training program required for entrance into a specific career to be pursued on a full-time or part-time basis or its equivalent at a school located in Pennsylvania and approved by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). There are approximately 400 schools.
- **The 14 State System of Higher Education schools are:**
  - Bloomsburg, California, Cheyney, Clarion, East Stroudsburg, Edinboro, Indiana, Kutztown, Lock Haven, Mansfield, Millersville, Shippensburg, Slippery Rock, West Chester

## Funding Received

- Full-time Grants – the tuition plus technology fee or \$4,097.00 whichever is less per semester. Full-time students must take 12 or more credits per semester.
- Part-time Grants for members who may or may not possess a baccalaureate degree – the tuition and technology fee per credit or the \$342.00 per credit tuition and technology rate charged by PASSHE, whichever is less per semester. Part-time students can be funded up to 11 credits per semester.
- The MFEP award amount can be applied to tuition costs, fees, books, and room and board up to the Allowable Cost of Attendance for members using FTA and GI Bill (Chapter 33) for the same term.
- Funding is limited to 10 full-time semesters or 120 part-time credits.

## Application Process

Applying for MFEP begins with the Service member. Service members must go on to PHEAA.org and create a username and password. Once set, the Service member will log into their account and complete basic items related to their military service. The Service member will then sign an MFEP Form 1 Statement of Understanding and the MFEP Promissory Note. Service members will be asked to upload their re-enlistment/extension contracts (Oaths of Office for officers) and record briefs. Additionally, Service members will need to upload MFEP Form 4 with dependent(s) information and upload a DD Form 1172. If you recently reenlisted or extended for MFEP or plan to, you will complete your MFEP Form 1A Statement of Understanding at the time of your reenlistment/extension.

Once approved by the MFEP team, your dependents will create a username and password of their own, sign the promissory note, and enter all school information. Dependents will then apply for the school year starting with fall of that year and ending with summer of the following year. Dependents must go on the PHEAA portal every year to fill out information for the new school year. Under **NO** circumstances should Service members sign into their student-dependent's account to fill out information on their behalf.

**MFEP applications for the 2024-2025 academic year (fall-summer 2024-2025) can be submitted on the PHEAA portal starting 1APR24. Students should apply for funding for all semesters they may attend – it's easier to remove semesters than add them later! The 2023-2024 will be closed on the portal 1APR. Submit your applications via [www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org) today!**