PA National Guard Education Handbook

PA National Guard Education
www.pa.ng.mil/education
717-865-4529

"Education, the Key to Strength and Readiness"

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Table of Contents

*This guide was developed by the Education Services Branch Pennsylvania. Send recommended changes or additions to **ng.pa.paarng.list.jfhq-g1-education@mail.mil***

1.0 Overview

This guide provides information on application procedures and benefits for all Army National Guard (ARNG) education programs and services. Most of the information contained in this guide is applicable only to Pennsylvania Army National Guard members, other information is applicable to any Service Member. If you are considering leaving the PA Army National Guard and have questions about the applicability of this information to other components contact the education center.

The Pennsylvania National Guard Education Center is located at Fort Indiantown Gap, building 9-54. Our staff is on hand to answer any questions you may have. The Education center is open Monday through Friday 0800-1630.

The latest information can be found on our website at: www.pa.ng.mil/education (best viewed in Chrome or Edge)

You can also call the Education Center at: 717-865-4529

General Questions can be emailed to: ng.pa.paarng.list.jfhq-g1-education@mail.mil

If you are connected through the Guard Net you can access our PKO site at: https://ngpapko4.ng.ds.army.mil/sites/ARNG_Staff/G1/SitePages/Education%20Division.aspx

Members interested in more information about the Air National Guard can visit
https://www.pa.ng.mil/Air-National-Guard/
or on Social Media at
https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=112520582093037

Chapter 2: GI BILL® PROGRAMS (Applicable to all Services)

2.0 Overview
GI Bill Programs are statutory entitlements that are administered by the military services and the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). 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 web site located at: benefits.va.gov/gibill/. The following are the most common GI Bill educational assistance programs available to ARNG Soldiers:

- Montgomery GI Bill-National Guard (Chapter 1606)
- Montgomery GI Bill-National Guard Kicker Incentive (Kicker)
- Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (Chapter 30)
- Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)
- Yellow Ribbon Program
- Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) Program

2.1 Montgomery GI Bill – National Guard (MGIB-SR), Ch 1606, Title 10 USC
Overview. Chapter 1606 is an educational program for Service members who are actively participating in the National Guard. Eligibility for this program may be established only one time in a Soldier's career. The ARNG determines initial eligibility, notifies Soldiers, and funds the program while the DVA administers payments to the Soldier. The MGIB-SR program is available to Enlisted, Officer, and Warrant Officer Personnel who are participating members assigned to the National Guard. For members of the National Guard, benefits generally end on the date of separation. Chapter 1606 benefits are paid on a monthly basis directly to the Service Member.

References
- Title 10 USC, Chapter 1606
- DoDI 1322.17, 15 January 2015
- AR 135-7, ARNG and United States Army Reserve (USAR) Incentives Programs, 15 April 1996
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017
- PPOM # 21-049, FY22 ARNG Voluntary Education (VolEd) Policy, 22 September 2021

How Do I Qualify?
- Complete the requirements of a secondary school diploma, or its equivalent.
- Agree to a six-year National Guard obligation after June 30, 1985 (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 Training (IADT) or Basic Officer Leadership 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.

What Do I Get? Rates Effective 1 October 2021

Institutional Training		Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training	
Training Time	**Monthly rate**	**Training Period**	**Monthly rate**
Full time	$407.00	First six months of training	$305.25
3/4 time	$305.25	Second six months of training	$223.85
1/2 time	$203.50	Remaining pursuit of training	$142.45
Less than 1/2 time	$101.75		

Correspondence and Flight - Entitlement charged at the rate of one month for each $407.00 paid.

Cooperative - $407.00

Correspondence Payments - 55% of the approved charges
Flight Payments - 60% of the approved charges

Rates change every year on October 1.
Go to https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.asp for current rates.

How Do I Apply?
- **Step 1.** Apply Online at www.va.gov.

- **Step 2.** Obtain your Certificate of Eligibility (CoE).   After you apply on-line, the DVA will send you a CoE in the mail. Take the CoE to the DVA representative/School Certifying Official (SCO) at the educational institution you are attending, or your place of employment if you are in a job-training program. The DVA Rep/SCO will certify your enrollment and submit it to the DVA Regional Processing Office (RPO) for processing.

- **Step 3.** Verify Your Attendance. Students receiving Chapter 30 or 1606 must verify their attendance monthly by Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) or by using the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. When students are awarded benefits, the award letter they receive describes WAVE and IVR.
    - WAVE is the preferred verification method, which includes features not found in IVR. WAVE allows students to verify their enrollment on the Internet. WAVE is on the DVA's Education Service website at www.gibill.va.gov/wave/.
    - The WAVE system permits students to perform a multitude of functions. Students may perform the following functions in WAVE:
        - Verify that enrollment has not changed
        - Report a change in enrollment
        - Change mailing address
        - Initiate or change direct deposit information
        - View the enrollment period and monthly benefit amount

- View the remaining entitlement
- Sign up for a monthly e-mail reminder
  - ○ IVR allows students to "call in" their monthly verification if there are no changes to the enrollment during the previous month. If there were changes in enrollment, the student must notify their DVA Rep/SCO and payments may be delayed while changes are processed. The phone number to use the IVR call in feature is: 1-877-823-2378.

- Important! If you are asked for a copy of your Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE), you will find a copy of in your iPERMS record. If a copy of your NOBE is not located in your iPERMS record, contact your State GI Bill Manager or Education Services Officer (ESO) at 717-865-4529.

Note: Non-Prior Service applicants enlisting under the OCS and ROTC enlistment option will not be entitled to receive the benefit until branch qualified. Officers/Officer Candidates should contact their State GI Bill Manager to verify their eligibility.

2.2 Army National Guard (ARNG) Kicker Incentive Program
Overview. The Kicker Incentive is an additional monthly education payment used to encourage qualified Soldiers to enter specific units or skills to meet and sustain ARNG readiness requirements. ARNG Soldiers may be eligible for a Kicker Incentive at various times in their career. There are Enlisted and Officer Candidate Kicker Incentives available with each category of Kicker having specific criteria and rules for eligibility. A Soldier may only contract for a Kicker once in their career.

References
- Title 10 USC, Chapter 1606, Section 16131(i)
- Title 10 USC, Chapter 103, Section 2107a
- Title 38 USC, Chapter 30, Section 3021-3023
- DoDI 1322.17, 15 January 2015
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017
- NGR 600-7 SRIP, 12 August 2014
- PPOM # 21-049, FY22 ARNG Voluntary Education (VolEd) Policy, 22 September 2021

How Do I Qualify?
Refer to the current ARNG Selective Reserve Incentive Programs (SRIP) Policy for a detailed description of the qualification criteria, contracting requirements and standards for administration of this incentive. For FY22, the authorized Kickers are:

- **$200 Enlisted Accessions (EA)**
  - ○ Non-Prior Service
    - ASVAB score of 50 or above (Cat I-IIIA).
    - Education Tier level 1 (High school diploma or equivalent).
    - Critical Skill/Critical UIC Vacancy (Tier Level 1-7)

  - ○ Prior Service
    - ASVAB 50 or above (Cat I-IIIA).
    - DMOSQ E7 or below.
    - Critical Skill/Critical UIC Vacancy (Tier Level 1-7)
    - Meet RE and SPD code requirements for if affiliating from active duty.
    - If affiliating from a service other than Army, meet the requirement to be awarded a MOS at time of affiliation/enlistment and be coded DMOSQ in IPPS-A/GIMS.

- **$350 Re-Enlistment/Extension (RE)**
  - Reenlist or extend DMOSQ grade E7 or below.
  - May extend any time after completing three continuous years of service in the ARNG, but prior to completing 14 total years of service.
  - Deployed Soldiers with a 999K excess code are eligible.
  - Soldiers in the Medical Management Activity (MMA) are not eligible while medically non-available.

- **$350 Officer Commissioning (OC)**
  - Officer Candidate School (OCS). A Soldier enrolled in OCS may contract for the OC Kicker provided they:
    - Have previously completed IADT and have an enlisted MOS.
    - Complete MGIB-SR Kicker Addendum (NGB Form 5435) after completion of OCS Phase 1, and prior to commissioning.
    - Have a concurrent 6-yr service obligation from the date of the Kicker contract.
  - Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC). A ROTC Cadet may contract for the OC Kicker provided they:
    - Have previously completed IADT and have an enlisted MOS
    - Enrolled in the Simultaneous Member Program (SMP)
    - Have not received a ROTC Scholarship (Title 10, Section 2107);
    - Complete SMP Agreement (NGB Form 594-1) and ROTC Cadet Contract (DA Form 597 series) prior to contracting for the Kicker.
    - Complete Kicker Addendum (NGB Form 5435) prior to commissioning.
    - Have a concurrent 6-yr service obligation from the date of the Kicker contract.
  - Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC). A Soldier on orders in the WOC program may contract for the OC Kicker provided they:
    - Have previously completed IADT and have an enlisted MOS
    - Complete Kicker Addendum after entry into commissioning program and prior to commissioning.
    - Have a concurrent 6-yr service obligation from the date of the Kicker contract.
  - The Standard Officer Kicker (SOK). A Commissioned or Warrant Officer who is within one year after commissioning may contract for the SOK provided they:
    - Complete the MGIB-SR Kicker Addendum and sign a DA 5447-R Officer Service Agreement for a period of six or more years on the same day.
    - Commissioned Officers without a bachelor's degree and Direct Commissioned Officers are eligible for this incentive.
  - Supplemental (Bump-Up). An Officer Candidate, or Commissioned or Warrant Officer who is within one year after commissioning may be eligible for an increase in their Kicker rate to $350 provided they:
    - Have previously contracted and established eligibility for a $100 or $200 MGIB-SR kicker.
    - Have completed or agree to complete the original 6-year service obligation.
    - Are enrolled into a commissioning program.
    - Complete the Supplemental MGIB-SR Kicker addendum (NGB Form 5435-1) after entry into the Commissioning program, and within one year after commissioning.
    - No additional service obligation is required for Soldiers who have completed the original MGIB-SR Kicker six-year obligation.

- *Notes:*

-Receiving a Dedicated Guard ROTC Scholarship (Title 10 USC 2107) will terminate a Soldier's MGIB-SR (Ch 1606) basic benefit and Kicker (if applicable).
-Cadets who have not completed AIT and been awarded an enlisted MOS are not eligible for the OCS, ROTC, or WOC Kickers.

What Do I Get?
- A Soldier may receive a maximum of 36 months of benefits under the Kicker program based on the kicker rate they contracted for ($100, $200 or $350). All payments are tax free.
  - The Kicker is paid in conjunction with a GI Bill program, and eligibility can be established only if you are eligible to receive payment for the MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606), or MGIB-AD (Chapter 30) programs.
  - When eligibility for the MGIB-SR/MGIB-AD benefit expires, so does eligibility for the Kicker.

2.3 Post-9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33, Title 38 U.S. Code
Overview. The Post-9/11 GI Bill (PGIB) is an education program for veterans who serve a minimum of 90 cumulative days on active duty after September 10, 2001 and receive an honorable discharge. National Guard members can earn eligibility by serving on orders under Title 10, Sections 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12303(g), 12301(h), 12302, 12304, 12304a, 12304b, or Title 32 AGR, or on Title 32, Section 502(f) under Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Guardian Shield, in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, or the DC support mission.

References
- Title 38 USC, Chapter 33
- DoDI 1341.13, Post 9/11 GI Bill, Change 1, 12 July 2018
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017
- PPOM # 21-049, FY22 ARNG Voluntary Education (VolEd) Policy, 22 September 2021

How Do I Qualify?
- Serve at least 90 cumulative days in a period of qualifying Active Duty on or after September 11, 2001. Qualifying Active Duty service is:
  - Service in any Active Component.
  - Service under Title 10 USC Sections 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12301(h), 12302 12304, 12304a, or 12304b.
  - AGR under Title 10 or Title 32.
  - Title 32 U.S.C., Section 502(f) under a Declaration of National Emergency as follows:
    - Between Sep 11, 2001 – May 31, 2002 under Operation Noble Eagle
    - Effective February 15, 2019 – in support of the Southwest Border Mission under Operation Guardian Shield
    - Effective March 22, 2020 – in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic
    - Effective January 14, 2021 – in response to the Capital Police / Inauguration
  - If Soldier has eligibility for another GI Bill program(s), one of the programs must be relinquished when electing Post-9/11.
- Initial Active Duty Training (including Basic Training, AIT, BOLC, and WOBC) cannot be added to qualifying time unless the Soldier:
  - Attended all or a portion of IADT on or after September 11, 2001; and
  - Completed 24 months of other qualifying active duty time.

- The following periods of service are NOT qualifying time for Post-9/11:
  - The four-year ADSO after commissioning from a Title 10 U.S.C. 2107 (Dedicated Guard) ROTC scholarship.
  - The five-year ADSO after attendance at or commissioning from a Service academy.
  - Service terminated due to defective enlistment agreement.
  - The three-year ADSO associated with accepting the Active Duty Student Loan Repayment Program (Title 10 Section 109).
  - Any service period with less than an Honorable Discharge.
- Period of Eligibility.
  - For Soldiers whose last day of qualifying active duty was prior to January 1, 2013, eligibility to use Chapter 33 benefits expires 15 years from the date of the last Honorable discharge or release from active duty of at least 90 consecutive days.
  - For Soldiers whose last day of qualifying active duty was on or after January 1, 2013, eligibility never expires.
  - Soldiers who are subject to the 15-year limit can eliminate the limit by completing a new period of qualifying duty of at least 90 continuous days on or after 1 January 2013.

What Do I Get?

- Post-9/11 payment tiers are calculated based on cumulative qualifying time a Soldier accrues.

Qualifying Service	Payment Tier
36 months* or more, or Purple Heart recipients	100%
At least 30 continuous days on active duty and discharged due to service-connected disability	100%
30 - 36 months*	90%
24 - 30 months	80%
18 - 24 months	70%
6 - 18 months	60%
90 days - 6 months	50%

*Includes Basic Training and AIT

- There are three benefit payments for the Post-9/11 GI Bill: Tuition and Fees, a Monthly Housing Allowance, and a Book and Supply Stipend. All three are pro-rated by the Service member's payment tier. The Monthly Housing Allowance and the Book and Supply stipend are further pro-rated by the Service member's rate of pursuit (number of credit hours).

  - Tuition and Fees
    - Up to 100% of in-state tuition if you are attending a public school.
    - Max $26,042.81 per year for private or foreign school (effective August 1, 2021).
  - Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA): (MUST be attending more than half-time)
    - Equivalent to BAH of E-5 with dependents.
    - Based on zip code where attending classes.
    - $871.00 per month (effective August 1, 2021)
    - Subject to term start and end dates.
    - Soldiers serving on qualifying active duty are NOT eligible for the MHA
  - Book and Supply Stipend
    - $41.67/credit hour.
    - Up to $1,000 per academic year.

- o Note: The VA has temporary authority to pay education benefits and Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) payments to GI Bill students at the resident rate when their programs are converted from in-person to online learning solely due to COVID-19 until **December 21, 2021**. More information can be found at https://benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/COVID19EducationBenefits.asp
- Post-9/11 may also be used for Non-College Degree (NCD) programs, Correspondence schools, Flight programs, Apprenticeships and On-the-Job Training (OJT), Independent Study programs, and National Test reimbursements.
  - o Students at NCD institutions receive the same benefits as those attending traditional colleges and universities (see above).
  - o Correspondence students will receive the actual net costs for tuition and fees, up to $12,221.58 per academic year (effective August 1, 2020).
  - o Flight students will receive the actual net costs for tuition and fees, up to $14,378.35 per academic year (effective August 1, 2020).
  - o Information on National Testing, Licensing and Certification tests is in Chapter 6 of this handbook.
  - o Rates for Apprenticeship and OJT are based on length of time the student is in training:

Training Period	Monthly rate
First six months	100% of MHA
Second six months	80% of MHA
Third six months	60% of MHA
Fourth six months	40% of MHA
Remaining training	20% of MHA

- Students living in rural areas may qualify for a one-time, $500 benefit if the student:
  - o Resides in a county with fewer than 6 people per square mile; and,
  - o Relocates at least 500 miles to attend school; or
  - o Relocates any distance by air when no other land-based transportation exists.

How Do I Apply?
- **Step 1.** Go to www.va.gov.
- **Step 2.** Obtain Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). The DVA will send you a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) in the mail. Take the CoE to the DVA representative (DVA Rep)/School Certifying Official (SCO) at the college (or your place of employment if you are in a job-training program). Monthly verification is not required.

2.4 Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB)
Overview. The Department of Defense (DoD) allows members of the Armed Forces to transfer their PGIB benefits to their spouse or dependent children. Unlike the basic Post-9/11 GI Bill, the TEB program is NOT a Soldier entitlement. TEB is an incentive for further service and is intended to promote retention in the ARNG. Not every Soldier will qualify for TEB. Soldiers unable to commit to the required service obligation due to service-limiting situations will not be able to participate in this program.

References
- Title 38 USC, Chapter 33, Section 3319
- DoDI 1341.13, Post 9/11 GI Bill, Change 1, 12 July 2018
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017
- PPOM # 21-049, FY22 ARNG Voluntary Education (VolEd) Policy, 22 September 2021

How Do I Qualify?

- Be actively serving in the ARNG.
- Be entitled to the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- Have completed six or more years of qualifying service in the Armed Forces (Active Duty or National Guard) at time of TEB request.
- Commit to serve at least four additional, continuous years in the Armed Forces (must have an ETS or MRD equal to or greater than four years from the TEB request date and not be in the IRR or ING); and
- Have no adverse action flags, including failure to maintain fitness or height/weight standards.

What Do My Dependents Get?

- Dependent(s) receive the same tier payment as the Soldier.
- Spouse is subject to the same rules as the transferring Soldier;
  - o For Soldiers whose last day of active duty was before January 1, 2013, the spouse's eligibility ends 15 years from the Soldier's last day of qualifying time.
  - o For Soldiers whose last day of active duty was on or after January 1, 2013, the spouse's eligibility never expires.
  - o Spouses of Soldiers serving on qualifying active duty are not eligible for the Monthly Housing Allowance.
- Children:
  - o Can use the benefit after the transferring Soldier has completed ten years in the Armed Forces.
  - o Always paid as if the Service Member was in a Non-Active Duty Status.
  - o Can begin using the benefit on their 18th birthday or completion of requirements for high school diploma or equivalency certificate, whichever comes first.
  - o A child's eligibility ends on their 26th birthday unless you specify an earlier end date.
- You can modify and/or revoke months between any dependent you originally transferred months to – even after you separate from service.
- You cannot add dependents after you separate from service. Soldiers should consider transferring months to each dependent.

How Do I Apply?

- TEB requests are submitted on the DoD milConnect website at www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect.
- Other TEB approval criteria may apply. Refer to Army Regulation (AR) 621-202 or the current ARNG VolEd Policy for the most up to date guidance on the ARNG TEB Program.
- If you have questions about your eligibility for the TEB program, consult with your State or Territory Education Services Officer or GI Bill Manager.

IMPORTANT! All ARNG Soldiers considering TEB should initiate the TEB process as soon as they meet the TEB eligibility requirements.

	CH 33	CH 30	CH 1606
ELIGIBILITY	Eligibility criteria are complex and vary by program. The following statements are general eligibility criteria. Students should file an application so the Regional Processing Office can determine if they are eligible and the conditions of their eligibility.		
	Serve on qualifying active duty for at least 90 aggregate days after 10 Sep 2001.	2 years active duty, 3 years active duty, or 2 years active duty plus 4 years reserves.	Completion of high school diploma and initial active duty for training. Must be active reservist with 6-year obligation.
BENEFITS FOR IN-SERVICE STUDENT	*Refer to the specific benefit for detailed information*		
	Eligible for payment after completing 90 days of aggregate service.	Eligible for payment after completing 2 years continuous active duty.	Eligible while currently serving in the ARNG
ENTITLEMENT	36 months. May extend to end of term if benefit expires during term. Kickers do not extend.	36 months. May extend to end of term if benefit expires during term. Kickers do not extend.	36 months. May extend to end of term if benefit expires during term. Kickers do not extend.
	48 months maximum under two or more programs		
DELIMITING DATE	For separations on/after 1 Jan 2013, no expiration For separations prior to 1 Jan 2013, 15 years from last Honorable discharge or separation	10 years from last Honorable discharge or separation. May extend for subsequent period of active duty or disability that prevents completion of program.	14 years from your beginning date of eligibility, or on the day you leave the Selected Reserve. May extend if disability incurred or aggravated by service in Selected Reserve prevents completion of program.

2.5 General Application Process
Follow these steps to obtain your GI Bill and Kicker Benefits:

Step 1: Apply for your Certificate of Eligibility (CoE)
- Be sure you have all required information before you start. You must complete the form in <u>one session</u> – there is no option to save and come back later. Required information:
  - Applicant's Social Security Number
  - Military history (Service Members only)
  - Sponsor's Social Security number (Dependents only)
  - Information about the school you wish to attend
  - Bank account and direct deposit information
  - Education history
- Go to www.va.gov and click on "Education Benefits"
- Click on "Apply for education benefits"
- Click on "Find your education benefits Form" and answer the questions. Click "Apply Now". The system will select the correct form based on your answers,
- Answer the questions in each section:
  - Page 1: Applicant Information
  - Page 2: Benefits Eligibility
    - In general, dependents will select 'Post-9/11'.
    - Service Members select the program you are eligible for and wish to use.
  - Page 3: <u>Service Members</u> - Military History

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- If you are currently on Title 32 FTNGD (ADOS/ADSW), select 'No' for "Are you on active duty now".
- ROTC Cadets: Confirm whether your scholarship is Section 2107 or Section 2107a. If 2107a, select no for both questions.
- Student Loan: Do not check this box if your Student Loan Repayment contract was from the Guard/Reserves.
  - Page 4: Education History
  - Page 5: Employment History
  - Page 6: School Selection
  - Page 7: Contact and Direct Deposit Information
  - Page 8: Review information and click "Submit Application"
- Normally, the VA will process your application within 30 days. You will receive a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) in the mail.
  - Call (888) GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551) to check the status of an application.

Step 2: Register for Classes
- Register for classes as soon as your school's registration period opens.
- Visit your School Certifying Official (SCO). This is a school employee who typically works in the financial aid, admissions or Veterans affairs office.
  - The SCO will certify your registration. This tells the VA how many hours you are taking and the cost of tuition & fees and reports your rate of pursuit (1/2-time, 3/4-time, full time).
  - If a tuition payment is due before you receive your CoE from the VA, your SCO may be able to place your school account on hold to wait for payment from VA. Check with your school's finance office for their policies.
- When you receive your CoE from the VA, give a copy to your SCO.

Step 3: Verify Attendance
- While you are in school, you must verify EVERY MONTH with the VA that you are still taking courses to receive your next monthly deposit.
- You can do your monthly verification in one of two ways:
  - Call 1-877-823-2378
  - Go online at: www.gibill.va.gov/wave and verify attendance through the Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE).

Step 4: Next Semester
- Do not resubmit the application unless you are changing schools or degree plans.
  - If you changed your school or degree plan, repeat the process in Step 1 and complete a Form 22-1995.
- As soon as registration for the next term opens, register for classes early and make another appointment with your SCO.

Chapter 3: FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (FTA) PROGRAM (Applicable to the Active Army, Army Reserve, Army Guard, and Active Air Force)

3.0 Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) Overview

Overview. ArmyIgnitED.com is the one-stop virtual gateway for Soldiers to request Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) online, anytime, for both classroom and distance learning college courses. It is a dynamic online portal which automates most of the enrollment and application process. ArmyIgnitED.com allows access too many regionally and nationally accredited colleges and universities, and over 1,000 available degree plans. ArmyIgnitED.com is used by all three Army components, Active Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve Soldiers to request FTA.

Soldiers may use FTA to receive one degree/credential from each of the following levels:
- High school diploma or its equivalency
- Undergraduate/Graduate Academic Certificate
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's Degree

FTA cannot be used for courses or programs leading to a lower or lateral post-secondary credential that is validated in the Soldier's official military personnel record except in the case for certificates. FTA cannot not pay for First Professional degrees (i.e., doctoral degrees, juris doctorates).

References
- Title 10, USC, Section 2007, Payment of Tuition for Off-Duty Training or Education, 19 Jan 04.
- Title 10, USC, Section 2005, Advanced Education Assistance: Active Duty agreement; reimbursement requirements, 24 September 1980.
- DODI 1325.25, Voluntary Education Programs (Incorp. Change 3, 7 July 2014), 15 July 2015.
- AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System (ACCESS ARMYU), 28 October 2019.

- AR 600-8-2, Suspension of Favorable Personnel Actions (Flags), 23 October 2012.
- Memorandum, Clarification Regarding Concurrent Receipt of Federal Tuition Assistance and the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve Education Benefits, 4 May 2021

How Do I Qualify?

- **Tier 1:**
  - Be currently serving in the ARNG and completed either Advanced Individual Training (AIT), Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC), or Basic Officer Leaders Course (BOLC).
  - Have not attained a bachelor's degree and wish to pursue an undergraduate academic certificate, associate's or bachelor's degree or
  - Have attained a bachelor's and wish to pursue a graduate academic certificate or
  - Have attained a bachelor's without the use of FTA and wish to pursue a master's.

- **Tier 2:**
  - Be currently serving in the ARNG and completed either Advanced Leader's Course (ALC), Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC), Captain's Career Course (CCC), or equivalent.
  - Have attained a bachelor's degree with the use of FTA and wish to pursue a master's degree.

- **Service Requirement/Obligation:**
  - Have an ETS or MRD after completion of FTA funded course(s).
  - Officers and Commissioned Warrant Officers are subject to a four-year Reserve Duty Service Obligation (RDSO) OR a two-year Active Duty Service Obligation (ADSO).

- **Additional Criteria:**
  - The college is regionally or nationally accredited AND is a participant in ArmyIgnitED.com.
  - The funded course(s) meets a requirement listed in your personalized degree plan provided by the school (this can include prerequisite courses).
  - Maintain an undergraduate GPA of 2.0 or a graduate GPA of 3.0 for FTA-funded courses.
  - You must submit your FTA request at least 5 business days prior to course start date.

What Do I Get?

- Funding for required courses listed on an approved personalized degree plan.
- Cost of tuition (no fees) up to $250 per semester hour.
- Up to 16 semester hours per fiscal year.
- Up to 130 semester hours of undergraduate coursework.
- Up to 39 semester hours of graduate coursework.
- Up to 21 semester hours towards a Certificate (undergraduate/graduate).

How Do I Apply?

- **Step 1.** Go to ArmyIgnitED.com and locate the "Get Started" button to create an account and establish a secondary authentication method.
- **Step 2.** Once the student account is established, select the "Request TA" smart link from the student homepage to establish your TA Eligible Role within ArmyignitED.
- **Step 3.** An Army Education Counselor will review your TA Eligible role request and advise you of any follow-on actions required.
- **Step 4.** Go back to ArmyIgnitED and click on the "Request Tuition Assistance" button to select the course(s) you want to take and click on "Submit Request". You will receive an email stating the status of your tuition assistance request (TAR).

3.1 Recoupment

Course costs will be recouped from a Soldier's military pay account for:

- Receiving a course grade lower than C for undergraduates or a course grade lower than B for graduate students.
- Failing to resolve an incomplete ("I") grade within 120 days.
- Dropping courses for personal reasons on or after the course start date.
- Transferring to Inactive National Guard (ING) or Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) prior to the course end date.

3.2 Duplication of Benefits

Soldiers may not receive a duplication of federal funds in contradiction to law, regulation or policy. Service Members (SMs) may use FTA in addition to other funding sources (i.e. ARNG State-funded programs, loan programs, scholarships etc.) to fund their educational expenses based on the following limitations:

- ARNG State-funded programs generally do not have an impact on FTA and should not be a factor in determining FTA; subject to any State laws or directives. FTA may be used concurrently with State TA subject to State laws or directives but **may not exceed** 100% of tuition costs.
- The ARNG's Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP), Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP), and Chaplain Loan Repayment Program (CLRP) are education incentives and have no impact on receiving funds from the FTA program. See Chapter 9 of this handbook for further information about those programs.
- In the case where an applicant is eligible for both FTA and a Pell Grant, it is recommended that FTA be applied first to allow maximum use of Pell Grant funds.
- Soldiers receiving an ROTC scholarship under USC Sections 2107 or 2107a **are not** eligible to receive FTA.

3.3 Use with GI Bill

If a Soldier receives education benefits from the DVA and receives FTA benefits from the military, duplication of benefits may be an issue. The issue might involve DVA or DoD regulations, military branch specific regulations, or all three since DVA, DoD, and the military branches all have regulations and guidelines regarding receiving DVA benefits and FTA at the same time. Potential duplication issues are;

- **MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606) Recipients.** Effective 5 May 2021 MGIB-SR can be used concurrently with FTA.
- **Chapter 33 Recipients.** Active duty, National Guard, and Reserve Service Members may receive Chapter 33 benefits for the same courses for which they receive FTA from the military. Depending on their mobilization time, National Guard and Reserve Service Members may have varying percentages of Chapter 33 benefits ranging from 40 to 100%. Schools must deduct FTA benefits from the net tuition and fees submitted to DVA, and Chapter 33 is used to pay toward the remaining out-of- pocket costs.
- **Important! Former Active duty Service Members, who earned Chapter 30 benefits while on Active duty and are currently M-day members of the National Guard or Reserve,** may receive Chapter 30 benefits for the same courses for which they receive FTA and are not subject to 'Top up'.

Chapter 4: CREDENTIALING ASSISTANCE (Applicable to Active Army, Army Reserve, and Army Guard)

4.0 Overview

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 1,600 credentials.

References

- Secretary of the Army Directive 2018-08, 6 June 2018, subject: Army Credentialing Assistance Program.
- Memorandum, AHRC-PDZ-A, 17 Sep 2018, subject: Army Credentialing Assistance (CA) Implementation Guidance.
- Army Regulation 621-5 (Army Continuing Education System), 22 July 2006, Including Rapid Action Revision Issued 6 September 2009.
- Army Regulation 350-1 Training (Army and Leader Development), 10 December 2107.

How Do I Qualify?

- Soldiers may request a credential upon successful completion of AIT, WOBC or BOLC.
- Soldiers cannot be flagged.
- Soldiers cannot be on hold in ArmyIgniotED except for: CivEd, Student Agreement, Tier and GPA.

What Do I Get?

- CA will provide Soldiers up to $4,000 each year to pay for an eligible credential.
- Soldiers may use both Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) and Army Credentialing Assistance (CA); however, the combined usage shall not exceed $4,000 per FY.
- CA can be used for any credential listed on Army COOL at: https://www.cool.osd.mil/army but does not have to be related to the Soldier's MOS.
- CA will pay expenses for classroom, hands-on, online/blended training and associated materials to include: manuals, study guides, textbooks, processing fees, test fees, related fees for continuing education requirements, and recertification of credentials.

What Are Some Popular Certifications?

- Associate Professional in HR (APHR)

- Certified Logistics Technician (CLT)
- Certified Personal Trainer (CPT)
- Certified Welder (CW) Commercial
- Commercial Driver License (CDL)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Lean Six Sigma
- Project Management Professional (PMP)
- Private Pilot, Airplane Single Engine
- CompTIA A+
- CompTIA Security +CE

How Do I Apply?

- Contact your State ESO/ESS to discuss the CA application process and verify eligibility.
- Ensure your credential is listed on Army COOL at: https://www.cool.osd.mil/army
- Establish your ArmyIgnitED account at: www.armyignited.com/app
  - Users: Click "Get Started" to login, confirm personal information, and create an account.
  - Establish your "Credentialing Pathway" (MOS/ASI or Other).
  - Establish Training Method (Prepare for Credential, Exam, Applicable Work Experience).
  - Confirm Credential Pathway
- Request Credentialing Assistance.
  - Click on "Request Credentialing Assistance"
  - Search for credential
  - Select Training Provider
  - Enter Course Information
  - Upload any additional documentation
  - Confirm credential summary

Start date must be 30 business days from submission

Where Can I Go for Testing?

- There are two major companies that offer certification and licensure exams. You can find local test centers on their websites.
  - Pearson VUE: https://home.pearsonvue.com/
  - Prometric: https://www.prometric.com/en-us/Pages/home.aspx

PNG Education Center is a PearsonVue testing site. Please contact the Guidance Counselor (717-861-6696) for an appointment.

Chapter 5: PENNSYLVANIA STATE TUITION PROGRAMS (Applicable to members of the Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guard)

5.1 Education Assistance Program (EAP):

EAP is state funded program; it provides educational assistance for eligible members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. EAP funding is awarded regardless of financial need. In addition, reductions or adjustments of PA State Grants cannot be as a result of a service member receiving EAP. The amount of each award will be based on enrollment status, (full-time or part-time) and on the tuition charged, capped at the PA State System of Higher Education Schools (PASSHE) flat full- time tuition rate plus the technology fee, which is $4,097.00 per semester for the 2020-2021 academic year.

- o 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)
- o Part-time Grants for members who may or may not possess a baccalaureate degree - The tuition & technology fee per credit or the $342 per credit tuition & technology rate charged by PASSHE, whichever is less per semester. (Part-time students can be funded up to 11 credits per semester)
- o 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.
- o Funding is limited to 10 full-time semesters or 120 part-time credits.

Eligibility requirements:
- o Members must have a six-year service agreement with the PA National Guard and sign a Statement of Understanding (EAP Form-1) prior to submitting an application.
- o Be a graduate of Basic Training or the equivalent prior to submitting an application.
- o Be an active satisfactory participant in the PA National Guard in good standing. (Less than 9 AWOLS in any 1–year period, and no current suspension of favorable action flags)
- o Be an eligible member of PA National Guard prior to the 1st day of class.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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**

- o 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.
- o Mobilized members that had to withdraw from classes due to deployment may be eligible for an extended EAP deadline after discharge.
- o 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.

Recoupment:
The recoupment of all money received from EAP, plus 5% interest and fees, will occur for any of the following reasons:
- o Failure to complete the entire six-year contract that established eligibility for EAP.
- o Member is declared an unsatisfactory participant per AR 135-91/AFI 36-3209, i.e. member has 9 or more AWOL's in any 1–year period and/or a flag but not limited to those examples.
- o Members who are discharged, separated, or transferred from the Pennsylvania National Guard for any reason to include but not limited to: Enlistment or Appointment on Active Duty, Transfer to another reserve component or Transfer to another state, Retirement, Pregnancy, Childbirth, Expiration Term of Service or Misconduct.
- o Members who accept an ROTC Scholarship (except Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship or Dedicated National Guard Scholarship).

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

Online Enrollment Changes to current Applications are needed as follows:
- o if the number of credits originally reported on the EAP-2 changes status from part time to full time or if it changes status from full time to part time
- o the member changes school
- o the tuition cost needs to be changed
- o member wants to add or cancel a semester/term
- o the member has a new address
- o member is deploying

Member is responsible for notification to the school of enrollment changes or class cancellation before Drop/Add deadline.

Applications will be accepted after 30 June ONLY when funding permits

Deadlines for timely payment to the schools:

- o The deadline for fall, winter, spring and summer is 30 June, combined or any combination of, for the academic year. Applications will be accepted after 30 June only when funding permits.
- o If funding is available, applications received after 1 July but no later than 15 January, will be processed for future semesters only, EAP cannot fund after a semester/term that has ended. For example, if a member submits an application in December requesting funding for Fall, Spring and/or Summer; the Spring and Summer may be processed, but the Fall semester will not be funded because the application was received after the semester ended.
- o If EAP funding is limited, applications will be processed on a 1st come, 1st served basis until funding is exhausted.
- o At no time will applications be accepted after 15 January unless funding is available and member is returning from initial entry training, deployment, extended military duties, new enlistment contracts, interstate transfers or due to extreme/unique extenuating circumstances. Before application requests received after 15 January

can be considered for funding, a letter of explanation signed by the Company Commander (Army) / Squadron Commander (Air) must be forwarded to EAP for review. Also, this program does not allow payment for previous years.

Disbursements:
- o The fall payment is scheduled to be processed in August.
- o The spring and winter payment is scheduled to be processed in January.
- o The summer payment is scheduled to be processed during April through July, depending on fund availability.
- o Applications received by 15 January will be processed/funded on the next scheduled disbursement, if funding is available.

Unit responsibilities:
- o Ensure that all service member are aware of the online EAP portal for application, www.pheaa.org, submission and that a new application is needed yearly
- o Advise each applicant that completion of basic training is required.
- o Notify the EAP Office if an EAP participant has a flag and/or, is declared an Unsatisfactory Participant (9 or more AWOLS in any 1–year period).
- o Instruct members to submit an online EAP application NLT 30 June each year and that only one application is to be submitted yearly; it covers the fall, winter, spring and/or summer semesters/terms.
- o An online Change of Enrollment Form is only used to adjust the original application (i.e. add or reduce credits, change schools, adjust tuition costs, change of address).

ENLISTED members need:	OFFICERS need:
6-YR ENLISTMENT/EXTENSION	EAP-1
EAP-1	EAP-2 (APPLICATION)
EAP-2 (APPLICATION)	PROMISSORY NOTE
PROMISSORY NOTE	

Individual responsibility:
- o Be an active satisfactory participant in the PA National Guard (Less than 9 AWOLS in any 1–year period).
- o Be a member in good standing. A member whose status is subject to a flag is not a member in good standing, making that member not eligible for EAP.
- o Complete an online EAP application annually; notify the Education Office if any changes to the original application occur by completing the Change of Enrollment Form (EAP-3). Possible changes could be: attending a different school, change in tuition costs, adding/dropping classes, and a change of address or mobilization.

Reference Pennsylvania Military Regulation 621-5, for expanded EAP guidelines and information.

EAP POINTS OF CONTACT

EAP Group inbox: ng.pa.paarng.list.jfhq-g1-eap@mail.mil

EAP MANAGER
Pat Troutman
717.861.8894 or
717.954.3372
Email: patricia.m.troutman.nfg@mail.mil

EAP ASSISTANT
Jenny Arnold
717.954.3372
Email: jenny.l.arnold2.nfg@mail.mil

EAP ASSISTANT

Katelyn Voydik
717.861.8894
Email: katelyn.m.voydik.nfg@mail.mil

5.2. Military Family Education Program (MFEP):

MFEP is state funded program; it provides educational assistance for dependents of eligible members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. MFEP funding is awarded regardless of financial need. The amount of each award will be based on enrollment status, (full-time or part-time) and on the tuition charged, capped at the PA State System of Higher Education Schools (PASSHE) flat full- time tuition rate plus the technology fee, which is $4,097.00 per semester for the 2020-2021 academic year.
- o 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 persemester).
- o Part-time Grants for dependents who may or may not possess a baccalaureate degree - The tuition & technology fee per credit or the $342 per credit tuition & technology rate charged by PASSHE, whichever is less per semester (Part-time students can be funded up to 11 credits per semester).
- o Funding is limited to 10 full-time semesters or 120 part-time credits.

Eligibility requirements:
- o 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 a MFEP and EAP contract at the same period of service.
- o Be an active satisfactory participant in the PA National Guard in good standing (Less than 9 AWOLS in any 1–year period, and no suspension of favorable action flags).
- o 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.
- o 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**

  - Mobilized members' dependents who had to withdraw from classes due to members' deployment may be eligible for an extended MFEP deadline after discharge.
  - The dependents of eligible MFEP members who receive a discharge for a disability incurred in the line of duty may be eligible for MFEP benefits after the member's discharge.

Recoupment:
The recoupment of all money received from MFEP, plus 5% interest and fees, will occur for any of the following reasons:
  - Failure to complete the entire six-year contract that established eligibility for MFEP.
  - Member is declared an unsatisfactory participant per AR 135-91/AFI 36-3209, i.e. member has 9 or more AWOL's in any 1–year period and/or a flag, but not limited to those examples.
  - Members who are discharged, separated, or transferred from the Pennsylvania National Guard for any reason to include but not limited to: Enlistment or Appointment on Active Duty, Transfer to another reserve component or Transfer to another state, Retirement, Pregnancy, Childbirth, Expiration Term of Service or Misconduct.
  - Members who accept an ROTC Scholarship (except Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship or Dedicated National Guard Scholarship).

Application Process:
To apply for MFEP, you must complete an online application (MFEP form 2). First time users must also complete MFEP Family Promissory note. Eligible service members will be able to log on to **www.pheaa.org** and sign is as a student to complete the application and assign the benefit to their dependents.

To apply for benefits for use at a higher institution of learning, eligible family members must log on to www.pheaa.org to complete a Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) Military Family Education Program (MFEP) Family Member Master Promissory Note and MFEP Form 2 (Military Family Education Program Application) to the MFEP Section. Yearly submission of MFEP Form 2 can be used to request benefits for the entire academic year (ie. fall, winter, spring and summer semesters).

Online Enrollment Changes to current Applications are needed as follows:
  - the number of credits originally reported on the MFEP-2 changes status from part time to full time or if it changes status from full time to part time
  - the member changes school
  - the tuition cost needs to be changed
  - member wants to add or cancel a semester/term
  - the member has a new address
  - member is deploying

Dependent is responsible for notification to the school of enrollment changes or class cancellation before Drop/Add deadline.

Applications will be accepted after 30 June ONLY when funding permits

Deadlines for timely payment to the schools*:*

- o The deadline for fall, winter, spring and summer is 30 June, combined or any combination of, for the academic year. Applications will be accepted after 30 June only when funding permits.
- o If funding is available, applications received after 1 July but no later than 15 January, will be processed for future semesters only, MFEP cannot fund after a semester/term that has ended. Example, if a dependent submits an application in December requesting funding for Fall, Spring and/or Summer; the Spring and Summer may be processed, but the Fall semester will not be funded because the application was not received after the semester ended.
- o If MFEP funding is limited, applications will be processed on a 1st come, 1st served basis until funding is exhausted.
- o At no time will applications be accepted after 15 January unless funding is available. Before application requests received after 15 January can be considered for funding a letter of explanation must be submitted for review. Also, this program does not allow payment for previous years.

Disbursements*:*
- o The fall payment is scheduled to be processed in August.
- o The spring and winter payment is scheduled to be processed in January.
- o The summer payment is scheduled to be processed during April through July, depending on fund availability.
- o Applications received by 15 January will be processed/funded on the next scheduled disbursement, if funding is available.

Unit responsibilities*:*
- o Ensure that all service member are aware of the online MFEP portal for application submission and that a new application is needed yearly
- o Notify the MFEP Office if an MFEP member has a flag and/or, is declared an Unsatisfactory Participant (9 or more AWOLS in any 1–year period).
- o Instruct members that dependents must submit an online MFEP application NLT 30 June each year and that only one application is to be submitted yearly, it covers the fall, winter, spring and/or summer semesters/terms.
- o An online Change of Enrollment Form is only used to adjust the original application (i.e. add or reduce credits, change schools, adjust tuition costs, change of address).

ENLISTED members need:	OFFICERS need:
6-YR ENLISTMENT/EXTENSION	MFEP FORM-1
MFEP FORM 1	MFEP MEMBER PROM NOTE
MFEP MEMBER PROM NOTE	337, ORB
MEMBER MFEP FORM 4 MFEP FORM 2 FAMILY PROM NOTE DD 1172 FORM	MFEP FORM 4 DD 1172 FORM MFEP FORM 2 FAMILY PROM NOTE

PA National Guard Member Responsibility:

- o Be an active satisfactory participant in the PA National Guard (Less than 9 AWOLS in any 1–year period).
- o Be a member in good standing. A member whose status is subject to a flag is not a member in good standing, making that member not eligible for MFEP.

PA National Guard DEPENDENT Responsibility:

- o Complete an online MFEP application annually; notify the Education Office if any changes to the original application occur by completing the Change of Enrollment Form (MFEP-3). Possible changes could be: attending a different school, change in tuition costs, adding/dropping classes, and a change of address or mobilization.

Reference Pennsylvania Military Regulation 621-5, for expanded MFEP guidelines and information.

MFEP POINTS OF CONTACT

MFEP Group Inbox: ng.pa.paarng.list.jfhq-g1-mfep@mail.mil

MFEP MANAGER
Lisa Moyer
717.861.9959 or
717.954.3441 OR 3386
Email: lisa.a.moyer6.nfg@mail.mil

MFEP ASSISTANT
Laura Klein
717.954.3441
Email: laura.e.klein.nfg@mail.mil

MFEP ASSISTANT

Jamie Salaki
717.954-3386
Email: Jamie.l.salaki.nfg@mail.mil

Chapter 6: FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

6.0 Overview

Financial Aid is any grant or scholarship, loan, or paid employment offered to help a student meet his/her college expenses. Such aid is usually provided by various sources such as federal and state agencies, colleges, high schools, foundations, and corporations. Financial aid enables millions of students across America to attend college, university, or trade school.

6.1 Types of Aid Available

6.1.1 FASFA

Student financial aid in the United States is funding that is available exclusively to students attending a post-secondary educational institution in the United States. This funding is used to assist in covering the many costs incurred in the pursuit of post-secondary education. Financial aid is available from federal and state governments, educational institutions, and private organizations. It can be awarded in the form of grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships. In order to apply for federal financial aid, students must first complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa

6.1.2 Military Aid

For military service or family members of military:
- Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarships
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Education Benefits
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant or Additional Federal Pell Grant Funds
- Limited Interest Rates, No Accrual of Interest, and Deferment of Student Loans
- https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/military

6.1.3 Grants

Grants are often called "gift aid" because they are free money — financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid. Grants are often need-based, versus scholarships which are merit-based.
- Federal Pell Grants
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants

- https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/federal-grant-programs.pdf

6.1.4 Work-study
Work-study is a work program to earn money and help you pay for school. It provides part-time employment while you are enrolled in school.
- Available to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students with financial need.
- Available to full-time or part-time students.
- Administered by schools participating in the Federal Work-Study Program. Check with your school's financial aid office to find out if your school participates.
- https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/work-study

6.1.5 Loans
Loans consist of money that is borrowed for college or career school. This money is provided by the lender along with interest charged for its use. If you apply for financial aid, your school will likely include student loans as part of your financial aid package. Generally, there are two types of student loans—federal and private.

- *Federal student loans* and federal parent loans: These loans are funded by the federal government. Four types of Federal Student Loans;
  1. Direct Subsidized Loans are made to eligible undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need to help cover the costs of higher education at a college or career school.
  2. Direct Unsubsidized Loans are made to eligible undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, but eligibility is not based on financial need.
  3. Direct PLUS Loans are made to graduate or professional students and parents of dependent undergraduate students to help pay for education expenses not covered by other financial aid. Eligibility is not based on financial need, but a credit check is required. Borrowers who have an adverse credit history must meet additional requirements to qualify.
  4. Direct Consolidation Loans allow you to combine all your eligible federal student loans into a single loan with a single loan servicer.
- *Private student loans*: These loans are nonfederal loans, made by a lender such as a bank, credit union, state agency, or a school. For more info; https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/loans

6.2 Scholarships
- Scholarships are grants or payments made to support a student's education awarded, typically, based on academic or other achievement. Eligibility for scholarships vary greatly as eligibility can be based on intellectual or personal achievement, religion, ethnicity, geographic area, area of study, hobbies, interests, volunteerism, club based, the list is endless. Most scholarships have criteria you must meet by a deadline and require a written essay.

- Be careful which websites you choose as you could be bombarded by schools by entering your data into data collection sites that sell your information to schools. .ORG websites are typically Nonprofits, foundations, philanthropic and cultural institutions, religious, civic, arts, social and fraternal organizations, health and legal services, clubs and community volunteer groups. These are generally considered very reputable and safe. .COM websites are typically for-profit organizations. Use all scholarship search engines only after reviewing their terms of agreement.

6.2.1 The Pennsylvania National Guard Scholarship Fund
Provides members of the Pennsylvania Army & Air National Guard financial assistance as they pursue their educational goals. Since it was formed in 1976 this nonprofit charitable organization has awarded more than $500,000 in scholarships to eligible members of the Pennsylvania National

Guard or children of members who died or were permanently disabled in the line of duty. These scholarships are available to all qualified members of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Eligibility:
o   Any Active member of the Pennsylvania Army or Air National Guard.
o   A child of a member of the PA Army or Air National Guard who either died or was permanently disabled while on National Guard duty (please provide a copy of DD Form 214).
o   Recipient must be a member in good standing of the Pennsylvania Army or Air National Guard during the academic term in which the grant is made.

When and Where to apply:

Applications are available 15 April. Applications are available through you unit (PKO Posting) or at the Education and Incentives Office on Fort Indiantown Gap.

Application packets must be received by the scholarship committee no later than 30 June.

Education and Incentives Office

C/O Scholarship Committee
Building 9-54
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003

Point of contact is Kristi Carlsen – kristi.a.carlsen.civ@mail.mil, 717.861.6696

Application Process:

Applicants fall into one of two categories; all students complete section A.

Category I: Entering 1st year of higher education as a full-time student. Complete section B – your high school guidance counselor or principal must complete paragraph 3 of section B.

Category II: Presently attending an institution of higher education as a full-time student. Complete section C – You must obtain a copy of your latest transcript showing your grades and proof of fulltime enrollment (tuition bill or letter from the registrar).

All applicant must complete a "Word Picture" which is an essay highlighting how your higher education benefits you and your National Guard career.
Incomplete and/or late will not be accepted.

This program is not available to graduate students.

Judging Process
o   Scholarship, leadership abilities and contribution to citizenship
o   "Word Picture"
o   Members of the Scholarship Fund Board judge the submissions.

Application scoring will be ranked and scholarships awarded from the highest to the lowest score: two $2000, one $1500, three $1000 and one $750. The Association will sponsor four $500 awards for the next four highest scoring Division Soldiers.
o   A number to be determined by the Board of Directors will each receive $500.
o   Grants are made without regard to race, color, religion or national origin.

- o The rank of the applicant or the family famers will not be a consideration in the judging.
- o The grants are provided through the generosity of the Pennsylvania National Guard Association, the 28th Infantry Association, USAA and individual contributors.
- o The Pennsylvania National Guard Scholarship Fund is a private military association and is not an official part of or endorsed by the Pennsylvania National Guard or the Department of Defense.

6.2.2 .ORG Hosted Scholarships

While PA does not endorse any college or organization, we have listed various scholarships hosted by both .org and .com websites to help you in your search.

Fisher House: https://www.militaryscholar.org/
- o *For: Service Member, Spouse & Children*
  - ▪ The Fisher House has awarded more than $19 million dollars in the last 19 years.
  - ▪ This site also links you to the NMFA for Spouses: https://scholarships.militaryfamily.org/

Enlisted Association of the National Guard:
   https://eangus.org/we-care-for-america/scholarship-information/
- ▪ *For: Members of ENGAUS*
  - ▪ CSM Virgil R. Williams Scholarship Patriot Scholarship
  - ▪ American Intercontinental Univ.
  - ▪ American Public University System
  - ▪ Colorado Technical University
  - ▪ Grantham University
  - ▪ University of Phoenix
  - ▪ USAA
  - ▪ Grand Canyon University

National Guard Association of the United States:
   https://www.ngaus.org/membership/member-benefits/scholarships
- o *For: Members of NGAUS*
  - ▪ AFBA - $5k
  - ▪ Grantham University Commissioned or Warrant O5 and below and spouse of an active member. Valued up to $14,200
  - ▪ The Van Hipp Heroes Scholarship Fund for those WIA
  - ▪ Leonardo DRS Guardian Scholarship Fund for children of KIA

The American Legion: https://www.legion.org/scholarships
- o *For: Dependent children of American Legion members*
  - ▪ President Donald J. Trump signed into law the Legion Act on 30 July 2019 opening membership (and scholarships) to any of the six million living veterans who served during so-called peacetime eras.

Veterans of Foreign Wars: https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support
- o *For: Service Members and Veterans, up to $5k*

AMVETS: https://amvets.org/scholarships
- o *For: Veterans and dependents of veterans*
  - ▪ Two scholarships specific to Veterans, AD, Guard/Reserves $4k

- One scholarship specific to Spouses of Veterans, AD, Guard/Reserves $12k
- Two scholarships are specific to children/grandchildren of Veterans, Active Duty, Guard/Reserves who are currently high school seniors $4k & $1k

Folds of Honor: https://www.foldsofhonor.org/scholarships/
  - *For: Children K-12 & those seeking a first bachelor's degree – up to $5k*

25 Great Scholarships for Members of the Military and Their Families:
https://www.top10onlinecolleges.org/scholarships-for/members-of-the-military/

Student Veterans of America ($10k)
  - Raytheon Patriot Scholarship
https://studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships?layout=edit&id=752
  - Google-SVA Scholarship
https://studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships?layout=edit&id=733

6.2.3 .COM Websites hosting Scholarships

U.S. Veterans Magazine:
https://www.usveteransmagazine.com/list-of-military-scholarships-for-service-members-spouses-and-dependents/

Scholarships.com:
https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/military-scholarships/

Affordable Colleges.com:
https://www.affordablecolleges.com/resources/scholarships-for-military/

College Recon.com:
https://collegerecon.com/military-scholarships-2019/

How Do I Apply?

- Military Financial Aid – See your local education office, Recruiting & Retention recruiter, AMEDD recruiter of visit the DANTES website for TTT.
- Grants and Student Loans (Federal and State) - Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa. Colleges usually use the FASFA to determine your eligibility for additional State financial aid available to you. Check with your college financial aid office for more information.
- Scholarships – follow the directions provided in the links associated with the specific scholarship you are interested in.

Chapter 7: TESTING PROGRAMS

7.0 Overview
Testing services are available at your ARNG State Education Services Office, National Test Centers, Active Army Education Services Offices, and other approved Testing Sites based on the type of test needed. Actively drilling National Guard Soldiers with a valid Common Access Card (CAC) are eligible for these this benefit.

Testing takes place on the Fort Indiantown Gap Education Center Building 9-54 Wednesdays at 0900 or 1300. Please contact the education center to schedule your test. Call 717-861-6696 to schedule an appointment.

Test available to Soldiers range from Army Personnel Testing (language, aptitude, and military classification tests) to DANTES sponsored exams (standardized test for college admissions, college credit by examination, and teacher certification). Although the Education Center does not administer DANTES sponsored exams, they do provide counseling services and testing resources for DANTES exams.

7.1 Army Personnel Testing (APT)
The APT Program offers standardized tests to determine eligibility for specialized training and to support the Army's personnel selection and classification process including language proficiency testing.

References
- AR 611-5, Army Personnel Selection and Classification Testing, 9 December 2015
- AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System, 6 September 2009

- AR 11-6, Army Foreign Language Program, 18 February 2016
- AR 350-20, Management of the Defense Language Program, 12 March 2018
- APT Handbook, 25 July 2019

How Do I Qualify? (Eligibility Criteria)
- Actively drilling ARNG Soldiers with a valid Common Access Card (CAC) are eligible for this benefit.
- Please review additional eligibility criteria under specific tests below.

What Test are Available?
- Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT)
- Selection Instrument Flight Training (SIFT)
- Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT)
- Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB)
- Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)

How Do I Apply?
- Contact the Education Center to schedule an exam – 717-861-6696.

7.1.1 Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT)
The AFCT is administered to service members desiring to improve their enlistment ASVAB or previous AFCT scores. The General Technical (GT) score is one of the ten aptitude scores of the AFCT. These scores qualify a Soldier to perform a particular military occupation, attend an Army formal school, become a Warrant Officer/Officer or attend a Reserve Officers' Training (ROTC) program. The Army's GT Score range is 58 - 144.

- **AFCT Retests.** There is no limit on how many times a Soldier can retake the AFCT. However, the AFCT may not be taken any earlier than six months from the previous AFCT/ASVAB unless you have an approved Exception to Policy (ETP). The new scores obtained upon completion of the AFCT will replace your previous ASVAB/AFCT.
- **Exceptions to Policy (ETPs).** Soldiers may request an exception to the six-month wait policy. To be considered for an ETP, Soldiers must provide justification as to why the Army needs the Soldier to test prior to the six month wait. Proof of study must accompany the ETP request. The two forms of study Soldiers may use include the Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) or a Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP) or similar adult education program. All ETPs for ARNG Soldiers *MUST* be processed through your State Education Office to NGB. Contact your Education Office for a current copy of the ETP sample memo.
- **Study/Improvement Courses.** The two primary AFCT improvement courses available to Soldiers are the Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) and Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP).
  - **Online Academic Skills Course (OASC).** The OASC is designed to help Soldiers prepare for the AFCT. This course is self-paced and customized based on your answers on a pre-assessment. Lessons utilize interactive exercises such as drag-and-drop matching, video games style multiple choice, and dynamic flash cards. Quizzes and practice problem sets also help students gauge their mastery of the material. Lessons include the following areas: Reading comprehension, math and vocabulary. OASC is available to all ARNG Soldiers at https://dantes.petersons.com/

  - **Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP).** BSEP courses are available at all Active

Army and some National Guard Education Offices. BSEP is a resident class that provides lessons addressing three specific Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT) subtests that comprise the GT score: Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, and Arithmetic Reasoning.

7.1.2 General Technical (GT) Score Enhancement Course
Study/Improvement Courses. The two primary AFCT improvement courses available to Soldier's are the Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) and Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP).

o Online Academic Skills Course (OASC). The OASC is designed to help Soldiers prepare for the AFCT. This course is self-paced and customized based on your answers on a pre-assessment. Lessons utilize interactive exercises such as drag-and-drop matching, video games style multiple choice, and dynamic flash cards. Quizzes and practice problem sets also help students gauge their mastery of the material. Lessons include the following areas: Reading comprehension, math and vocabulary. OASC is available to all ARNG Soldiers at https://dantes.petersons.com/

o Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP). BSEP courses are available at most Active Army and some ARNG Education Offices. BSEP is a resident class that provides lessons addressing three specific Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT) subtests that comprise the GT score: Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, and Arithmetic Reasoning. Contact your State ESO for more information on program availability.

7.1.3 Selection Instrument Flight Training (SIFT)
The SIFT test is used to select Soldiers for aviation training. Soldiers must have a 110 GT to be administered the SIFT. The SIFT may only be administered twice total. Soldiers must wait 45 days before they may be administered SIFT the second time.

7.1.4 Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT)
These tests are used to evaluate language proficiency or to add a language Identifier to a Soldier's MOS. Soldiers holding a Language Identifier and working in their MOS using that language are eligible for Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB) with the required score. Linguist MOS or FLBP qualified must test once every 12 months. No more than two iterations of the same DLPT may be administered in a 12 month period.

7.1.5 Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB)
This test is used to determine language aptitude for Soldiers applying for language training and certain MOS such as Special Forces and military intelligence career management fields. The DLAB score range is 12 - 164. Examinees with a DLAB score of 95 or less are not eligible to re-test.

7.1.6 Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)
The OPI is an interview given electronically by a Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center approved interviewer. This test is given when there is no DLPT available in a given language and the language is on the strategic language list eligible for FLPB. Soldiers who have a justifiable military reason for measuring speaking proficiency may also take OPIs. The OPI cannot be taken in place of the DLPT for FLPB purposes.

7.1.7 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

FAA testing is the Federal Aviation Administration examination which one must undergo in the United States to receive an aircraft pilot's certification, while there are multiple portions of FAA testing such as the checkride and the oral review, the written test can be completed at the Education & Incentives Center located on Fort Indiantown Gap. The FAA written test is a multiple-choice computer-administered test . Please contact the Education Center to schedule your test.

7.2 DANTES-Supported Examinations

Soldiers may benefit from free testing opportunities sponsored by DANTES. These college examinations can help you earn college credit for information you already know; save time and money toward your college degree; and bypass introductory classes.

How Do I Qualify?

Be an actively drilling Service Member with a valid Common Access Card (CAC).

What Do I Get?   (Note: These tests are not administered at the Education Center)
Available DANTES Sponsored Tests:
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- DANTES Standardized Subject Test (DSST)

NOTE: DANTES no longer supports the reimbursement of SAT, ACT, GMAT, GRE, or Praxis exams.

Funding For DANTES-Supported Testing
- DANTES authorizes up-front funding of the CLEP and DSST exams; however, some sites may charge an administrative fee up to $30.
- For more information, consult your State Education Office or visit the DANTES web site at: www.dantes.doded.mil/

How Do I Apply?
- To find your desired test center and specific registration information go to; https://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/test-site-lookup.html#sthash.2I8MNhPh.dpbs

7.2.1 College Credit by Examination Programs (CLEP/DSST)

The college credit examinations, CLEP and DSST, are widely accepted by colleges and universities. By passing these examinations, you may earn one-third or more of the credits required for a college degree. These examinations are available in more than 70 subject areas and are similar to end-of-course tests offered by colleges and universities. Colleges and universities individually determine what American Council on Education (ACE) recommended credit may be awarded for these exams, in lieu of traditional course requirements for their degree programs. Prior to testing, you are responsible for verifying your institution's credit awarding policy and minimum passing score requirements.

7.2.2 College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Examinations

CLEP offers you the opportunity to earn college credit for what you already know by taking any of the 33 introductory-level college subject exams. Because the exams are funded by DANTES, you could save hundreds or even thousands of dollars towards your degree.

Funding Eligibility
Visit the College Board website at www.collegeboard.org/clep and select "Military take Exam for Free." Review the information page and "Next Steps" to verify DANTES-funded eligibility.

CLEP National Test Centers
- Prior to testing, determine if the college or university you're enrolled in awards credit for CLEP exam here https://clep.collegeboard.org/school-policy-search
- Select a CLEP National Testing Center (NTC) nearest you by going to https://clep.collegeboard.org/test-center-search
- Note: there is no cost for the CLEP exam; however, some NTCs may charge a non-reimbursable administrative fee up to $25. Only fully funded DANTES sites waive the administrative fee.

Online Registration
Follow these steps:
1. Visit the College Board's website https://clep.collegeboard.org/register
2. If you don't already have one, create a new account in "My Account".
3. Identify DANTES-funding eligible during the registration process if applicable
4. Present the printed "ticket," authorized government ID and a second form of ID to the Test Administrator at the selected CLEP Test Center.

You must clearly specify your military status during the My Account **process. When purchasing an exam in My Account, you will be asked if you are eligible for DANTES funding in the "Edit Personal Details" section of the process. Military test takers must correctly designate themselves as DANTES funded and answer questions about their military status in order to receive DANTES funding.

Retest Policy
- DANTES only funds test fees for the first attempt on all CLEP titles.
- Examinees may not repeat an examination of the same title within three months of the initial testing date and must retest on a self-paid basis.

Scoring and Reporting
Visit https://clep.collegeboard.org/about-clep/scoring for score receipt and reporting information.
- Scores for all DANTES-funded CLEP exams taken by ARNG Soldiers are automatically reported to their Joint Services Transcript (JST).
- Scores for self-funded CLEP exams are **NOT** reported to JST. Ask the CLEP administrator for score report instructions.

7.2.3 DANTES Standardized Subject Test (DSST) Examinations

Funding Eligibility
Visit Prometric's DSST website at www.getcollegecredit.com and select "Test Takers – Military" or, refer to *DANTES Funding Eligibility Requirements* in this guide.

DSST Testing Sites

- Prior to testing, determine if the college or university you are enrolled in awards credit for DSST exams.
- Select a National Test Center nearest you by going to http://getcollegecredit.com/institutions/search
- Note: there is no cost for the DSST exam; however, some NTCs may charge a non-reimbursable administrative fee up to $25. Only fully funded DANTES sites waive the administrative fee.

Scheduling a DSST Exam
Review the DSST "*Test Taker Information Bulletin*" for testing and scheduling information. Present an authorized government ID and a second form of ID to the Test Administrator.

Retest Policy
Important! DANTES only funds fees for the first attempt on all DSST titles. Examinees may retest on a self-paid basis after the 90-calendar day waiting period has elapsed.

Scoring and Reporting
Refer to DSST SCORING POLICIES in the "*Test Taker Information Bulletin*."
- Scores for all DANTES-funded DSST exams taken by ARNG Soldiers are automatically reported to their Joint Service Transcript (JST).
- Scores for self-funded DSST exams are not reported to JST. Ask the DSST Test Administrator for score reporting instructions.

7.2.4 Undergraduate Admission Examinations (ACT/SAT)
Many colleges require that students submit ACT or SAT results as part of the admission application process. Both the ACT and SAT are standardized tests that help colleges evaluate candidates. Some schools accept either test interchangeably; however, Service members should check with their education counselor prior to testing. As you begin to think about college and creating the best application package possible, your admissions plan should begin with the question, "Which test should I take?"

Funding Eligibility
Service members are eligible to receive up to two free administrations of the ACT and SAT at a National Test Center by reimbursement. To receive reimbursement submit an online reimbursement form within 90 days of completing the exam https://daims.doded.mil/Reimbursements/ReimbursementRegistration.aspx

American College Test (ACT)
The ACT assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. ACTs can be taken twice for free through NTCs.

ACT National or International Test Centers:
- Up to two ACT exams are funded per lifetime of service for eligible Service members.
- Service members are responsible for scheduling the test, adhering to the published National and International Test Dates Calendar, and paying the test fee at time of registration.
- ACT exam fees are funded on an "after-the-fact" reimbursement basis. The official score report and payment receipt are required for reimbursement.

- All exam reimbursement requests must be submitted within 90 days of exam completion via the Electronic Reimbursement Request. Paper-based forms are not accepted.
- Learn more about current ACT fees and services at: http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration/fees.html

Scoring and Reporting
- Students may view their scores online by establishing a free ACT account at www.actstudent.org
- When available, your scores are posted online and accessed using your secure ACT web account. Scores are processed and added each week, keep checking until you see yours.
- Visit http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores.html for more information about receiving and sending scores.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)
The SAT is a recognized college admission test that lets you show colleges what you know and how well you can apply that knowledge. The SAT tests your knowledge of reading, writing and math — subjects that are taught every day in high school classrooms. Most students take the SAT during their junior or senior year of high school, and many colleges/universities use the SAT to make admission decisions.

SAT National or International Test Centers:
- Up to two SAT exams are funded per lifetime of service for eligible Service members.
- The SAT with Essay is strongly encouraged by DANTES.
- Service members are responsible for scheduling the test, adhering to the published National and International Test Dates Calendar, and paying the test fee at time of registration.
- Commercially administered SAT exam fees are funded on an "after-the-fact" reimbursement basis. The official score report and payment receipt are required for reimbursement.
- All exam reimbursement requests must be submitted via the Electronic Reimbursement Request. Paper-based forms are not accepted.
- Fees Not Covered: Additional expenses including but not limited to and also not refunded by SAT: registration, re-registration, late registration, standby testing, test date change, test center change, additional copies of score report, additional fees for international testing, cancellation, late arrival/forfeiture fees, service charges, credit card interest, travel expenses, and Value Added Tax (VAT).

Scoring and Reporting
Scores for SATs administered at a DANTES Test Site are mailed to the address provided at the time of testing, about eight (8) weeks after receipt of the answer sheet at SAT.
- SAT does not offer expedited scoring.
- Students may view and print their student score report online by establishing a free SAT web account.
- Visit https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/scores for information about receiving and sending scores.

7.2.5 GED – High School Equivalency Test
A high school diploma remains the primary ticket to many entry-level jobs, and is also a prerequisite for promotions, occupational training, and postsecondary education. General

Education Development (GED) Testing Service offers the only nationally recognized opportunity to earn a high school-equivalency credential.

GED Funding Eligibility
- All active-duty Service members (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard), as well as members of the Reserve and National Guard, are eligible to take at least one DANTES-reimbursed GED test per lifetime of service.
- Military personnel with a valid "Uniformed Services" Geneva Conventions Common Access Card (CAC) are eligible for DANTES-funded testing.
- Go to the DANTES web site to request reimbursement within 90 days of exam date for an eligible test at: http://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/funding-and-reimbursement-eligibility/reimbursement-eligibility.html
- Visit the GED Testing Service's Test Center Locator page at www.pearsonvue.com/ged/locate and enter the address or zip code to locate the nearest test center.

Adult Basic Education
- All states have Adult Basic Education Learning centers that offer free adult basic skills learning to prepare adults for the GED, college and careers. To find the adult learning locations near you visit your State's Department of Education website for more details at; *https://www2.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/index.html*

7.2.6 Graduate Admissions Exams (GMAT/GRE)
The Graduate Admissions Exam and Military-Specific Program Requirements can help you showcase your knowledge. Whether you are planning to go to graduate school, business school, or you are just exploring your education options show the schools that you are applying to that you have the skills necessary for graduate or business school.

Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)
The computer based GMAT is available throughout the year. Obtain information regarding GMAT testing policies, test fees, registration procedures and identifying the nearest GMAT Test Center by visiting www.mba.com

GMAT Funding Eligibility
- All active-duty Service members (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard), as well as members of the National Guard and Reserve components, are eligible to take one DANTES-reimbursed GMAT exam.
- Military personnel with a valid "Uniformed Services" Geneva Conventions Common Access Card (CAC) are eligible for DANTES-funded testing.
- Go to the DANTES web site to request reimbursement within 90 days of exam date http://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/funding-and-reimbursement-eligibility/reimbursement-eligibility.html

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

The computer-based GRE is offered throughout the year. Paper-based administrations are offered in areas where computer-based testing is not available. Obtain information regarding GRE testing policies, fees, registration procedures and the nearest GRE Test Center by visiting https://www.ets.org/gre/

GRE Funding Eligibility

- DANTES funds one (1) administration of the GRE General and GRE Subject Tests (reimbursement limited to a single Subject exam) per lifetime for eligible military personnel.
- Military personnel with a valid CAC are eligible for DANTES-funded testing.
- Go to the DANTES web site to request reimbursement within 90 days of exam date http://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/funding-and-reimbursement-eligibility/reimbursement-eligibility.html

7.2.7 Teaching Prep & Certification Exam (PRAXIS®)

Different states and agencies have State Testing Requirements, so you will need to find out which tests are required for teacher licensure in your state, territory or organization. Teaching certification requirements vary but generally applicants must complete a state-specific certification exam and/or one or more of the Praxis Series exams.

Praxis®

Praxis Series® exams are delivered by computer at an international network of test centers that include Prometric® test centers, some universities and other locations. Obtain information regarding testing policies, fees, registration procedures and the nearest Praxis Test Center by visiting www.ets.org/praxis

Reimbursement Eligibility

- All active-duty Service members, as wells as members of the National Guard and Reserve components, are eligible to take one DANTES-reimbursed Praxis® Core test and one Subject-specific content knowledge test, per lifetime of service, to include: Praxis® Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core) and Praxis® Subject Assessments, or Praxis® Content Knowledge for Teaching Assessments (CKT)
- Go to the DANTES web site to request reimbursement within 90 days of exam date http://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/funding-and-reimbursement-eligibility/reimbursement-eligibility.html.

7.3 Study Guides and Support Materials

- **OASC/CPST:** https://dantes.petersons.com/
  - Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) and the College Placement Skills Training course (CPST). The OASC focuses on preparing you with the academic skills needed to do well on the ASVAB/AFCT. The CPST helps learners achieve college readiness and place into college-level courses by scoring well on the ACCUPLACER exam.
- **Free College Board CLEP Study Material:**
  - Upon registration, military members will receive a free eGuide.
  - Available at: https://clep.collegeboard.org/earn-college-credit/military-benefits
- **Free CLEP Prep**: www.free-clep-prep.com/index.html
  - This website tells you what to expect for many CLEP and DSST exams, offers all kinds of test-taking tips, study guides, and resources, plus it's 100% free.

- **Modern States:** https://modernstates.org/course
  - o Free online courses taught by professors from leading institutions, have no prerequisites or restrictions for enrolling and cover all CLEP exam subjects.
- **Harvard College Writing Center**: https://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/resources
  - o An overview of the college essay, how to cite sources, and strategies for outlining. Perfect for studying for the College Composition CLEP.
- **Free DSST Practice Exams:** https://www.getcollegecredit.com/dsst_practice_exam/
- **DSST Test prep (fee):** https://www.getcollegecredit.com/testprep/
- **MWR Library:** http://mylibraryus.armybiznet.com/
  - o A variety of online resources can be found on the MWR library to assist you with your testing preparation needs including:
  - o **EBSCO Learning Express:** EBSCO's DoD Learning Express Test Prep library provides eLearning tutorials, practice tests, e-books, flashcards and articles that help users build their skills in a wide array of core subjects for success in the classroom, on the job, and in life, including preparation for CLEP, DSST, ACT, GRE and more. Access the DoD MWR Digital Library online by visiting https://www.militaryonesource.mil/. Select the menu icon in the upper right. Then, select the MWR Digital Library link. Go to the bottom of the page and select the "ACCESS THE LIBRARY" button under the "For Adults" section. You will now be able to select the tile titled "EBSCO DoD Learning Express Test Prep." You will need to register and login using your authentication certificate to have access to the EBSCO library.
  - o **Mango Languages:** Digital language learning program for learners of all levels, with courses in over 70 different foreign languages, 21 English Language Learning courses.
- **Khan Academy:** www.khanacademy.org
  - o Comprehensive videos and practice quizzes to help with college level mathematics, science, and history tests.
- **Coursera:** www.coursera.org
  - o Online classes in real time with real teachers for free. Browse the catalog for classes that fit your schedule and your interests. Classes are offered on a broad base of subjects including; history, religion, public speaking and many others.

NOTE: Service members should visit their state Education Center or nearest active duty installation library for additional information regarding free and low-cost test preparation alternatives. Other resources may be available through local, used college textbook stores.

Prospective examinees should be aware of test prep scams. Before you invest in any prep service, the respective national testing agencies do not endorse materials not identified on their websites, nor are they responsible for score results when materials are purchased from unaffiliated, third-party resources.

7.4 Using GI Bill for Testing, Licensure, and Certifications
- The DVA may reimburse the cost of approved licensing, certification, and national tests. Students are reimbursed the actual cost of the test, up to $2,000.
- Students must be eligible for GI Bill benefits to receive test reimbursement, have remaining entitlement and their delimiting date must not have passed.
- Information about test fee reimbursement can be found on the DVA website: https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/test-fees/

Entitlement Charge

- **MGIB-AD:** Your entitlement is charged one month for every $2,150 received (FY22). Entitlement is prorated for tests that cost less than $2,150.
- **MGIB-SR:** Your entitlement is charged one month for every $407 received (FY22). Entitlement is prorated for tests that cost less than $407.
- **Post-9/11 GI Bill:**
  - **For tests taken before August 1, 2018,** if you were reimbursed for testing under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, you were charged at least a month of entitlement.
  - **For tests taken after August 1, 2018,** the DVA will prorate the entitlement charges under the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on the cost of the test.

Available Tests

- A sample list of available tests is provided below. A list of all approved national tests and approved charges can be found through the following link: https://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchNE.do
  - ACT (American College Testing Program)
  - AP (Advanced Placement Exam)
  - BAR EXAM
  - CERTIFIED ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING SPECIALIST
  - CLEP (College-Level Examination Program)
  - CWP Certification Exam (Certified Wellness Practitioner)
  - CAT (Connecticut Administrator License)
  - DAT (Dental Admissions Test)
  - DSST (DANTES Subject Standardized Tests)
  - ECE (Excelsior College Examinations)
  - FOOD SAFETY MANAGER
  - GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test)
  - GRE (Graduate Record Exam)
  - LSAT (Law School Admission Test)
  - LC-PA (Learning Counts Portfolio Assessment)
  - MAT (Miller Analogies Test)
  - MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test)
  - MICHIGAN BAR EXAMINATION
  - MIG (GMAW) American Welding Certification
  - NATIONAL HOME INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION
  - OAT (Optometry Admissions Testing)
  - PCAT (Pharmacy College Admissions Test)
  - SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)

Chapter 8: EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMS

8.0 Overview
Numerous federal agencies and civilian companies offer free programs to help you succeed in your education endeavors. Some of these programs are described below.

8.1 Joint Services Transcript (JST)
The JST contains a record of your military educational experiences, including those for which there are evaluated college credit recommendations. The acceptance of American Council on Education (ACE) credit recommendations varies depending on an institution's policies, procedures, and degree requirements. To request a transcript, visit the JST Web site at https://jst.doded.mil/jst/

- What is the JST?
  - JST is an academically accepted document approved by ACE to validate a service member's military occupational experience and training along with the corresponding ACE college credit recommendations. It replaced the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS) and the Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART).

- Who is eligible for a JST?
  - All enlisted, officers and warrant officers, both active and veterans from all Army components, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy.

- What benefit does JST provide?
  - It provides a description of military schooling and work history in civilian language.
  - It serves as a counseling tool for academic and career counselors in advising Service members and veterans.
  - It serves as an aid in preparing resumes and explaining Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, National Guard and Navy work experience to civilian employers.
  - It also saves time and money by awarding academic credits, which means less tuition to pay and less time spent in the classroom.

- How do you view and print your personal/unofficial transcript?
  - Once you have logged into the JST website, click on the link at the top that says "Transcripts". From there, you can view your transcript by using the "Transcript" link. This page also has links that allow you to view your transcript. The transcript contains sections for Military Course Completions, Military Experience and College Level Test Scores. You can print or save the transcript for your records.

- What do you have to do to have your official JST sent to a school?
  - After you log on to the JST website you will click the "Transcript" link at the top of the page and then on the "Transcripts menu" you will click the "Official Transcript Request. On the next page, search for the school and select the institution from the list. Select the correct institution (verify spelling and location are correct) in the resulting search results. On the next page, acknowledge the consent statement and click "Yes". There is no charge to have a JST sent to a college/university.

- Do all colleges/universities accept the recommend credit listed on JST?
  - It is up to each institution to decide what ACE credit recommendations can be accepted, modified, or rejected. Whether an academic institution accepts the credit recommendations depends on its policies and procedures for transfer credit, your program of study, and your degree requirements.

- Is there a limit to the number of official transcripts you can have sent out?
  - Delivery method (indicated on screen when you order) determines how many transcripts can be ordered/sent out. If the delivery method is electronic then there is no limit but you can only order to colleges that accept electronic delivery.
  - If the delivery method is US Postal Service (USPS) then only 2 transcripts can be ordered within a 30-day period due to the cost associated with generating and mailing.

- How far back does the data on JST go?
  - The data can go back as far as 1976 but data older than 1994 may be missing or incomplete. We can include training on your transcript that was taken prior to 1976. The older the data, the greater the chance something could be missing.

8.2 Tools to Help Make Your Educational Decisions

8.2.1 MilGears

- What is MilGears?
  - MilGears is a decision support tool that can assist you in researching options before selecting credentials and/or degrees by completing an interest inventory. The tool will analyze your input into the interest inventory, provide you with related civilian occupations you may be interested in, and will show the related credentials and/or academic degrees that support your career choices.

    If you find an occupation and credential you are interested in, you'll have the option to download and save a summary page of those selections that you can keep as a reference.

- What will MilGear do for me?

- MilGears provides a Soldier with the "best fit" credentials and/or degrees and schools that match their career goal.
- Downloadable summary page of the credential and/or degrees for the selected career choice.

- What makes MilGears unique?
  - MilGears is an interactive Army Decision Support Tool (DST) so Soldiers can research potential career choices and their credential and/or degree requirements prior to selecting to pursue a degree or credential.
  - MilGears uses data inputted by Soldiers and the Department of Labor to further personalize recommendations.
  - MilGears guides Soldiers through a complete decision process, linking career goals to degree/credential requirements and to personalized career recommendations.
  - MilGears provides Soldiers a 'Military Pay Calculator' link to best assess your military income in the civilian sector.

- What are the benefits of MilGears?
  - Personalized data used to help you visualize impacts of your career and education choices on future salary potential.
  - MilGears recommends civilian career paths, enables you to conduct your own searches, and compare options.
  - MilGears also recommends degrees that align with your career goal and best fit/best value schools offering the selected degree.
  - You will be able to review your selections and view personalized success tips.

8.2.2 TA DECIDE

TA DECIDE is an online information and comparison tool tailored to the unique educational needs of Service members. Launched by the Department of Defense (DoD) in April 2015, this program is designed to support decision-making when it comes to selecting schools, choosing the right program and making decisions that are aligned with unique personal goals.

- TA DECIDE works for everyone, whether pursuing education full or part-time. By entering personal parameters such as preferred degree level, program area and residential area, TA DECIDE provides vital information. This information includes number of Service members using DoD tuition assistance, annual tuition costs, graduation rates, comparisons of schools and programs, and much more.

- One of the greatest benefits of using TA DECIDE is that all the schools included in this tool have been vetted by the DoD. More than that, all the schools signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) conveying the commitments and agreements between the educational institution and DoD prior to receiving funds from a service's TA program. The TA DECIDE engine is fueled by more than 10 recognized and trusted data sources from across the departments of Defense, Education, and Veterans Affairs.

- There are thousands of schools included in TA DECIDE, and all are eligible for military tuition assistance. You can use TA DECIDE on your own or utilize it while working with an educational counselor. It's an additional resource that can help you start a conversation or launch right into your own search. See more at: www.dodmou.com/TADECIDE/

8.2.3 Career Path DECIDE

Career Path DECIDE is a decision support tool provided by the Department of Defense to help Service members and Veterans identify, prepare for, and become increasingly qualified for employment as they transition military service to the civilian workforce. This tool will assist Service members with identifying potential best fit careers based on their military occupation, education level and prior civilian work experience. It will also help Service members find the right Credential and/or Degree programs needed to fill identified experience and education gaps they may have to make them even more qualified, prepared, and marketable for those careers. https://careerpathdecide.usalearning.gov/

8.2.4 College Navigator

The National Center for Education Statistics' College Navigator website provides important data to help refine a college search. The interactive site allows you to explore and compare features of different institutions, including programs and majors, degree levels, institution type, and admissions considerations, pinpoint school locations with an interactive map, and export search results into a spreadsheet file format. http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/

8.2.5 College Scorecard

College Scorecard is a U.S. Department of Education webpage designed to assist prospective students in determining which school to attend. Using this site, a person can run a search based on the degree, location, size of student body, specialized school missions, whether a school is public, private nonprofit, or private for-profit, or religious affiliation. The site's search function provides graphic results that are easy to filter and sort allowing for easy comparisons of schools. To access the College Scorecard website, visit: https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/

8.2.6 CollegeRecon

CollegeRecon is a virtual tool providing an unbiased and secure environment for current and former military personnel to connect with over 3,000 not-for-profit colleges and universities from across the country. CollegeRecon is an innovative and revolutionary new platform for those who have served, those currently serving, and their families to search for and connect with post-secondary educational opportunities. The platform is completely free to use and has been built and tailored specifically for college-bound military-connected students. CollegeRecon allows users to search for schools based on 50+ different filters in order to narrow down a list of "top choices." CollegeRecon can be accessed at: https://app.collegerecon.com/

8.2.7 GI Bill Comparison Tool

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' GI Bill Comparison Tool enables users to calculate benefits and research approved programs of study. Users enter their military status; the GI Bill benefit they plan to use and information about their school or employer (for approved apprenticeship/on-the-job training programs). A benefit estimator function provides the user with the expected payment rate information: https://www.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool

8.2.8 Kuder Journey

The website is a one-stop-shop for Service members as they plan, prepare and transition to civilian employment. Users provide their military background, needs and barriers, to create a custom menu of resources that facilitate a personalized approach to career development. This easy step-by-step development process begins with the completion of three assessments: The Kuder Career Interests Assessment. Kuder Skills Confidence Assessment – Adult, and Kuder Work Values Assessment provide a reliable foundation for which military members can build plans for the future.   https://journey.kuder.com/account/adult-login-register

8.2.9 Coalition for College
The Coalition for College is a group of more than 140 distinguished colleges and universities across the U.S. that joined to increase students' access to higher education. The site helps to make college a reality for all students through a set of free, online college-planning tools that helps students learn about, prepare for, and apply to college. The Coalition offers fee waivers for veterans and those currently serving that allows eligible students to apply to most member schools without paying any application fees. Access the site at:
http://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/

8.2.10 Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH)
The OOH is a career resource offering information on the hundreds of occupations that provide the overwhelming majority of jobs in the United States. Each occupational profile describes the duties required by the occupation, the work environment of that occupation, the typical education and training needed to enter the occupation, the median pay for workers in the occupation, and the job outlook into the next 10 years for that occupation. Each profile is in a standard format that makes it easy to compare occupations. The OOH can be accessed at:
www.bls.gov/ooh

8.2.11 O*NET OnLine
O*NET is the nation's primary source of occupational information. Central to the project is the O*NET database, containing information on hundreds of standardized and occupation-specific descriptors. The database, which is available to the public at no cost, is continually updated by surveying a broad range of workers from each occupation. Information from this database forms the heart of O*NET OnLine, an interactive application for exploring and searching occupations. The database also provides the basis for our Career Exploration Tools, a set of valuable assessment instruments for workers and students looking to find or change careers. To access O*NET OnLine, go to http://www.onetonline.org/

8.2.12 HERC and DegreeQuest®
The Higher Education Resource Center (HERC) offers free guidance and support to all National Guard Soldiers and their family members, including spouses and dependent children of college age, using their patented degree exploration system, DegreeQuest®.

- To take advantage of the free support offered you first submit an online application for assistance by clicking on the button at the bottom of this web page: http://degreequickly.com/nationalguard.html

- A "Welcome" e-mail will be sent to you with a link to the Joint Service Transcript (JST) and a reminder that an unofficial transcript needs to be sent to HERC from the college(s) previously attended, college level exam scores, and copies of professional certificates or licenses.

- The counselors at HERC will build an electronic education record for you which includes every potential source of credit earned in the past. The counselors at HERC then digitally stream your credits into the curricula requirements of degrees in the field of study desired, identifying the optimal degrees for consideration while minimizing loss of transfer college credits taken in the past. The HERC counselors then send notification to the colleges and universities, enabling them to log into the DegreeQuest system and review the placement of your credits toward their degree requirements.

- HERC counselors will also explain how to use the myriad of resources on SOCRATES to find low cost textbooks, explore scholarships and grants, and much more.

- **Test Preparation with SOCRATES:** The Higher Education Resource Center (HERC) provides free access to their student support website, SOCRATES (**S**tudents **O**nline **C**onnections, **R**esources & **A**cademics **T**o **E**nhance **S**uccess).
- Resources on SOCRATES can help you earn college credit by examination (CLEP/DSST), prepare for admissions examinations (ACT, SAT, GRE, GMAT), prepare for certification or license examinations, and more. There are more than 3,000 links on SOCRATES to help students succeed, including:
  - More than 500 semester hours of tuition-free college courses from many of the best universities in the nation. These tuition-free courses bring the subjects to life on the screen (for visual learners), cameras in the classrooms at top universities (for auditory learners), and completely downloadable test-based courses (for kinesthetic learners).
  - Hundreds of free practice tests.
  - Low cost textbook providers.
  - Links to numerous financial aid sites offering scholarships and grants.

8.3 Tools to Help While You Are in School

8.3.1 Army e-Learning/Skillport
All actively serving members of the ARNG as well as Department of the Army civilian employees, are authorized to access over 5,000 Information Technology, Business Skills, and Interpersonal Skills courses from any location, around the clock (24/7). To use Army e-Learning simply obtain an AKO account and complete your registration through ATRRS (you do NOT need an ATRRS Logon ID/Account to register). To see what courses are available you can browse the Army e-Learning Course Catalog at; https://www.atrrs.army.mil/selfdevctr/sfcatalog.pdf or to enroll in courses go to; https://www.atrrs.army.mil/selfdevctr/eLearningWelcome.aspx (Must be on CAC enabled computer to access).
- With Army e-Learning you have access to:
  - Over 3,500 web-based courses in Information Technology, Business Leadership and Personal Development
  - IT certification prep courses/tests in MCSE, CISSP, C++, Cisco, Oracle and many more (AR350-1) (e-Learning Waiver Form) (Certification Matrix)
  - On-line subject matter experts and mentors available 24x7
  - Skillsoft Books
  - ACE college credit course training modules (ACE College Credit Procedures) (ACE Tracking Form)
  - Customized Learning Paths unique to organizational training needs
  - Curricula mappings to fit your training requirements and help when developing Individual Development Plans
  - Knowledge Centers in Leadership, Project Management, and Microsoft Enterprise Solutions
- What is the value of Army e-Learning?
  - 1 promotion point for every 5 hours of training for Enlisted
  - Continuous Learning Points for DA Civilians
  - Flexibility to take anywhere, anytime at no charge to the individual or unit.
  - Reduces cost per trained Soldier

8.3.2 Khan Academy
Khan Academy is a not-for-profit with the goal of changing education for the better by providing a free world-class education for anyone anywhere. All the site's resources are available to

anyone. It doesn't matter if you are a student, teacher, homeschooler, principal, or an adult returning to the classroom after 20 years. Khan Academy's materials and resources are available to you completely free of charge. Course offerings are continually expanding; courses are available in Math, Science, Economics and Finance, Humanities, and Computer programming. Students can make use of their extensive library of content, including interactive challenges, assessments, and videos from any computer with access to the web. Go to www.khanacademy.org to access Khan Academy.

8.3.3 Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) and College Placement Skills Training (CPST)

OASC and CPST are available to Service members, DoD civilians, and family members, to help prepare for college, build academic skills, and prepare for exams such as CLEP or DSST. CPST is especially helpful for those beginning their college program as most colleges require students to take placement exams prior to enrolling in English and math classes. The courses are self-paced and customized based on your answers on a pre-assessment. Lessons utilize interactive exercises such as drag-and-drop matching, video games style multiple choice, and dynamic flash cards. Lessons include the following areas: English and Language Arts, Essay Writing and Math (basic and college level math). Access OASC and CPST at www.nelnetsolutions.com/dantesnet/

8.3.4 Federal Academic Alliance

The US Office of Personnel Management partnered with several colleges and universities to provide additional learning opportunities to the federal workforce (including military personnel) by arranging reduced tuition rates. Furthermore, some schools in this alliance extend these reduced rates to spouses and dependents. Many of these schools offer online programs. Gain more information here: https://www.opm.gov/wiki/training/Federal-Governmentwide-Academic-Alliances.ashx

8.3.5 Coursera

Coursera is an education company that partners with the top universities and organizations in the world to offer courses online for anyone to take, for free. Technology enables Coursers partners to teach millions of students rather than hundreds. Classes offered on Coursera are designed to help you master the material. When you take one of Coursera's classes, you will watch lectures taught by world-class professors, learn at your own pace, test your knowledge, and reinforce concepts through interactive exercises. Coursera offers courses in a wide range of topics, spanning the Humanities, Medicine, Biology, Social Sciences, Mathematics, Business, Computer Science, and many others. Whether you're looking to improve your resume, advance your career, or just learn more and expand your knowledge, Coursera offers multiple courses that you may find interesting. Coursera can be accessed at: www.coursera.org

8.3.6 Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

MOOCs are online courses that provide traditional course materials such as filmed lectures, readings, and problem sets, as well as providing interactive user forums to support community interactions between students, professors, and teaching assistants. MOOCs are a relatively new and have emerged as a popular mode of learning. MOOCs can especially be useful when preparing for CLEP and DSST exams. An excellent source to find available MOOCs is https://www.classcentral.com/

8.3.7 Modern States Education Alliance (MSEA)

MSEA is a non-profit organization that offers free college courses to help students prepare for CLEP and Advanced Placement (AP) exams. MSEA offers over 70 high quality CLEP and AP prep courses from top institutions that cover almost all CLEP exams. Through MSEA Soldiers can earn college credit by taking free online college prep courses and a corresponding CLEP exam at no cost at a nearby National Test Center (NTC). For more information, visit the MSEA web site at; https://modernstates.org

8.3.8 Tutor.com

Funded by the DoD MWR Library Program, Yellow Ribbon Reintegration, Army General Library Program, and Navy General Library Program. Tutor.com provides homework and study help from a professional tutor any time you need it. It is FREE for Active Duty or Deployed National Guard Soldiers. Expert tutors are online 24/7 and available to help in more than 16 subjects, including test prep, proofreading, Math, Science, English, and Social Studies. For more information, visit the MSEA web site at; https://military.tutor.com/home

8.4 Time Management and Test Taking Tools

Good study tips and habits can make a tremendous difference in achieving your academic success. Study tips can assist you in understanding academic subject matter and improving your test scores. Some of these tips you may have already been exposed to and use or never applied. Many successful students create their own personal methods to absorbing classroom material by modifying established methods of learning. Regardless of your learning style, understanding how to absorb and articulate knowledge is a necessity for all people involved in the learning process; in and outside of the classroom. Below is a list of tips that may be beneficial to you as you seek your academic success.

    o Time Management and Organization Tools to Improve Your Time Management:

    https://students.dartmouth.edu/academic-skills/learning-resources/time-management-tips
    o Improve Note Taking SkillsLearning Styles and Strategies:
      http://www4.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/f/felder/public/ILSdir/styles.htm
    o Note Taking Skills and Strategies: www.testtakingtips.com/note/index.htm
    o Cramming Techniques for Exams: www.testtakingtips.com/cramming/index.htm
    o Reducing Test Taking Anxiety: www.testtakingtips.com/anxiety/index.htm
    o Study Skills Help & Study Tips: www.testtakingtips.com/study/index.htm
    o Test Preparation Tips: www.testtakingtips.com/test/genpre.htm

8.5 Registered Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training Programs

Employer-sponsored Registered Apprenticeship (RA) and On-the-Job training programs provide a unique opportunity to earn full-time wages, collect GI Bill benefits, and attain a nationally recognized credential in over 1,300 officially recognized occupations. Key RA industries include aerospace, biotechnology, construction, energy, geospatial, health care, information and communications technology, advanced manufacturing, and transportation and logistics.

- Registered Apprenticeship Programs: To identify RA programs approved for the use of GI Bill benefits, visit http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do. Select "On-the-Job Training/Apprenticeship" from the "Program Type" dropdown menu, enter a job title or the word "apprentice" and then click your preferred state. Enter

"apprenticeship in the website's search bar under the jobs tab.
- Industry and Career Research: To conduct and industry/career research and MOS-matching, can be conducted at www.mynextmove.org/vets/
- Current Vacancies: To identify current apprenticeship vacancies available at over 16,000 employers nationwide visit https://www.apprenticeship.gov/apprenticeship-finder. Current vacancies can also be found at https://www.glassdoor.com.

8.6 Onward to Opportunity (O2O)

With no-cost training and certification in over 40 top-paying career fields and direct connections to military friendly employers through their national partner Hire Heroes USA, this career transition program utilizes in person and online learning options.

What Do I get?
- Career Training and access to online learning pathways.
- Direct connections to 850+ national employer partners through Hire Heroes USA.
- Networking opportunities and connections.
- One FREE industry certification exam.
- FREE resume assistance, interviewing technique training and matching to employers in your industry.
- Non-credit certificate of completion from the IVMF at Syracuse University upon course completion.
- IVMF Alumni Services Support.
- O2O & Google.org are working together. If you're a military spouse that's interested, you can apply now and start your journey to gaining employment no matter where the military moves you next.

How Do I apply?
- Start the application process at https://ivmf.syr.acuse.edu/onward-to-opportunity/

8.7 The College Financing Plan

The College Financing Plan is a U.S. Department of Education webpage that provides students with a tool that assists prospective students in understanding the total costs of attendance. The site factors in tuition, fees, housing, meals, books and supplies, transportation, other education costs, grants and scholarships, work-study possibilities, student loans, military education benefits, and other potential factors. The College Financing Plan can be accessed at https://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/guid/aid-offer/index.html

8.8 My Next Move

The My Next Move website (https://www.mynextmove.org/vets/) provides some extraordinary tools which provide a quick search function, MOS related careers (Through the O*NET Interest Profiler), connect to Bureau of Labor Statestics and O*NET Online, and allows you to Print or email the results.

Chapter 9: ARNG EDUCATION INCENTIVES (Applicable to the Army National Guard)

9.0 Overview
Administers ARNG bonus and incentives to support the strength readiness objectives of the 54 States & Territories while providing stewardship, resource management & policy guidance for Selective Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP) and Army Medical Department Incentives Program (AMEDDIP).

9.1 ARNG Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP)

Overview. For Army Medical Department (AMEDD) officers on the critical war time shortage

list who have qualifying student loans upon joining the ARNG or acquired during their time as a member in the Army National Guard for continued qualifying education, this program may pay up to $250,000 while they are a member of the ARNG. Current ARNG officers who extend their initial military service obligation may also be eligible for this program providing they meet certain requirements. An Army National Guard AMEDD Recruiter or your State Incentives' Office personnel can provide more details. Be sure to reference current policy and inquire with your State's AMEDD Recruiter for up to date details on this program.

How Do I Qualify?
Be sure to reference current policy and inquire with your State's AMEDD Recruiter and Incentives Manager for up-to-date details on this program. To be eligible, AMEDD Officers must meet all the requirements for accessioning and commissioning as an AMEDD Officer in the ARNG. Some requirements include
- Graduates of the Inter-Service Physician Assistant Program (IPAP) and the University of Kentucky College of Social Work Program (Army-UK MSW) are not eligible to participate in HPLRP until they satisfy their 6-year contractual obligation.
- Must be on the critical wartime shortage list.

- Must be assigned to an authorized TDA/MTOE unit.
- Soldier must possess outstanding educational loans toward the qualifying degree of Area of Concentration (AOC).
- Program participants must remain in a qualifying (AOC) duty position in order to receive loan repayments, monthly stipend, or special pay.
- Must be in an authorized duty position, or authorized duty position on the substitution list.
- HPLRP contractual obligation depends on AOC.

May Qualify For:
- Medical Corps, Dental Corps, and Clinical Psychologists: $40,000/year, with a $250,000 lifetime cap.
- Social Workers: $25,000 per year with a $75,000 lifetime cap.
- Physician Assistants and Veterinarians: $20,000 per year with a $60,000 lifetime cap.

How Do I Apply?
- AMEDD officers on the critical wartime shortage list interested in HPLRP will need to speak to their State's AMEDD Recruiter or AMEDD Incentives Manager to find out if they are qualified for HPLRP and what loans may be eligible for repayment. Once found qualified, the AMEDD Recruiter will initiate the HPLRP contract in the Guard Incentives Management System and the requested document will be submitted for approval.

9.2 ARNG Chaplain Loan Repayment Program (CLRP)
Overview. The ARNG Chaplain Loan Repayment Program is offered for the purpose of maintaining adequate numbers of qualified chaplains within the ARNG.

How Do I Qualify?
Individuals enrolled in the Chaplain Candidate Program are NOT eligible to participate in the ARNG CLRP but may become qualified to participate in CLRP upon becoming fully qualified as a Chaplain. Be sure to reference current policy and inquire with your State's Incentives Manager for up to date details on this program. Chaplains must meet all the requirements for affiliating as a Chaplain in the ARNG, and
- Must not be simultaneously receiving an Officer Accession Bonus (OAB), Officer Affiliation Bonus (OAFB), Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) or any enlisted bonus incentive.
- Must be Duty Area of Concentration Qualified (DAOCQ) as a 56A and assigned in the authorized military grade commensurate for AOC 56A as a Chaplain coded in GIMS.
- Chaplains that are listed as "9993" in GIMS are not eligible.
- Must be assigned to an authorized Unit Identification Code (UIC).
- Must not have been a two-time non-select for promotion.
- Must possess outstanding educational loans secured on or after 1 October 1975; loans must have been applied towards a graduate education or professional qualifying degree courses resulting in a Master of Divinity Degree or equivalent.
- State and private loans are not eligible.
- Must possess a degree from an accredited theological seminary listed as a National Faith. Related Accrediting Organization in the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or approved by the Armed Forces Chaplains Board.
- Must have a GIMS CLRP Pre-Approval application approved by the State Incentive Mgr.
- Must sign an agreement to serve not fewer than three years as a Chaplain in the ARNG.

May Qualify For:
The maximum ARNG CLRP is up to $80,000 (up to $20K for each 3-year period of obligation) by law and covers the loan's principle, interest, and related expenses. The maximum annual payment made for eligible participants under the CLRP may not exceed $6,666.66 for each year of the incentive term.

How Do I Apply?
- Provide the State Officer Strength Manager (OSM) copies of the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) Summary Aid and Detailed Loan Information Sheet(s) or copies of promissory note(s) and disbursement sheet(s) for any Title IV loan(s) not listed on the NSLDS documentation.
- These documents must be dated within 30-days of the CLRP Pre-Approval request.
- Once the State OSM has submitted the CLRP Pre-Approval request in GIMS and it is approved by the State Incentive Manager, the State OSM will then answer the CRLP eligibility questions in GIMS.
- Once GIMS determines that the Chaplain meets CLRP eligibility, the OSM will print out the CLRP agreement and sign it with the Chaplain.
- The date on the CLRP agreement establishes the 3-year service obligation period.
- In order to complete a new 3-year CLRP agreement, the Chaplain must repeat the application process and sign a new CLRP agreement once approved.

9.3 ARNG Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)
Overview. The ARNG Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) is offered as an enlistment incentive for Non-Prior Service (NPS) enlistees, for Prior Service (PS) who have not previously received the Enlisted Loan Repayment Program and are affiliating from the USAR, and as a retention tool for current Guard Soldiers who have eligible student loans.

How Do I Qualify?
- May sign for a SLRP incentive with or without current qualifying student loans, however, all loans must be Title IV Federal loans that are not currently in default.
- Federal Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS loans) are eligible for repayment if the Soldier is the borrower and the loans(s) are in the Soldier's name.
- State and private loans are not eligible.
- In order to be eligible for payment, must be enlisting or reenlisting/extending for a minimum period of 6-years in an active status.
- Loan(s) that are in default on the SLRP contract signature date are never eligible for repayment, regardless if default status is removed afterwards.
- Must not be enlisting as a Glossary Non-Prior Service (GNPS), 09R Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) Cadet, or 09S Officer Candidate School (OCS) Candidate (See 8.4 for more details).
- Must not be enlisting into the Recruit Force Pool (RFP), ROTC program or have or will receive a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) scholarship.
- Must not have previously received ELRP (aka SLRP).
- If enlisting with loans, must have a GIMS SLRP Pre-Approval application approved by the State Incentives Manager.
- The annual payment is 15 percent of the eligible Disbursed amount or $500.00, whichever is greater; the annual payment sum may not exceed maximum payment cap of $7,500.

- Maximum annual payment cap is $7,500.
- The annual payment is inclusive of interest if the combined principal and interest payment does not exceed the maximum amount authorized by DoDI.
- 50K is a lifetime max and eligible Soldiers may extend/continue existing agreement IOT reach full entitlement.
- Enlisted Soldiers receiving SLRP will remain eligible while attending OCS or WOCS or after contracting into the ROTC/ SMP programs as a non-scholarship participant.
- Soldiers may also remain eligible upon commissioning or appointment, subject to the original terms and conditions within their incentive agreement.
- ARNG Recruiters/Reserve Component Career Counselors (RCCC)/Incentives Managers determine loan eligibility using NSLDS and/or applicable promissory notes/disbursement sheet(s) for enlistees who meet the following criteria:
  - NPS & PS SLRP recipients must enlist/affiliate into a Critical Skill (CS) and UIC vacancy that matches the authorized skill level position within Tier Levels 1-6. Note: NPS must be in grade E-4 and below and PS must be in grade E-7 or below.
  - Must enlist/affiliate into a valid, authorized UIC vacancy as per ARNG SRIP policy.
  - NPS applicant must have an Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) score of 50 or higher.
  - PS applicant must be Duty Military Occupational Specialty Qualified (DMOSQ) in the contracted SLRP MOS at time of enlistment/affiliation.
  - PS applicant must have less than 16-years' Time-in-Service (TIS) on contract start date.
  - PS Soldier must have received an Honorable Discharge or an Honorable release at the conclusion of all periods of prior military service.
  - A General under Honorable conditions discharge for any period of service is ineligible (Exception: Soldiers who completed IADT with an uncharacterized discharge).
  - PS Soldier must not be enlisting under the provisions of a Conditional Release (DD Form 368) from a National Guard (SELRES) component other than the United States Army Reserve (USAR).
  - NPS/ PS applicants' contract at MEPS; Soldiers affiliating from AD contract with an RCCC in GIMS.
- ARNG Unit Readiness NCOs/Retention NCOs/Incentive Managers determine current Soldiers' eligibility SLRP eligibility using NSLDS documentation. To reenlist/extend for SLRP, Soldiers must meet the following criteria:
  - Must be in Pay Grade E-7 or below.
  - Must be DMOSQ and assigned as the primary position holder.
  - Must reenlist/extend in an authorized UIC per current ARNG SRIP policy.
  - Must have less than 16 years TIS at time of current ETS date.
  - Must reenlist/extend within 365-0 days of his or her ETS date.
  - Must not be in an AGR or FT MILTECH status on contract signature and start dates.
  - Must not be under any type of Suspension of Favorable Personnel Action (SFPA).
  - Soldiers who enter the program after 1 March 2009 may extend beyond his/her initial 6-year SLRP contract until such time as he/she reaches the maximum dollar amount that was authorized on the date of the initial SLRP contract. This does not currently apply to officers.

Note: Be sure to reference current policy and inquire with your State's Incentives Manager for up to date details on this program.

What Do I Get?
- The maximum lifetime amount (currently) of the ARNG SLRP is $50,000.00.

- The maximum annual payment made for eligible participants under the SLRP may not exceed $7,500 for each anniversary year of the incentive term.
- Soldier must meet all the payment eligibility requirements per current ARNG SRIP policy.

How Do I Apply?
- The Applicant/Soldier must provide the Recruiter, RCCC or RNCO copies of the National Student Loan Data System Summary Aid and Detailed Loan Information Sheet(s) or copies of promissory note(s) and disbursement sheet(s) for any Title IV loan(s) not listed on the NSLDS documentation.
- These documents must be dated within 30-days of the SLRP Pre-Approval request.
- Once the Recruiter, RCCC or Unit Readiness NCO has submitted the SLRP Pre-Approval and it is approved by the State Incentives Manager, the MEPS Guidance Counselor (GC), Recruiter, RCCC or Unit Readiness NCO will complete the eligibility process within the Recruit Quota System (REQUEST)/GIMS and upon eligibility being determined, the MEPS Guidance Counselor (GC), Recruiter, RCCC or Unit Readiness NCO will print out the SLRP agreement out of the Guidance Counselor Resource Center (GCRC)/GIMS and sign it with the Applicant/Soldier.
- The contract signature date on the SLRP addendum establishes the six-year service obligation period for all NPS/PS Applicants/Soldiers.
- The six-year service obligation for a current Service member begins one (1) day after Service member's current ETS date.
- Current Service member's reenlisting/extending under and continuing a SLRP contract executed after 1 March 2009, must not complete a new SLRP addendum.

9.4 ARNG 09S SLRP
Overview. The ARNG 09S SLRP is offered as an enlistment incentive for *PS and NPS enlistees* who have eligible student loans and meet the eligibility requirements.

How Do I Qualify?
- Must possess one or more qualifying and disbursed Title IV Federal loans (not currently in default).
- PLUS loans are eligible for repayment if the Soldier is the borrower and the loans(s) are in the Soldier's name; State and private loans are not eligible.
- Soldiers may sign for a SLRP incentive without current Title IV qualifying student loans, which may be added later. However, all loans must be one year old on the anniversary date qualifying for payment.
- Must enlist for a minimum period of six years in an active drilling status.
- Loan(s) that are in default on the SLRP 09S contract signature date are never eligible for repayment, regardless if default status is removed afterwards.
- Must enlist into a created 09S vacancy processed through AUVS, RPM and REQUEST in order to receive SLRP. It will display a vacancy management score of 8. An override will be required. Only available to NPS & PS applicants who enlist at MEPS.
- Must enlist as 09S OCS Candidate.
- Both NPS and PS 09S Applicant's must have an AFQT score of 50 or higher.
- Must have 90 semester hours or more or a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Must not be enlisting into the RFP, ROTC or have or will receive a GRFD scholarship.
- Must not have previously received SLRP.
- Must have a GIMS SLRP Pre-Approval application approved by the State Incentives Mgr.

- The max annual payment is 15% of the eligible principle(s) or $500, whichever is greater.
- Payments are capped at $7,500.00 annually.
- The current year's annual payment will include interest if the combined principal and interest payment does not exceed the maximum amount authorized by law.
- Must complete BOLC within two years from date of graduation from OCS.
- Must be commissioned with three years from date of enlistment.
- Is eligible to retain 09S SLRP upon being commissioned.
- Is not eligible to contract for the OAB incentive.
- Not eligible to extend SLRP beyond the initial contract.

Note: *Be sure to reference current policy and inquire with your State's Incentives Manager for up to date details on this program.*

What Do I Get?
- The lifetime maximum amount of the ARNG 09S SLRP is $50,000.00.
- The maximum annual payment made for eligible participants under the 09S SLRP may not exceed $7,500 for each anniversary year of the incentive term.
- Soldier must meet all the payment eligibility requirements as per the current ARNG SRIP policy.

How Do I Apply?
- Obtain a copy of the NSLDS Summary Aid and Detailed Loan Information Sheet(s) or promissory note(s) and disbursement sheet(s) for any Title IV loan(s) not listed on the NSLDS documentation.
- These documents must be dated within 30-days of the 09S SLRP Pre-Approval request in GIMS. Once the Recruiter has submitted the 09S SLRP Pre-Approval and approved by the State Incentive Manager, the Applicant/Soldier must be projected to enlist at MEPS, whereby the MEPS GC will complete the eligibility processing.
- For 09S OCS candidate, the MEPS GC will print out the GCRC 09S SLRP addendum and sign it with the Applicant/Soldier. The signature date on the 09S SLRP addendum establishes the six-year service obligation period for all NPS/PS 09S SLRP Applicants/Soldiers.

Chapter 10: COMMISSIONING PROGRAMS

10.0 Overview

Soldiers who want to increase their leadership potential may want to consider entering one of the commissioning programs. Some of these programs cover tuition costs and provide an extra stipend for other expenses. Upon graduation, Soldiers may receive a commission as an officer. Visit Cadet Command's Web site at https://www.goarmy.com/rotc.html for details.

10.1 Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)

Overview. Over 1,100 colleges and universities across the nation have a Senior ROTC program as part of their curriculum. Army ROTC is a two to four-year program that emphasizes basic military skills and officer leadership education. This college elective program designed for undergraduate and graduate students provides unrivaled leadership training. If you have a passion for it, you can find a place to fit in the Army National Guard as an officer.

The ARNG now offers a 4YR. Dedicated Scholarship called the Minuteman Scholarship (Guidance for the Minuteman Scholarship Campaign will be sent each year in an operations order from U.S. Army Cadet Command (USACC)). Cadets are still required to SMP with an ARNG unit and drill monthly. The Cadet can opt out of ROTC after the first year with no recoupment of ROTC scholarship funds. However, if after the first year the Cadet remains in an ROTC program, all ROTC scholarship funds will be recouped. All SMP Cadets that leave the ROTC program still have a remaining Military Service Obligation (MSO) with the respective component to serve in enlisted status.

10.2 ROTC Scholarships

Overview. Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) Scholarships and Dedicated ARNG (DEDNG) scholarships are available through Army ROTC. These scholarships guarantee that commissioned Cadets can serve in the ARNG. GRFD scholarships are available for up to two years and allow simultaneous use with the Chapter 1606/ MGIB-SR or Chapter 1607/REAP GI Bills. The DEDNG scholarship is available for up to four years (either full tuition and mandatory fees or room and board option of $10,000 per year) but does not allow simultaneous use with the Chapter 1606/ MGIB-SR or Chapter 1607/REAP GI Bills.

How Do I Qualify?

- Must be a U.S. Citizen.
- Must be accepted to the College/University with a ROTC program.
- Must have a 2.5 cumulative GPA and maintain a 2.0.
- Incoming freshman must have a minimum 19 ACT or 1000 SAT to qualify for the 4YR. Minuteman Scholarship.
- Must be under 31 years of age for the entire year of commissioning.
- Must pass the Army Physical Fitness Test.
- Must pass MEPS physical and DoDMERB physical.
- Must meet Army height/weight standards.
- Must be a full-time student and be of good moral character.
- Most Cadets will serve an eight-year MSO as a drilling Officer upon commissioning.
  - Contact the Professor of Military Science (PMS) at your school's Army ROTC department to determine eligibility.

What Do I Get?

- These scholarships pay full time tuition and mandatory fees or can pay room & board (flat rate of $10,000 per year) at either Private or Public Universities.
- Room & board payment option pays flat rate of $10,000.
- All scholarships come with a $1,200 per year book allowance paid directly to the student.
- National Guard scholarships can be used with any type of State Tuition Assistance; however, GRFD and Dedicated National Guard scholarships cannot be used with Federal Tuition Assistance.
- All Cadets are also paid a monthly stipend of $420 per month for 10 months each year.
- If eligible for Chapter 1606 Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) the student may qualify for an additional $350 per month MGIB "SMP" kicker.

Note: *All Dedicated ARNG (DEDNG) scholarship students must participate in the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) with an ARNG unit when in school. The Cadet drills with an ARNG unit and is paid at the rank of E-5, approximately $319 per month, unless already in the ARNG and holds a rank higher than E-5. For additional information and details, contact your local ROTC battalion or the ARNG ROTC Support Advisor.*

10.3 Early Commissioning Program (ECP)

Overview. The ECP allows graduates of a military junior college to become commissioned officers in the armed forces reserves in two years, instead of the usual four. Once commissioned, the Officer is required to complete a bachelor's degree per ARNG contract entry requirements (normally this is a three-year contract). The program is a financial incentive for

students to commission early and serve as Officers while attending college and earning time for promotions and retirement.

What Do I Get?
- Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in two years.
- Begin earning service time toward promotions and retirement following sophomore year in college.
- Monthly stipends during first and second year while enrolled.
- Paid as a Cadet/ E-5 if enrolled in the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP).
- Uniform allowance and book allowance.

Note: Consult your Education Services Officer or Officer Strength Manager for current rates and benefits.

Military Junior College (MJC) Participants in the Early Commissioning Program:
- **Valley Forge Military Academy and College**, Wayne, Pennsylvania. Valley Forge Military Academy was founded in 1928 by Lieutenant General Milton G. Baker, who modeled many of the Academy's drills, customs, and ceremonies after a British motif. Valley Forge offers a co-ed two-year junior college program, as well as a military boarding school for young men grades seven through twelve.
- **New Mexico Military Institute**, Roswell, New Mexico. Founded in 1891 by Col. Robert S. Goss as the Goss Military Institute, and inspired by Virginia Military Institute, NMMI includes a four-year high school and a two-year junior college.
- **Marion Military Institute**, Marion, Alabama. Marion Military Institute is the State military college of Alabama. Founded in 1842 as Howard English & Classical School by the Alabama Baptist Convention, the school reorganized as Marion Military Institute in 1887.
- **Georgia Military Colleg**e, Milledgeville, Georgia. Georgia Military College, founded in 1879, includes a liberal arts junior college, a high school, and a middle school.

- Upon graduating from an MJC, the ECP 2LT is eligible for the EAP (Education Assistance Program) that pays either full tuition and mandatory fees or room and board ($10,000 max per year) to be used at the 4-year institution while pursuing a baccalaureate degree
  - The ECP 2LT gets 36 months maximum to complete their baccalaureate degree

10.4 Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP)
Overview. Students attending college and enrolled in the ROTC program may be eligible for the SMP option. ROTC provides SMP Cadets with a monthly stipend. Students may also apply for a Two-Year Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship or a Two- or Three-Year Dedicated Army National Guard (DED-ARNG) Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship. Scholarships in ROTC programs pay for full tuition and fees or a room and board option. The scholarship also covers a flat rate for textbooks, classroom supplies, and equipment. Graduates (except Dedicated ARNG scholarship recipients who must serve in the ARNG) will be offered a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army, Army Reserves (USAR), or Army National Guard. Basic and Advanced Training are deferred pending completion of SMP and commissioning. Ask your recruiter for information and a list of colleges offering Army ROTC.

Important: Program is 4, 3.5, 3, 2.5 or 2 years depending on the Cadet's academic alignment.

How Do I Qualify?

- Army National Guard Soldiers attending colleges sponsoring ROTC units are eligible to apply for scholarships under the SMP option.
- Contracted advanced course Cadets are also eligible to participate in SMP.
- Basic course Cadets are now required to contract and SMP with a RC unit.

How Do I Apply?
- In addition to the necessary contracting forms from Cadet Command and ARNG, participants must complete the NGB Form 594-1 (SMP Agreement between Cadet Command and the ARNG Unit) and ARNG Letter of Acceptance.
- To ensure service in the ARNG upon commissioning, the SMP Cadet must obtain a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) control number from Cadet Command and complete Cadet Command Form 202-R (Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Non-Scholarship Endorsement) or Cadet Command Form 203-R (Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship Endorsement).

10.5 Federal Officer Candidate School (Active Component)
Overview. A twelve-week program conducted at Fort Benning, Georgia. The mission of OCS is to train selected personnel in the fundamentals of leadership, basic military skills, instill professional ethics, evaluate leadership potential, and commission those who qualify as second lieutenants in all sixteen basic branches of the Army. Candidates attend the course with Active Duty Soldiers and Soldiers from the United States Army Reserve. This program is steeped with a rich heritage and much tradition.

How Do I Qualify?
- Candidates must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and must furnish a copy of their official transcripts.
- Achieve a General Technical Aptitude Test (GT) score of 110 or higher on the ASVAB.
- Candidates must be no more than 33 years, 364 days of age at the time of commissioning; Minimum age requirement to enroll is 18.
- In-service applicants must have successfully completed Basic Combat Training and AIT.
- Soldiers enlisting under the OCS Option must successfully complete BCT.
- To enroll, Candidates must be US citizens.
- For information on testing procedures, contact your State ESO.
- For information on application procedures, contact your chain of command or local recruiter.

10.6 State Officer Candidate School (OCS)
Overview. The State OCS option is a 16 to 18-month course of instruction conducted in four phases. Upon commissioning, each officer will attend an Officer Basic Course (OBC) within 24 months in the branch to which they are assigned.

How Do I Qualify?
- In-Service Applicants must have successfully completed BCT and AIT.
- Soldiers enlisting under the OCS Option must successfully complete BCT.
- Candidates must have a minimum of 90 semester hours from an accredited college or university annotated on an official transcript *prior to enrollment into the program, along with an approved plan for degree completion.*
- Applicants with a four-year degree must submit an official transcript (from the Institution's Registrar's Office through the State Education Office) confirming graduation.

- Achieve a General Technical Aptitude Test (GT) score of 110 or higher on the ASVAB.
- Commissioning must occur before 42 years of age (this is not waiverable).
- Soldiers enlisting under the OCS option must be under 35 years old at the time of enlistment
- Candidates must sign an Officer Service Agreement.
- Candidates must provide proof of citizenship (naturalized or by birth). US citizenship is required for commissioning.
- For information on testing procedures, contact your State ESO.
- For information on application procedures, contact your chain of command or local recruiter.

10.7 Accelerated Officer Candidate School (OCS)

Overview. The Army National Guard conducts an eight-week accelerated OCS program for qualified personnel, in both winter and summer months at Fort McClellan, AL. Candidates are eligible for commissioning upon course completion pending Federal recognition.

How Do I Qualify? (Eligibility Criteria)

- Candidates must complete 90 semester hours towards a bachelor's degree on an official transcript and provide a copy of their approved bachelor's degree plan ***prior to enrollment.***
- Applicants with a four-year degree must submit an official transcript (from the Institution's Registrar's Office through the State Education Office) confirming graduation.
- Achieve a GT score of 110 or higher on the ASVAB.
- Candidates must be no more than 41 years, 364 days of age at the time of commissioning; Minimum age requirement to enroll is 18.
- In-service applicants must have successfully completed BCT and AIT
    - Soldiers enlisting under the OCS Option must successfully complete BCT
- Candidates must sign an Officer Service Agreement.
- For information on testing procedures, contact your State ESO.
- Candidate must be a US citizen to enroll.
- For application information, contact your chain of command, or local recruiter.

10.8 Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS)

Overview. The Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate School (RC-WOCS) is conducted at Fort Rucker, AL, over a four-week period and must be completed for the Soldier to be appointed.

How Do I Qualify? (Eligibility Criteria)

Basic eligibility requirements vary among MOS. You may find this information at www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant/index.shtml. The items listed below are universal for all applicants or applicable as indicated:

- US Citizenship (No Waivers)
- GT score of 110 or higher (No Waivers)
- High school graduate or have a GED (No Waivers)
- Final Secret or Top-Secret Security Clearance

Note: Interim clearances do not satisfy the requirement!

- Pass the standard three-event Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) and meet height/weight standards.

- Pass the commissioning physical for technical specialties or the Class 1 flight physical for Aviators.
- All applicants must have 12 months remaining on their enlistment contract.
- Age Requirements: For 153A, 33rd birthday or less prior to their packet being boarded. For all other WO MOS', 46th birthday or less prior to their packet being boarded.

10.9 Direct Commission
The intent of this program is to offer an alternate-commissioning source to exceptionally qualified individuals. An individual will not request a direct appointment; rather, an individual must be nominated and selected for consideration by the chain of command. An applicant must have served a minimum of twenty-four months active military status including twelve months in the Army National Guard. The nominated Soldier must have completed their baccalaureate degree and achieve an ASVAB GT score of 110 or higher. Each respective State Military Personnel Officer (MILPO) is the POC for direct commissioning.

APPENDIX A: Helpful Links

ARNG BENEFIT WEB SITE
http://www.nationalguard.com/education

GI BILL
General Benefit Information
http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/
DVA Online Application for Benefits
https://vets.gov
Transfer of Education Benefit Web site
https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect
Registered Apprenticeship
https://www.apprenticeship.gov/apprenticeship-finder

TUITION/CREDENTIALING ASSISTANCE
ArmyIgnitED
http://armyignited.com
Army Cool
https://www.cool.osd.mil/army

TESTING & STUDY AIDS
Certification and Licensures
https://www.cool.army.mil/index.htm
DANTES, Testing, Certification, Licensing
http://www.dantes.doded.mil
Free Military Transcripts
https://jst.doded.mil/
Modern States
https://modernstates.org/
National Test Centers
https://clep.collegeboard.org/search/test-centers

COLLEGE SEARCH TOOLS
Tuition Assistance Decide	www.dodmou.com/TADECIDE/
Career Path Decide	https://careerpathdecide.usalearning.gov/
College Navigator	http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/
College Scorecard	https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/
College Recon	https://app.collegerecon.com/
GI Bill Comparison Tool	https://www.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool
Kuder Journey	https://journey.kuder.com/account/adult-login-register
Coalition for Colleges	http://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/
Occupational Outlook Handbook	www.bls.gov/ooh
O*Net Online	http://www.onetonline.org/

TOOLS WHILE IN COLLEGE
Joint Services Transcript (JST)
https://jst.doded.mil/jst/
Verification of Military Exp and Trng (VMET)
https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/tgps/
ArmyeLearning
https://www.atrrs.army.mil/selfdevctr/eLearningWelcome.aspx
Khan Academy
www.khanacademy.org
Academic Alliance
https://www.opm.gov/wiki/training/Federal-Governmentwide-Academic-Alliances.ashx
Coursera
www.coursera.org
Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)
https://www.classcentral.com/
Tutor.com
https://military.tutor.com/home
FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS
Adventures in Education
http://www.aie.org/
Affordable Colleges.com
https://www.affordablecolleges.com/resources/scholarships-for-military/
American Legion
https://www.legion.org/scholarships
AMVETS
https://amvets.org/scholarships
College Board
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/
College Net
http://www.collegenet.com/elect/app/app
College Recon.com
https://collegerecon.com/military-scholarships-2019/

EANGUS
https://eangus.org/we-care-for-america/scholarship-information/
NGAUS
https://www.ngaus.org/membership/member-benefits/scholarships

Scholarships.com
https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/military-scholarships/

Smart Guide to Financial Aide
http://www.finaid.org/
Spouse Education & Career Opportunities
https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/
Student Scholarship Search
http://www.studentscholarshipsearch.com/

Student Veterans of America:

Raytheon Patriot Scholarship
https://studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships?layout=edit&id=752
Google-SVA Scholarship
https://studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships?layout=edit&id=733
U.S. Veterans Magazine
https://www.usveteransmagazine.com/list-of-military-scholarships-for-service-members-spouses-and-dependents/
Veterans of Foreign Wars
https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support

25 Great Scholarships for Members of the Military and Their Families
https://www.top10onlinecolleges.org/scholarships-for/members-of-the-military/

APPENDIX B: Acronyms

ACCESS AU	Army Credentialing and Continuing Education Services for Soldiers Army University
ADSO	Active Duty Service Obligation
AFCOS	Automated Fund Control Orders System
AFQT	Armed Forces Qualification Test
AGR	Active Guard Reserve
AMEDD	Army Medical Department
AMEDDIP	Army Medical Department Incentives Program
APFT	Army Physical Fitness Test
APT	Army Personnel Testing
AR	Army Reserve
ARNG	Army National Guard
ASVAB	Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
BCT	Basic Combat Training
BOLC	Basic Officer Leadership Course
CHEA	Council for Higher Education Accreditation
CLRP	Chaplain Loan Repayment Program
CoE	Council on Education
CS	Critical Skill
DAOCQ	Duty Area of Concentration Qualified
DC	Direct Commission
DEDNG	Dedicated ARNG
DESP	Deployment Extension Stabilization Pay
DMDC	Defense Management Data Center
DMOSQ	Duty Military Occupational Specialty Qualified
DoDI	Department of Defense Instruction
DoDMERB	Department of Defense Medical Review Board
DVA	Department of Veteran Affairs
DVA Rep	Department of Veterans Affairs Representative
EAP	Education Assistance Program
ECP	Early Commissioning Program
ESO	Education Services Officer
FTA	Federal Tuition Assistance
GAE	GoArmyEd
GIMS	Guard Incentive Management System
GNPS	Glossary Non-Prior Service
GRFD	Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty
GT	General Technical Aptitude Test
HPLRP	Health Professional Loan Repayment Program
IADT	Initial Active Duty Training
iPERMS	Interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management System
IVR	Interactive Voice Response
MEPS	Military Enlistment Processing Station
MEPS GC	MEPS Guidance Counselor
MGIB-AD	Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty
MGIB-SR	Montgomery GI Bill-National Guard
MILPO	Military Personnel Office
Mil-Tech	Military Technician

MMA	Medical Management Agency
MTOE	Modified Table Of Organization & Equipment
NGB	National Guard Bureau
NOBE	Notice of Basic Eligibility
NPS	Non-Prior Service
NSLDS	National Student Loan Data System
OAB	Officer Accession Bonus
OAFB	Officer Affiliation Bonus
OCS	Officer Candidate School
OSA	Officer Service Agreement
OWD	Officers Without a Degree
PLUS loans	Federal Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students
PMS	Professor of Military Science
PS	Prior Service
RA	Registered Apprenticeship
RCCC	Recruiters/Reserve Component Career Counselors
RC-WOCS	Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate School
RDSO	Reserve Duty Service Obligation
RE	Re-Enlistment
REAP	Reserve Educational Assistance Program
RFP	Recruit Force Pool
ROTC	Reserve Officer Training Corps
RPO	Regional Processing Office
SCO	School Certifying Official
SELRES	Select Reserve
SFPA	Suspension of Favorable Personnel Action
SIDPERS	Standard Installation/Division Personnel System
SLRP	Student Loan Repayment
SMILPO	State Military Personnel Officer
SMP	Simultaneous Membership Program
SPD	Separation Program Designator
SRIP	Selective Reserve Incentive Program
TAG	The Adjutant General
TAPDB-G	Total Army Personnel Database - Guard
TDA	Table of Distribution Allowances
TEB	Transfer of Benefits
TIS	Time-in-Service
UIC	Unit Identification Code
USAR	United States Army Reserve
USP&FO	United States Property & Fiscal Office
VA	Veterans Administration
VONAPP	Veterans Online Application
WAVE	Web Automated Verification of Enrollment
WOC	Warrant Officer Candidate
WOCS	Warrant Officer Candidate School