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FY26 PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATION BENEFITS HANDBOOK



"Education, the Key to Strength and Readiness"

PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

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This handbook was developed in conjunction with the Education Services Branch located at Fort Indiantown Gap. Send recommended changes to:

ng.pa.paarng.list.jfhq-g1-edcation@army.mil

SOME PROGRAMS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD PLEASE CONTACT YOUR EDUCATION OFFICE

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES



1. Overview

This guide provides information on application procedures and benefits for all Army National Guard (ARNG) education programs and services. For the most current information on ARNG education programs, as well as specific State programs, contact your State Education Services Office at www.pa.ng.mil/education Education & Incentives MS Teams Channel or 717-865-4529

Responsibilities

Education Services Branch, Army National Guard Bureau (ARNG-HRH-C)

- Provide policy, guidance, training, resources, oversight and relevant education programs and services to the 54 States and Territories to support lifelong learning, enhance force readiness, and develop the next generation of leaders.

State Education Services Office

- Administer ARNG education programs and services including GI Bill programs, Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA), the state Educational Assistance Program (EAP), the Military Family Educational Program (MFEP), Credentialing Assistance, Army Personnel Testing, DANTES programs, and support programs.
- Coordinate with unit leaders and other stakeholders to conduct education briefings to Servicemembers, family members, ARNG state leadership, colleges/universities and outside agencies as necessary.
- Provide education counseling and support to Servicemembers.
- Coordinate with stakeholders regarding the planning, execution, and marketing of ARNG education programs and services.
- Develop, implement, and monitor a marketing plan for the programs and services provided by the Education Services Office.



2. Overview

GI Bill Programs are statutory entitlements that are administered by the Military services and the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Servicemembers 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: <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>. For ARNG specific GI Bill policy, please consult the latest ARNG Voluntary Education (VolEd) Policy PPOM. The following are the most common GI Bill educational assistance programs available to ARNG Servicemembers:

- Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)
- Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve 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

Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR), Chapter 1606, Overview.

Chapter 1606 is an educational program for Service Members who are actively participating in the Selected Reserve. Eligibility for this program may be established only once in a Servicemember's career. The ARNG determines initial eligibility, notifies Servicemembers, and funds the program while the DVA administers payments to the Servicemember. The MGIB-SR program is available to Enlisted, Officer, and Warrant Officer personnel who are participating members assigned to the Selected Reserve. For members of the Selected Reserve, benefits generally end on the date of separation. Chapter 1606 benefits are paid monthly directly to the Service member.

References

- Title 10 USC, Chapter 1606.
- DoDI 1322.17, 15 January 2015.
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017.
- FY24 Army National Guard (ARNG) Voluntary Education (VolEd) Policy.

How Do I Qualify?

- Complete the requirements of a secondary school diploma, or its equivalent.
- Agree to a six-year Selected Reserve 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 Selected Reserve.
- Servicemembers 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 Servicemember separates from the Selective Reserve.

What Do I Get? Rates Effective 1 October 2024

Training Time	Monthly Rate
Full time	\$493.00
3/4 time	\$369.00
1/2 time	\$246.00
Less than 1/2 time	\$123.25

OJT Training Period	Monthly Rate
First six months of training	\$369.75
Second six months of training	\$271.15
Remaining pursuit of training	\$172.55

Correspondence, Licensing and Flight - Entitlement charged at the rate of one month each \$493.00 paid.

Correspondence Payments - 55% of the approved charges

Flight Payments - 60% of the approved charges

Note: Rates change every year on October 1.

Go to <https://www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/> for current rates.

How Do I Apply?

- Step 1: Create an ID.me
- Step 2. Apply Online at; <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/> to obtain your Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). After you apply online, the DVA will send you a CoE.
- Step 3. Take the CoE to the 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 SCO will certify your enrollment and submit it to the DVA Regional Processing Office (RPO) for processing.
- Step 4. Verify Your Attendance. Students receiving VA Education benefits must verify their attendance monthly by using one of the following methods:
 - Text Message. The VA strongly recommends verifying enrollment via text message. Every student who has a current mobile number on file will receive an initial text message from the VA. Reply “Yes” to the text message to opt-in to verifying enrollment via text.
 - If you have not received a message, call the VA Education Call Center (ECC) at 1-888- GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) to opt-in.
 - Once you opt-in, you will receive a text message requesting enrollment verification on the last day of each month. You must submit your response within 6 days.
 - Call the VA ECC at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) every month and ask the representative to verify your enrollment. The VA ECC is open Monday through Friday, 7am to 6pm CT.
 - International students will need to call the VA ECC at 001-918-781-5678.

Important! If you are asked for a copy of your Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE), you will find a copy of it 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).

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.

Army National Guard Kicker Incentive Program Overview.

The Kicker Incentive is an additional monthly education payment used to encourage qualified Servicemembers to enter specific units or skills to meet and sustain ARNG readiness requirements. ARNG Servicemembers may be eligible for a Kicker Incentive at various times in their career. There are En- listed and Officer Candidate Kicker Incentives available with each category of Kicker having specific criteria and rules for eligibility. A Servicemember may only contract a Kicker once in their career.

References

- Title 10 USC, Chapter 1606, Section 16131(i).
- Title 10 USC, Chapter 103, Sections 2107 and 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.
- FY24 Army National Guard (ARNG) Voluntary Education (VolEd) Policy

How Do I Qualify?

Refer to the current ARNG Voluntary Education (VolEd) Policy for a detailed description of the qualification criteria, contracting requirements and standards for administration of this incentive. For FY24, the authorized Kickers are:

- **\$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 Servicemembers with a 999K excess code are eligible.
 - Servicemembers in the Medical Management Activity (MMA) are not eligible while medically non-available.
- **\$350 Officer Commissioning (OC)**
 - Officer Candidate School (OCS). A Servicemember 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.
 - No additional service obligation is required for Servicemembers who have completed the original MGIB-SR Kicker six-year obligation.
 - 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 Servicemember 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 com- missioning.
 - Have a concurrent 6-year 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 or re-commissioning (if the re-commissioning was in a different Area of Concentration/branch) 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 completed or agreed to complete the original 6-year service obligation.
 - Are enrolled into a commissioning program.
 - Have previously contracted and established eligibility for \$100 or \$200.
 - Complete the Supplemental MGIB-SR Kicker addendum (NGB Form 5435-1) after entry into the Commissioning program, and within one year after commissioning.
- **\$350 Enlisted Accessions (EA).**
 - Non-Prior Service.
 - ASVAB score of 50 or above (Cat I-III A).
 - High school diploma or equivalent.
 - Critical Skill/Critical UIC Vacancy (Tier Level 1-7).
 - Prior Service.
 - ASVAB 50 or above (Cat I-III A).
 - DMOSQ E7 or below.
 - Critical Skill/Critical UIC Vacancy (Tier Level 1-7).
 - Meet RE and SPD code requirements 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 SIDPERS/GIMS.

Notes: Receiving a Dedicated Guard ROTC Scholarship (Title 10 USC Section 2107) will terminate a Servicemember's MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606) basic benefit and Kicker (if applicable). Receiving a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) Scholarship (Title 10 USC Section 2107a) has no effect on either MGIB-SR or Kicker. 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 Servicemember may receive a maximum of 36 months of benefits under the Kicker program based on their contracted kicker rate (\$100, \$200 or \$350). Rates will not increase or decrease due to changes in policy. All payments are tax free.

- A Servicemember or applicant may contract for the Kicker if they are eligible or are establishing eligibility for the MGIB-AD or MGIB-SR.
- The Kicker may be paid in conjunction with MGIB-AD, MGIB-SR, or PGIB.
- When eligibility for the MGIB-SR/MGIB-AD benefit expires, so does eligibility for the Kicker.

Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty (MGIB-AD), Chapter 30, Title 38 U.S. Code Overview.

Chapter 30 is generally an education program that applies to veterans who began active-duty service for the first time after June 30, 1985, or AGR service after November 29, 1989, contributed \$1,200, and received an Honorable Discharge.

References

- Title 38 USC, Chapter 30.
- DoDD 1322.16, 18 June 2002.
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017.
- PPOM #22-038 FY24 Army National Guard (ARNG) Voluntary Education (VolEd) Policy, 23 September 2022.

How Do I Qualify?

- Service Members are eligible to enroll in the MGIB-AD if they:
 - Served on Title 10 Active Duty after 30 June 1985.
 - Served on Title 32 AGR after 29 November 1989.
 - Complete a DD Form 2366.
 - Contribute \$1,200.
 - Receive an Honorable Discharge.
- Service Members meeting any of the below criteria are NOT eligible to enroll in the MGIB-AD:
 - Have ever declined the MGIB-AD.
 - Are a Service Academy Graduate.
 - Have an Initial active-duty period under Title 10 beginning on or before June 30, 1985.
 - Have an Initial AGR period under Title 32 beginning on or before November 28, 1989.
 - Are an ROTC scholarship recipient who completed ROTC on or before Sep 30, 1996.
 - Are a ROTC scholarship recipient on or after October 1, 1996, who received at least \$3,400 of ROTC scholarship benefits in any one year of ROTC participation.

Servicemembers should contact the VA to verify their eligibility based on their actual periods of service.

What Do I Get Rates Effective 1 October 2025

- A monthly payment directly to you based on the amount of active-duty time served.

Training Time	Monthly Rate
Full time	\$2,518.00
3/4 time	\$1,888.50
1/2 time	\$1,259.00
Less than 1/2 time More than 1/4 time	**\$1,259.00
1/4 time or less	**\$629.50

Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training	Monthly Rate
1st six months	\$1,888.50
2nd six months	\$1,384.90
Remaining training	\$881.30

Cooperative Training - Monthly Rate	\$2,043.00
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** Tuition and Fees ONLY. Payment cannot exceed the listed amount

Note: Rates change every year on October 1.

Go to; <https://www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/> for current rates.

- Payments are limited by several factors, including:
 - Payment Tier.
 - Rate of Pursuit (enrollment full-time/half-time, etc.).
 - Use of Federal Tuition Assistance.
 - Active Duty/Drilling Status.
- If on Active Duty, you may use the benefit as a Top-Up to your Federal Tuition Assistance
 - Top-Up means FTA will pay first, then Chapter 30 will pay the cost of tuition and fees not covered
 - by FTA, not to exceed the monthly Chapter 30 rate.
 - You have 10 years from the last day of qualifying Active-Duty service to use this benefit.
 - Servicemembers eligible for the MGIB AD who are mobilized on Title 10 Active Duty for 90 days or more will have their 10-year delimiting date re-established if they have remaining benefit entitlement. To receive the additional time, Servicemembers must send a copy of their DD Form 214 to their DVA RPO.

How Do I Apply?

- Step 1: Create an ID.me
- Step 2. Apply Online at; <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/> to obtain your Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). After you apply online, the DVA will send you a CoE.
- Step 3. Take the CoE to the School Certifying Official (SCO) at the educational institution you are attending, or your place of employment if you are in a job training program.
- Step 4. Verify Your Attendance. Students receiving VA Education benefits must verify their attendance monthly by using one of the following methods:
 - Text Message. The VA strongly recommends verifying enrollment via text message. Every student who has a current mobile number on file will receive an initial text message from the VA. Reply “Yes” to the text message to opt-in to verifying enrollment via text.
 - If you have not received a message, call the VA Education Call Center (ECC) at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) to opt-in.
 - Once you opt-in, you will receive a text message requesting enrollment verification on the last day of each month. You must submit your response within 6 days.
 - Call the VA ECC at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) every month and ask the representative to verify your enrollment. The VA ECC is open Monday through Friday, 7am to 6pm CT.

International students will need to call the VA ECC at 001-918-781-5678.

Montgomery GI Bill – Active-Duty \$600 Buy-Up Program

Overview.

This option allows Service Members currently serving on a qualifying period of Active Duty to contribute an additional amount up to \$600. The maximum \$600 additional contribution will increase the basic full-time MGIB-AD benefit by \$150 per month for a total of up to \$5,400 in additional benefits. Contributions into the Buy-Up Program are not refundable for those who relinquish MGIB-AD to use the PGIB program. AGRs may contribute by payroll deduction; mobilized Servicemembers must submit a certified bank check or money order. On completion of enrollment requirements, the Servicemember must notify the DVA of their eligibility for the Buy-Up program.

How Do I Qualify?

- Be eligible for the MGIB-AD.
- Contribute up to \$600 in \$20 increments.

What Do I Get?

- Up to \$150/month additional payment.
- For contributions of less than \$600, payment of \$5/month for every \$20 contributed.

How Do I Apply?

- Step 1: Create an ID.me
- Step 2. Apply Online at; <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/> to obtain your Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). After you apply online, the DVA will send you a CoE.
- Step 3. Take the CoE to the School Certifying Official (SCO) at the educational institution you are attending, or your place of employment if you are in a job training program.
- Step 4. Verify Your Attendance. Students receiving VA Education benefits must verify their attendance monthly by using one of the following methods:
 - Text Message. The VA strongly recommends verifying enrollment via text message. Every student who has a current mobile number on file will receive an initial text message from the VA. Reply “Yes” to the text message to opt-in to verifying enrollment via text.
 - If you have not received a message, call the VA Education Call Center (ECC) at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) to opt-in.
 - Once you opt-in, you will receive a text message requesting enrollment verification on the last day of each month. You must submit your response within 6 days.
 - Call the VA ECC at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) every month and ask the representative to verify your enrollment. The VA ECC is open Monday through Friday, 7am to 6pm CT.

International students will need to call the VA ECC at 001-918-781-5678. Step 1. Contact your

Post 9/11 GI Bill (PGIB), 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. RC members can earn eligibility by serving on orders under certain Title 10 authorities, or Title 32 AGR, or on Title 32, Section 502(f) under limited circumstances.

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.
- FY24 Army National Guard (ARNG) Voluntary Education (VolEd) Policy.

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, and May 31, 2002, under Operation Noble Eagle.
- Between February 15, 2019, and January 20, 2021, in support of the Southwest Border Mission under Operation Guardian Shield.
- Effective March 22, 2020, and July 1, 2022, in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Between 14 Jan 2021 and 23 May 2021 in support of the Capitol Police / 59th Inauguration.
- If Servicemember has eligibility for another GI Bill program(s), one of the programs must be relinquished when electing PGIB.
- Basic Training and AIT can be added to qualifying time if the Servicemember:
 - Attended all or a portion of IADT on or after September 11, 2001; and
 - Completed 24 months of other qualifying service.
- The following periods of service are NOT qualifying time for PGIB:
 - Any qualifying service during the four-year ADSO after commissioning from a Title 10 U.S.C. 2107 (Dedicated Guard) ROTC scholarship.
 - Any qualifying service during the 5-year ADSO after attendance at or commissioning from a Service academy.
 - Service terminated due to defective enlistment agreement.
 - Any qualifying service during the 3-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 Servicemembers whose last day of qualifying active duty was prior to January 1, 2013, eligibility to use Chapter 33 benefits expires fifteen years from the date of the last Honorable discharge or release from active duty of at least 90 consecutive days.
 - For Servicemembers whose last day of qualifying active duty was on or after January 1, 2013, eligibility never expires.
 - Servicemembers who are subject to the fifteen-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 Servicemember 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 - 35 months	90%
24 - 29 months	80%
18 - 23 months	70%
6 - 17 months	60%
90 days - 5 months	50%

- Check your qualifying month, <https://www.va.gov/education/check-remaining-post-9-11-gi-bill-benefits/>
- *Includes Basic Training and AIT.
- There are three benefit payments for the PGIB: 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 \$29,920.95 per year for private or foreign school (effective August 1, 2025).
 - Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA): (MUST be attending more than half-time)
 - Equivalent to BAH of E-5 with dependents.
 - Based on zip code where you are attending classes.
 - If attending only online classes: \$1169.00 per month (effective August 1, 2025).
 - Subject to term start and end dates.
 - Servicemembers serving on qualifying active duty for 30 consecutive days or more are NOT eligible for the MHA.
- Book and Supply Stipend
 - \$41.67/credit hour.
 - Up to \$1,000 per academic year.
- PGIB 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.
 - Students at NCD institutions receive the same benefits as those attending traditional colleges and universities (see above).
 - Correspondence students will receive the actual net costs for tuition and fees, up to \$13,172.57 per academic year (effective August 1, 2023).
 - Flight students will receive the actual net costs for tuition and fees, up to \$15,497.15 per academic year (effective August 1, 2023).
 - Information on National Testing, Licensing and Certification tests is in Chapter 6 of this handbook.
 - 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:
 - Resides in a county with fewer than 6 people per square mile; and,
 - Relocates at least 500 miles to attend school; or
 - Relocates any distance by air when no other land-based transportation exists.

How Do I Apply?

- Step 1. Go to; <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>
- Step 2. Obtain a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). The DVA will send you a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). 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.
- Step 3. Verify Your Attendance. Verify your attendance each month using one of the following methods:
 - Text Message. The VA strongly recommends verifying enrollment via text message. Every student who has a current mobile number on file will receive an initial text message from the VA. Reply “Yes” to the text message to opt-in to verifying enrollment via text.
 - If you have not received a message, call the VA Education Call Center (ECC) at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) to opt-in.
 - Once you opt-in, you will receive a text message requesting enrollment verification on the last day of each month. You must submit your response within 6 days.
 - Call the VA ECC at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) every month and ask the representative to verify your enrollment. The VA ECC is open Monday through Friday, 7am to 6pm CT.
 - International students will need to call the VA ECC at 001-918-781-5678.

Yellow Ribbon Program Overview.

The Yellow Ribbon Program allows institutions of higher learning to enter voluntarily into an agreement with DVA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the annual PGIB tuition cap. Payment is made directly to the school on behalf of the student.

References.

- DVA: <https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11/yellow-ribbon-program/>

How Do I Qualify?

- Only individuals eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill at the 100% benefit level, dependents using transferred entitlement, or Fry Scholarship recipients are eligible for Yellow Ribbon funding.
- See Section 2.5 for Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility criteria.
- Beginning August 1, 2022, Active-Duty Personnel, AGRs, and their spouses using transferred entitlement will be eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program.

What Do I Get?

- The Yellow Ribbon Program provides additional funding to students for out-of-state tuition or tuition at a private school.
- If a school participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program, DVA will match each dollar the school contributes up to 50% of the difference between the PGIB tuition and fee payment and the amount charged to the student. The combined school and DVA contribution can't exceed the tuition and fee amount charged the student.

Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) Overview.

The Department of Defense allows Service Members to transfer their PGIB benefits to their spouse or dependent children. Unlike the basic Post-9/11 GI Bill, TEB is NOT an entitlement, it is an incentive for further service and is intended to promote retention in the ARNG. Not every Servicemember will qualify for TEB. Servicemembers unable to commit to the required service obligation 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.
- FY24 Army National Guard (ARNG) Voluntary Education (VolEd) Policy.

How Do I Qualify?

- Be actively serving in the ARNG.
- Be entitled to the PGIB.
- Have completed six or more years of qualifying service in the Armed Forces (Active-Duty or Selected Reserve) 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 Servicemember.
- Spouse is subject to the same rules as the transferring Servicemember:
 - For Servicemembers whose last day of active duty was before January 1, 2013, the spouse's eligibility ends 15 years from the Servicemember's last day of qualifying time.
 - For Servicemembers whose last day of active duty was on or after January 1, 2013, the spouse's eligibility never expires.
 - Spouses of Servicemembers serving on qualifying active duty are not eligible for the Monthly Housing Allowance.

- Children:
 - Can use the benefit after the transferring Servicemember has completed ten years in the Armed Forces.
 - Always paid as if the Service Member was in Non-Active-Duty Status.
 - Can begin using the benefit on their 18th birthday or completion of requirements for high school diploma or equivalency certificate, whichever comes first.
 - A child's eligibility ends on their 26th birthday unless you specify an earlier date.
- You can transfer to a spouse at any time while you are actively serving. You must transfer to a child before their 21st birthday (23rd birthday if they are a full-time student).
- 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. Servicemembers should consider transferring months to each dependent.

How Do I Apply?

- TEB requests are submitted on the DoD milConnect website at <https://milconnect.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 Servicemembers considering TEB should initiate the TEB process as soon as they meet the TEB eligibility requirements.

Comparison of GI Bill Education Programs Chart

A comprehensive comparison can be found on the GI Bill website at the following link: <https://www.va.gov/resources/compare-va-education-benefits/>

Eligibility Criteria

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

Chapter 33

Serve on qualifying active duty for at least 90 aggregate days after 10 Sep 2001.
If you are eligible for another GI Bill.

Chapter 30

2 years active duty, 3 years active duty, or 2 years active duty plus 4 years reserves.

Chapter 1606

Completion of high school diploma and initial active duty for training. Must be active reservist with 6- year obligation.

Additional Information

Refer to the specific benefit for detailed information.

48 Months maximum under any two or more programs.

	CH 33	CH 30	CH 1606
BENEFITS FOR IN-SERVICE STUDENT	Eligible for payment after completing 90 days of aggregate service.	Eligible for payment after completing 2 years of continuous active duty.	Eligible while actively 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.
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.

Uses for GI Bill

In addition to traditional college, technical, or vocational schools, the GI Bill can be used for a multitude of educational and vocational programs, including:

- On-the-job training and Apprenticeship programs.
 - These programs allow you to learn a trade or skill through training on the job rather than attending formal classroom instruction. You typically would enter an employment contract with a specific employer or union, with the goal of gaining job certification or journeyman status. While in an approved program, you can use your GI Bill benefit to receive a monthly payment in addition to your regular wages.

- Licensing or certification costs.
 - Often required for work in certain fields, tests to obtain professional licenses or certifications may be reimbursable by the VA. Tests that may be reimbursable include licensing and/or certifications for a job as a mechanic, medical technician, therapist, computer network engineer, website developer, or other professionals. There is no limit to the number of tests you may take, or the number of times you may take the same test. The VA will reimburse for tests even if you fail them. The VA only pays the test costs, up to \$2,000, for each test. You can search for approved tests at <https://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchLCCriteria.do>
- Entrepreneurship training.
 - Entrepreneurship training allows eligible Service Members and veterans who own or want to own a business to use GI Bill benefits to take courses offered by Small Business Development Centers. To locate eligible courses, contact the SBDC directly, at <http://www.sba.gov/sbdc/> . Additional assistance for veteran entrepreneurs is available through the DVA at <https://www.va.gov/osdbu/>
- Preparatory courses, remedial and refresher training.
 - Preparatory courses are training courses for tests or are used for admission to an undergraduate or graduate program. Remedial and refresher training are lower-level courses to correct a deficiency or to meet a prerequisite for a higher-level course.
- National tests.
 - You can use your GI Bill to pay for registration and administrative fees for national test. Approved tests include those for:
 - Admission to college programs such as SAT, ACT, TOEFL.
 - Earning credit in lieu of attending college courses such as CLEP, DSST, ECE, PLA.
 - Admission to graduate programs such as GMAT, GRE, LSAT, MAT.
 - Admission to health professional programs such as DAT, MCAT, OAT, PCAT.
 - A complete list of tests and fees is available at: <https://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchNE.do>
- Flight training.
 - You may be eligible for flight training if you currently have:
 - A private pilot's license, and either.
 - A second-class medical certificate valid for second-class privileges, or
 - A first-class medical certificate if you want to pursue the Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) certificate.

A complete list of the types of training available is at: <https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/>

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 the required information before you start. You must complete the form in one session – there is no option to save and come back later. Required information:
 - Applicants' Social Security Number.
 - Military history (Service Members only).
 - Sponsor's Social Security number (Dependents applying for PGIB only).
 - Information about the school you wish to attend.
 - Bank account and direct deposit information.
 - Education history.
- Go to <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>
 - Click on "Apply for Benefits".
 - Click on "Education".
 - Click on "Apply for Education Benefits".
 - Answer the questions in each section:
 - Step 1: Applicant Information.
 - Step 2: Benefits Eligibility. Select the program you are eligible for and wish to use.
 - Step 3: Service History: Service Members and Veterans Only.
 - 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.
 - Step 4: Education History.
 - Step 5: Employment History.
 - Step 6: School Selection.
 - Step 7: Personal Information.
 - Step 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) electronically.

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, ¾ 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 Your Attendance.

- Students receiving VA education benefits (Chapter 1606, 30, or 33) must verify their attendance monthly. Verify attendance monthly by using one of the following methods:
 - Text Message. The VA strongly recommends verifying enrollment via text message. Every student who has a current mobile number on file will receive an initial text message from the VA. Reply “Yes” to the text message to opt-in to verifying enrollment via text.
 - Call the VA ECC at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) every month and ask the representative to verify your enrollment. The VA ECC is open Monday through Friday, 7am to 6pm CT.
 - International students will need to call the VA ECC at 001-918-781-5678

If you have not received a text message, call the VA Education Call Center (ECC) at 1-888- GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) to opt-in. Once you opt-in, you will receive a text message requesting enrollment verification on the last day of each month. You must submit your response within 6 days.

Step 4: Next Semester

- Do not re-submit the application unless you are changing schools or degree plans.
- As soon as registration for the next term starts, register for classes early and make another appointment with your SCO.

CHAPTER 3: FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (FTA)



3.0 Overview

ArmyIgnitED <https://www.armyignited.army.mil> is the one-stop virtual gateway for Servicemembers 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 allows access to regionally and nationally accredited colleges and universities with thousands of degree plans. ArmyIgnitED is used by all three Army components, Active Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve Servicemembers to request FTA.

Servicemembers may use FTA to receive one degree from each of the following levels:

- One associate degree.
- One bachelor's degree.
- One master's degree.
- One academic certificate (either undergraduate or graduate) during their career.

FTA cannot be used for courses or programs leading to a lower or lateral post-secondary credential that is validated in the Servicemember's official Military personnel record. FTA cannot be used to pay for First Professional degrees (i.e., Doctoral degrees or a Juris Doctorate).

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.

- Army TA Directive dated 6 June 2018.
- DODI 1325.25, Voluntary Education Programs (Incorporate. 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.

How Do I Qualify?

Eligibility:

- Be currently serving in the ARNG and have a common access card (CAC). Note, completion of IADT, BOLC, and/or WOBC are no longer required.

Service Requirement/Obligation:

- Enlisted must have an ETS 31+ days 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.
- 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 7 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 18 semester hours per fiscal year.
- Up to 130 semester hours of undergraduate coursework.
- Up to 39 semester hours of graduate coursework.

How Do I Apply?

- Step 1. Go to <https://www.armyignited.army.mil> and sign in with your CAC card.
- Step 2. Once the student account is established, complete the virtual benefits training and ArmyIgnited 101.
- Step 3: Select your education goal. Select education level, school, and degree you want to pursue.
- Step 4. Once your education goal has been approved by your ESO/ESS, click on TA Requests and issue funding.
- Step 5. You will receive an email stating the status of the TAR and the steps to follow, if necessary.
- If assistance is required, you can send a message directly through ArmyIgnited.

Recoupment

Course costs will be recouped from a Servicemember'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.

Duplication of Benefits

- Servicemembers may not receive a duplication of federal funds in contradiction to law, regulation or policy. 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 6 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.
- Servicemembers receiving a ROTC scholarship under USC Sections 2107 or 2107a are not eligible to receive FTA.

Use with GI Bill

If a Servicemember 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.
 - FTA may be used concurrently with MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606) for the same course when attending half-time or more.

- 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 50% 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.
- Chapter 30 Recipients.
 - Active-duty Service Members and National Guard and Reserve AGRs may not receive standard Chapter 30 benefits for the same courses for which they receive FTA from the Military (except for Top-up). If a student takes several courses, the student cannot receive Chapter 30 benefits for the courses for which FTA is paid. The student may, however, receive Chapter 30 benefits up to the cost of tuition for courses for which FTA has not paid.
- Chapter 30 and “Top-up”.
 - Service Members who are serving on Active Duty or AGR and are eligible for Chapters 30 and approved for FTA are eligible for Top-up. Top-up allows DVA to pay the difference between what FTA pays and the cost of the course. The law prohibits Active duty or AGR students from receiving regular Chapter 30 benefits and FTA for the same course.

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: STATE TUITION PROGRAMS



CHAPTER 4: STATE TUITION GRANT PROGRAMS

Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG) Educational Assistance Program (EAP)

The Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG) Educational Assistance Program (EAP) is a state-funded program providing tuition assistance to eligible Guard members. This benefit is awarded regardless of financial need and can be used for degree or certificate programs at approved institutions in Pennsylvania. The amount of each award is based on enrollment status (full-time or part-time) and the tuition charge, capped at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Schools (PASSHE) flat full-time tuition rate plus the technology fee. This rate varies per academic year and can be found at: [Home | PA State System of Higher Education](#). EAP will pay for 120 credit hours per 6 year commitment.

Feature	Description
Tuition Assistance	The EAP covers tuition and technology fees. The amount is based on enrollment status (full-time or part-time) and is capped at the tuition rate of a Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) institution. The program provides funding for up to 120 credit hours.
Eligibility Requirements	To be eligible, a servicemember must be an active and satisfactory participant in the PA National Guard, have a six-year service commitment, and be enrolled in an approved Pennsylvania school. All ranks are eligible to apply but must be a satisfactory participant as a servicemember.
Application Process	Servicemembers must have an approved EAP/MFEP Form 1 to be considered eligible for the program. Eligible individuals then apply for EAP through the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) website (www.pheaa.org).
Service Requirement/Obligation	Have a 6-year service commitment with the PA National Guard and sign a Statement of Understanding (EAP/MFEP Form-1). Once the EAP/MFEP Form 1 is reviewed and approved, apply on the PHEAA portal (www.pheaa.org). Members may use EAP upon entry into the National Guard.
Use with Other Benefits	The EAP can be used in conjunction with other educational benefits, such as Federal Tuition Assistance and the GI Bill.
Additional Criteria	Be enrolled in a degree or certificate program at a school located in Pennsylvania and approved by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). PA Guard members who are not Pennsylvania residents are eligible to apply for EAP grant for use at an approved PHEAA institution of higher learning in Pennsylvania.

What Do I Get?

- Funding for required courses at a Pennsylvania School.
- Cost of tuition and technology fee, up to the PASSHE rate.
- Up to 120 semester hours.
- Can be used for undergraduate and graduate courses.
- Multiple earned certificates can be used toward tuition and cost of attendance.

How Do I Apply?

- Step 1. Go to www.pheaa.org.
- Step 2. Create an account.
- Step 3. Choose “Funding Opportunities” from the menu.
- Step 4. Choose “Aid for Military and PA National Guard”.
- Step 5. Choose “PA National Guard Educational Assistance Program”.
- Step 6. Apply

Duplication of Benefits

- Pennsylvania National Guard EAP funded programs do not have an impact on FTA. FTA and EAP may be used concurrently.
- ARNG EAP funded programs do not have an impact on Montgomery GI Bill, regardless of the Chapter and are not a factor in determining EAP.
- EAP, FTA and GI Bill can be used concurrently.
- Multiple earned certificates (earned and eligible EAP and MFEP certificates can be used simultaneously) can be used simultaneously for the cost of tuition and cost of attendance. An earned certificate or “round” can be earned for each separate and distinct 6 continuous year commitment.

Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG) Military Family Education Program (MFEP)

The Pennsylvania Army National Guard (PAARNG) The Military Family Education Program (MFEP) is an educational assistance grant for dependents of Pennsylvania National Guard (PANG) members. It was established to support the families of servicemembers and to encourage retention within the PANG. To earn this benefit, a Guard member must complete their initial service obligation and then commit to an additional six years of service. The amount of each award is based on enrollment status (full-time or part-time) and the tuition charge, capped at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Schools (PASSHE) flat full-time tuition rate plus the technology fee. This rate varies per academic year and can be found at: [Home | PA State System of Higher Education](#). MFEP will pay for 120 credit hours per 6 year commitment.

Feature	Description
Tuition Assistance	The program provides a grant for dependents (spouses and children) to pursue a degree or certificate at a PHEAA-approved institution in Pennsylvania for up to five academic years. The amount is based on enrollment status (full-time or part-time) and is capped at the tuition rate of a Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) institution. The program provides funding for up to 120 credit hours.
Eligibility Requirements	To be eligible, a servicemember must have completed their initial service obligation and reenlist or extend for an additional six-year continuous term. Only approved Pennsylvania schools are eligible for dependents enrollment. All ranks are eligible to apply but must be a satisfactory participant as a servicemember. The benefit can be assigned to a spouse or children. Dependents must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) to utilize the program. The servicemember can assign the entire benefit to one dependent or split it among multiple dependents.
Benefit Usage Timeline	Spouses have up to six years after the servicemember separates from the PA Guard to use the benefit. Children must use the benefit before they turn 26.

Application Process	Servicemembers must have an approved EAP/MFEP Form 1 to be considered eligible for the program. Eligible individuals then apply for EAP through the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) website (www.pheaa.org).
Service Requirement/Obligation	Have a 6-year service commitment with the PA National Guard and sign a Statement of Understanding (EAP/MFEP Form-1). Once the EAP/MFEP Form 1 is reviewed and approved, apply on the PHEAA portal (www.pheaa.org).
Use with Other Benefits	The MFEP can be used in conjunction with other educational benefits, such as Federal Tuition Assistance and the GI Bill.
Additional Criteria	Be enrolled in a degree or certificate program at a school located in Pennsylvania and approved by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). Eligible family members who are not Pennsylvania residents are eligible to apply for MFEP grant for use at an approved PHEAA institution of higher learning in Pennsylvania.

How Do Your Dependents Qualify Member and Dependent Eligibility:

- Be a satisfactory participant in a PA National Guard Unit and enroll in an approved Pennsylvania school.
- Dependents who meet criteria IAW Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

Additional Information:

- Dependents must be enrolled in a degree or certificate program at a school located in Pennsylvania and approved by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA).
- Dependents who are not Pennsylvania residents are eligible to apply for MFEP grant for use at an approved PHEAA institution of higher learning in Pennsylvania.
- Service members may divide the allotted 120 credits among eligible dependents.
- The Service member may earn the MFEP benefit for their future dependents. If The Service member completes both their initial and subsequent six-year service obligation to PA Guard, and is later separated under honorable conditions, the member will be issued a certificate of eligibility for use within the guidelines of the program.
- A Service member may change the dependent(s) assigned to receive the MFEP benefit during or after service in PA.

- A spouse can use the assigned MFEP benefit up to six years after the member's separation from PA National Guard. Children can use the assigned MFEP benefit before reaching 26 years of age.
- Dependents of Service members who were separated or discharged with an "Other Than Honorable" characterization can still receive MFEP if the six-year obligation for MFEP was served honorably.
- MFEP benefit could be considered marital property (under Pa.C.S.A. § 3501(a) Defines Marital Property).

What Do I Get?

- Funding for required courses at a Pennsylvania School.
- Cost of tuition and technology fee, up to the PASSHE rate.
- Up to 120 semester hours.
- Can be used for undergraduate and graduate courses.
- Multiple earned certificates can be used toward tuition and cost of attendance.

How Do I Apply?

- Step 1. Go to www.pheaa.org.
- Step 2. Create an account.
- Step 3. Choose "Funding Opportunities" from the menu.
- Step 4. Choose "Aid for Military and PA National Guard".
- Step 5. Choose "PA National Guard Military Family Education Program".
- Step 6. Apply

Duplication of Benefits

- Pennsylvania National Guard MFEP funded programs do not have an impact on Chapter 33 - Post 9/11 GI Bill and is not a factor in determining EAP.
- MFEP funding does not have an impact on Federal or State Student Aid.
- MFEP, EAP and GI Bill can be used concurrently if eligible.
- Multiple earned certificates (earned and eligible EAP and MFEP certificates can be used simultaneously) can be used simultaneously for the cost of tuition and cost of attendance. An earned certificate or "round" can be earned for each separate and distinct 6 continuous year commitment.



Chapter 5: CREDENTIALING ASSISTANCE



5.0 Overview

Credentialing Assistance allows Servicemembers 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 Servicemember's service. The Army's Credentialing Assistance (CA) Program provides Servicemembers with funding for more than 1,800 credentials.

References

- 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.
- 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.

How Do I Qualify?

- Service members cannot be flagged.
- Servicemembers cannot be on hold in ArmyIgnitED.

What Do I Get?

- CA will provide Servicemembers with up to \$2,000 per fiscal year to pay for an eligible credential.
- Servicemembers may use both Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) and Army Credentialing Assistance (CA); however, the combined usage shall not exceed \$4,500 per FY.
- CA can be used for any credential listed on Army COOL at: <https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/index.html> but does not have to be related to the Servicemember'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.
- To request a CA Counselor Contact Form (coolcontactus.com) to contact a CA counselor.

Additional Criteria:

- Be enrolled in a degree or certificate program at a school located in Pennsylvania and approved by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA).
- PA Guard members who are not Pennsylvania residents are eligible to apply for EAP grant for use at an approved PHEAA institution of higher learning in Pennsylvania.

What Are Some Popular Certifications?

- CompTIA Security +CE
- Project Management Professional (PMP)
- Certified Personal Trainer (CPT)
- Associate Professional in HR (APHR)
- Certified Logistics Technician (CLT)
- Private Pilot, Airplane Single Engine

How Do I Apply?

- Visit Army Cool to discuss the CA application process and verify eligibility.
- Ensure your credential is listed on Army COOL at: <https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/index.html>
- Establish your ArmyIgnitED account at: <https://www.armyignited.army.mil>

Where Can I Go for Testing?

- There are two major companies that offer certification and licensure exams. Fort Indiantown Gap is a Pearson VUE test site. For Prometric test sites please visit their website.
 - Pearson VUE: <https://home.pearsonvue.com/>
 - Prometric: <https://www.prometric.com/>

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.

Types of Aid Available

Government Financial Aid: <https://studentaid.gov/>

- For Military service members or dependent family members of Military:
 - Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarships (see Paragraph 9.2 for more information).
 - Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Education Benefits (see Chapter 2 for more information).
 - Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant or Additional Federal Pell Grant Funds.
 - Limited Interest Rates, No Accrual of Interest, and Deferment of Student Loans.

Grants: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants>

Grants are often called “gift aid” or free money because most grants are financial aid that doesn’t have to be repaid (unlike loans). Grants are often need-based, versus scholarships which are usually merit-based.

- Federal Pell Grants <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/pell>
 - Usually awarded only to undergraduate students who display exceptional financial need and have not earned a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree.
 - Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants FSEOG <https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/how-much-money-can-i-get-fseog>
 - Administered directly by the financial aid office at each participating school. Not all schools participate. Check with the school’s financial aid office to find out if the school offers the FSEOG.
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/grants/teach>
 - Requires agreement to serve teaching service obligation. Failure to complete service obligation results in TEACH Grant loan conversion that must be repaid with interest.

Work-study: (<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/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.

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.
- Direct Federal student loans are funded by the federal government under the Department of Education. Federal Student Loans generally fall into four categories.

NOTE: Please see Paragraph 5.2.4 (How Do I apply) for a link and information concerning the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

- 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.
- Direct Unsubsidized Loans are made to eligible undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, but eligibility is not based on financial need.

- 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.
- 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. You should keep in mind that federal student loans usually have more benefits than loans from banks or other private sources. For more information, please use the following link: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans>

Other Sources (State Aid, College Aid, Nonprofit/Private Orgs)

Aid from your state government—even if you're not eligible for federal aid, you might be eligible for financial aid from your state. Many states have special grants or Student Loan Repayment Programs that will forgive loans based upon service in designated areas within their respective state. Please use the following links for more information on your state:

- Pennsylvania Education Offices: <https://www.pa.ng.mil/education>
- State Department of Education: www.education.pa.gov
- Aid from a Nonprofit or Private Organization - Many organizations offer scholarships or grants to help students pay for college or career school. This free money can make a real difference in the affordability of your education.
- Aid from Your College or Career School:
- Many schools offer financial aid from their own funds.
- Find out what might be available to you.

Scholarships

Scholarships are grants or payments made to support a student's education, awarded, typically, based on academic or other achievements. 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 usually require a written essay.

Websites: “.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.

NOTE: Be careful which websites you choose as you could be bombarded with unsolicited correspondence due to schools that sell your information by entering your data into data collection sites.

“.ORG” Websites Hosting Scholarships

Below are several scholarships hosted by “.org” websites to help you in your search. Note: NGB does not endorse any of these websites.

National Military Family Association (NMFA) scholarships

<https://www.Militaryfamily.org/programs/spouses-scholarships/>

- Specifically for Military spouses:

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.
 - Indiana Wesleyan University.
 - Columbia Southern University.
 - Colorado Technical University.
 - Sonoran Desert Institute.
 - University of Phoenix.
 - USAA.
 - Grand Canyon University.

National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS):

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

- For: Members of NGAUS
 - Armed Forces Benefit Association (AFBA) Active Life Member Scholarship - \$5k.
 - The Van Hipp Heroes Scholarship Fund for WIA (during Global War on Terrorism).
 - Leonardo DRS Guardian Scholarship Fund for children of KIA (during Global War on Terrorism).

National Guard Bureau Spouses' Club (NGBSC): <https://www.ngbsc.org/scholarships>

NGBSC offers both Academic and Need-Assessed scholarships each year. The applicant must be a high school senior OR presently enrolled as a full-time college student. The applicant's parent, spouse, or guardian must be an individual, either officer, enlisted, or civilian, affiliated (stationed/assigned to work: NGB Herbert R. Temple Jr. Army National Guard Readiness Center (TARC) in Arlington, VA, the Pentagon, and the Air National Guard Readiness Center (AN- GRC) at Joint Base Andrews, MD) with the National Guard Bureau (NGB) in the VA / MD / DC area in one of the following categories:

- Title 10 Active Guard Reserve (T10 AGR) Army or Air National Guard assigned to the NGB or representing the NGB in the National Capital Region.
- Active Army or Air Force personnel assigned to the NGB.
- Retired from the T10 AGR program with the NGB.
- Deceased personnel (Military or civilian) whose previous assignment was the NGB.
- Civilian personnel (GS / NSPS civilians only).

The American Legion: <https://www.legion.org/scholarships>

- For: Dependent children of American Legion members

Fisher House: <https://www.fisherhouse.org/programs/scholarships-programs/>

- For: Service Member, Spouse & Children
 - The Fisher House has awarded more than \$35 million dollars in the last 19 years.

Legacy Scholarship for Military children

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>

- For: Service Members and Veterans, up to \$5k.

Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship: <https://vfwfoundation.org/sports-clips/>

Student Veteran Support Grant:

https://amacfoundation.org/veterans_resources/student-veteran-support-grant/

AMVETS: <https://amvets.org/scholarships>

- 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://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: <https://studentveterans.org/programsevents/scholarships/>

Raytheon Patriot Scholarship: <https://studentveterans.org/news/raytheon-patriot-scholarship/>

Google-SVA Scholarship: <https://opportunitydesk.org/2024/03/28/google-student-veterans-of-america-scholarship-2024-2025/>

Comcast NBC Universal Scholarship: <https://studentveterans.org/programs-events/scholarships/comcast-nbcuniversal-scholarship/>

ScholarshipAmerica.org: <http://scholarshipamerica.org/>

STEM Opportunities: <https://www.dodstem.us/participate/opportunities/type=Scholarship>

Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship Program:
<https://www.smartscholarship.org/smart/en>

Stokes Educational Scholarship Program: <https://www.cia.gov/careers/student-programs/>

“.COM” Websites Hosting Scholarships

Below are several scholarships hosted by both “.com” websites to help you in your search.

Note: Neither NGB nor PANG endorse any of these websites.

Fisher House: <https://www.fisherhouse.org/programs/scholarships-programs/>

- For: Service member, Spouse & Children. The Fisher House has awarded more than \$35 million dollars in the last 19 years. This site also links you to:

The National Military Family Association (NMFA) scholarships specifically for Military spouses: <https://www.Militaryfamily.org/programs/spouses-scholarships/>

Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP)–Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM): <https://www.usaeop.com/type/scholarships/>

Scholarships.com: <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/Military-scholarships/>

Scholarship Search

The databases below contain a wealth of scholarship information, including scholarships offered by specific schools.

- Peterson's Scholarships, Grants, and Prizes: <https://www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx>
- CollegeBoard Scholarship Search: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- DANTES Financial Aid & Scholarship: <https://www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/federal-financial-aid-scholarships.html>
- The U.S. Veterans Magazine: <https://www.usveteransmagazine.com/list-of-Military-scholarships-for-service-members-spouces-and-dependents/>

Includes a list of over 100 Scholarships available to Veterans, Spouses and Families.

- StudentScholarshipSearch.com: <http://www.studentscholarshipsearch.com/>
- FastWeb.com: <https://www.fastweb.com/>

How Do I Apply?

- Military Financial Aid – See your local education office, Recruiting & Retention recruiter, AMEDD recruiter or visit the DANTES website for TTT.
- Grants and Student Loans (Federal and State) - Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Colleges usually use the FAFSA 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.

Helpful Articles:

- Affordable Colleges.com: <https://www.affordablecolleges.com/resources/scholarships-for-Military/>
- CollegeRecon: <https://scholarship-search.collegerecon.com/>
- FinAid.Org: <http://www.finaid.org/>
- CareerOneStop.Org: <https://www.careeronestop.org>

Chapter 7: TESTING PROGRAMS – PENNSYLVANIA NATIONAL GUARD



7.0 Overview

Testing services are available at your ARNG State Education Services Office, and other approved Testing Sites based on the type of test needed. Tests available to Servicemembers range from Army Personnel Testing (language, aptitude, and Military classification tests) to DANTES sponsored exams (college credit by examination) to PearsonVue and FAA testing. The day-to-day administration of Army Personnel Testing programs for the ARNG are provided at the State Education Office

References

- AR 611-5, Army Personnel Selection and Classification Testing, 25 April 2022.
- AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System, 28 October 2019.
- AR 11-6, Army Foreign Language Program, 25 February 2022.
- AR 350-20, Management of the Defense Language Program, 12 March 2018.
- ARNG APT Handbook, 1 Oct 2023.

How Do I Qualify (Eligibility Criteria)

Actively drilling ARNG Servicemembers with a valid Common Access Card (CAC) are eligible for this benefit.

Please review additional eligibility criteria under specific programs below.

What Army Tests are Available?

- Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT).
- Selection Instrument Flight Training (SIFT).
- Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT).
- Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB).
- English Comprehensive Level Test (ECL).
- Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI).

How Do I Apply?

Testing is offered at Fort Indiantown Gap every Wednesday at 0900 and 1300. There is no appointment necessary - walk in testing with one exception: OPI testing (see OPI procedures later in this chapter).

Military Tests

The Unit Commander (or authorized representative) approves and signs the DA Form 4187. The Servicemember will bring the 4187 to the Education Office on the testing date. Sample 4187's are located on the Education Centers Website at <https://www.pa.ng.mil/education/>.

The ESO and/or TCO will verify that the Servicemember is eligible for testing using DMDC.

Upon completion of testing, the TCO provides the Servicemember with a copy of the score for record update.

The Servicemember is responsible for taking a copy of the score report to the Unit Administrator (the Unit Administrator sends a copy of the test score document to the G1 for records maintenance and finance for pay update).

Approval for retesting is set forth in the applicable regulations.

Request for retesting as an exception to policy will be forwarded through the Servicemember's assigned state Education Services Officer to the Testing Program Manager at National Guard Bureau through MS Teams.

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 Servicemember 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 Servicemember 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).

Servicemembers may request an exception to the six month wait policy. To be considered for an ETP, Servicemembers must provide justification as to why the Army needs the Servicemember to test prior to the six month wait. Proof of study must accompany the ETP request. The two forms of study Servicemembers may use include the Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) or a Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP) certificate of completion. All ETPs for ARNG Servicemembers MUST be processed through the Servicemember's 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 Servicemember's are the Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) and Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP).

Online Academic Skills Course (OASC).

The OASC is designed to help Servicemembers prepare for the AFCT. This course is self-paced and customized based on your answers on a preassessment. Lessons utilize interactive exercises such as drag-and-drop matching, multiple choice video games style, 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 Servicemembers at <https://dantes.petersons.com/>

Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP).

BSEP courses are available to National Guard Servicemembers at the Professional Education Center (PEC), please contact the Education Center for forms and information. BSEP is a resident class that provides lessons addressing three specific Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT) sub- tests that comprise the GT score: Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension, and Arithmetic Reasoning.

Selection Instrument Flight Training (SIFT)

The SIFT test is used to select Servicemembers for aviation training. Servicemembers must have a 110 GT to be administered the SIFT. The SIFT may only be administered twice total (no exceptions). Servicemembers must wait 45 days before they may be administered SIFT the second time.

Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT)

These tests are used to evaluate language proficiency or to add a language Identifier to a Servicemember's MOS. Servicemembers 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 FLIP qualified must test once every 12 months. No more than two iterations same DLPT may be administered in 12 months.

Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB)

(DLAB) - This test is used to determine language aptitude for Servicemembers 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 above are not eligible to re-test.

Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)

(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. Servicemembers 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. The OPI test must be scheduled in advance. Please contact the Education Center via email for additional information ng.pa.paarng.list.jfhq-g1-education@army.mil.

DANTES Supported Examinations

College Credit by Examination Programs (CLEP/DSST)

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.

How Do I Qualify?

Be an actively drilling ARNG Servicemember with a valid Common Access Card (CAC).

What Do I Get?

- DANTES Sponsored Tests Available:
 - 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. However, both CLEP & DSST Exams can be administered via remote proctor so you can take the test from the comfort of your own home, at the Fort Indiantown Gap Education Center, or at a Military friendly civilian test site.

Funding For DANTES-Supported Testing

There is no cost to take a CLEP or DSST test at Fort Indiantown Gap. There are a few civilian test centers that are Military friendly which 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, visit the DANTES web site at: <https://www.dantes.mil/>.

How Do I Apply?

- Fort Indiantown Gap proctors CLEP and DSST tests every Wednesday at 0900 and 1300, no appointment necessary, however the Servicemember must preregister for CLEP on the College Board website <https://collegeboard.org>, see information below.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Examinations.

CLEP offers you the opportunity to earn college credit for what you already know by taking any of over 30 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.

NEW! MyCAA eligible Military spouses can now take CLEP exams for free thanks to funding from MyCAA through contracts with DANTES and College Board.

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 NTC nearest you; <https://clep.collegeboard.org/cleptestcentersearch>.

Note: There is no cost for the CLEP exam. Some NTCs may charge a non-reimbursable administrative fee up to \$30. Only fully funded DANTES sites waive the administrative fee.

Online Registration

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

NOTE: 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 Servicemembers 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.

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're enrolled in awards credit for DSST exams.
- There is no cost to take a CLEP or DSST test at Fort Indiantown Gap. There are a few civilian test centers that are Military friendly which DANTES authorizes up-front funding of the CLEP and DSST exams however, some sites may charge an administrative fee up to \$30.

Note: There is no cost for the DSST exam, however, some NTCs may charge a non-reimbursable administrative fee up to \$30. Only fully funded DANTES sites waive the administrative fee.

Scheduling a DSST Exam

Fort Indiantown Gap proctors CLEP and DSST tests every Wednesday at 0900 and 1300, no appointment necessary, however the Servicemember must preregister for CLEP on the College Board website <https://collegeboard.org>, see information below

Review the DSST "Test Taker Information Bulletin" for testing and scheduling information. Pre-sent 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 re-test 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 Servicemembers 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.

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: <http://www.free-clep-prep.com/index.html>. This website tells you what to expect for many CLEP and DSST exams, offers all kinds
 - Modern States: <https://modernstates.org/course>. 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>. 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/>.
 - Coursera: www.coursera.org 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 Services Office 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 also 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.

PearsonVue Testing

PearsonVue partners with industry, to deliver high-stakes exams empowering professions to certify and license individuals who safeguard and advance their communities across the globe. The National Guard may fund PearsonVue tests through CA, MGIB or vouchers for MOS requirements. All others are paid for by the Servicemember.

Fort Indiantown Gap is a PearsonVue test center, testing is every Wednesday at 0900 and 1300, the Servicemember must preregister on the PearsonVue website <https://www.pearsonvue.com/>, choose Fort Indiantown Gap as the test site and register for a Wednesday at 0900 or 1300.

Fort Indiantown Gap is a closed post. Only those possessing a CAC will be admitted.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA Airman Knowledge Testing)

How Do I Qualify?

Be a Military member, a dependent or a DoD civilian.

What Do I Get?

Free FAA Airman Knowledge Testing, eligible members can take their written test at Fort Indiantown Gap Education Center at no cost.

How Do I Apply?

Visit PSI at <https://faa.psiexams.com/faa/login> to register. The Fort Indiantown Gap Education Center tests every Wednesday at 0900 and 1300. Servicemembers, dependents and DoD Civilians must have their valid military ID and Form 8610-2 prior to taking the exams.

Using GI Bill for Testing, Licensure, and Certifications

- The DVA may reimburse the cost of approved licensing, certification, and national tests. Students are reimbursed for the actual cost of the test, up to \$2,000.
- Benefits can be paid for tests that are not passed, for tests retaken if not passed, and for tests required to be recertified or to renew a license.
- 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 \$2,518 received (FY26). Entitlement is prorated for tests that cost less than \$2,518.
- MGIb-SR: Your entitlement is charged one month for every \$493 received (FY26). Entitlement is prorated for tests that cost less than \$493.
- 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. Your entitlement will be charged one month for every \$2,496.26 received (Effective 1 Aug 2025).

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.

Joint Services Transcript (JST)

The JST is intended to contain 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 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), the Coast Guard Institute Transcript, 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 recommended 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 send 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 JST receives its data from underlying Army personnel systems data and can go back as far as 1976. However, data older than 1994 may be missing or incomplete. The JST can include training on your transcript that was taken prior to 1976. The older the data, the greater the chance something could be missing.

Tools to Help Make Your Educational Decisions

MilGears: <https://milgears.osd.mil/>

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. This 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 MilGears do for me?

MilGears provides a Servicemember 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 Servicemembers can research potential career choices and their credential and/or degree requirements prior to selecting to pursue a degree or credential.

MilGears uses data input from Servicemembers and the Department of Labor to further personalize recommendations.

MilGears guides Servicemembers through a complete decision process, linking career goals to degree/credential requirements and to personalized career recommendations.

MilGears provides Servicemembers 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.

TA DECIDE: <https://www.dantes.mil/tadecide/>

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.

Career Path DECIDE: <https://careerpathdecide.org/career-planning/quick-match>

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.

College Navigator: <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

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.

College Scorecard: <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

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.

GI Bill Comparison Tool: <https://www.va.gov/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:

Kuder Journey: <https://dantes.kuder.com/landing-page>

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 that provide a reliable planning foundation for Military members:

The Kuder Career Interests Assessment.

Kuder Skills Confidence Assessment – Adult

Kuder Work Values Assessment.

CollegeRecon: <https://collegerecon.com/>

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 postsecondary 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 to narrow down a list of “top choices.”

HERC and DegreeQuest: <https://www.degreequickly.com//nationalguard.html>

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

To access this free support, you must first submit an online application by clicking on the button at the bottom of this web page: <https://www.degreequickly.com//nationalguard.html>

A “Welcome” e-mail will be sent to you with a link to the 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.

HERC counselors will build an electronic education record which includes every potential source of credit earned in the past.

Counselors 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.

Afterwards, HERC counselors send notification to the colleges and universities, enabling logon access into the DegreeQuest system to review the placement of your credits toward their degree requirements.

Test Preparation with SOCRATES: HERC also provides free access to their student support website, SOCRATES (Students Online Connections, Resources & Academics to Enhance Success).

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.

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

O*NET OnLine: <https://www.onetonline.org/>

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.

Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH): <https://www.bls.gov/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.

Coalition for College: <https://coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>

The Coalition for College is a group of more than 150 distinguished colleges and universities across the U.S. that joined to increase students' access to higher education. This 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.

Tools to Help While You Are in School

Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Khan Academy is a nonprofit organization with the goal of changing education for the better by providing a free world-class online 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.

Online Academic Skills Course (OASC): <https://dantes.petersons.com/>

OASC is available to Service members, DoD civilians, and family members, to help build academic skills and prepare for exams such as CLEP or DSST. This course provides instructional modules with lessons, videos, activities, flashcards, quizzes, and practice tests to help you improve your academic skills and improve your standardized test scores. And OASC is being continually updated to offer new features such as automatically inputting your diagnostic assessment into the My Academic Predictor (MAP) tool so you can better understand how you would score on standardized exams like the AFCT. Another new feature is that all Service Members are eligible to use live, on-demand tutoring, which is available 24/7 and completely free!

Coursera: <https://www.coursera.org/>

Coursera is an education company that partners with over 200 top universities and organizations in the world to offer courses online for anyone to take, for free. Technology enables Coursera's 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.

Tutor.com: <https://Military.tutor.com/home>

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 all Service Members and their families National Guard Servicemembers. 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. Massive

Open Online Course (MOOC): <https://www.mooc.org/>

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.

Modern States Education Alliance (MSEA): <https://modernstates.org>

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 Servicemembers 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).

Class Central: <https://www.classcentral.com/>

Class Central aggregates courses from over 3,000 universities, providers, and institutions to help you find the best courses on almost any subject. You can use Class Central's to find courses in your topic of interest, read course descriptions and go through reviews to help you decide which courses to try. Use the filter to help refine the search by level, duration, language, and whether it's free or not, or you earn a free certification at the completion of the course.

Time Management and Test Taking Tools

Good study tips and habits can make a critical 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 used 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.

- Time Management and Organization Tools to Improve Your Time Management:
 - <https://sites.dartmouth.edu/learning/category/time-management/>
- Improve Note Taking Skills, Learning Styles and Strategies:
 - <https://oxfordlearning.com/5-effective-note-taking-methods/>
- Test Taking Skills and Strategies: www.testtakingtips.com/note/index.htm
- Cramming Techniques for Exams: www.testtakingtips.com/cramming/index.htm
- Reducing Test Taking Anxiety: www.testtakingtips.com/anxiety/index.htm
- Study Skills Help & Study Tips: www.testtakingtips.com/study/index.htm
- Test Preparation Tips: www.testtakingtips.com/test/genpre.htm

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.

To identify RA programs approved for the use of GI Bill benefits, visit this website:
<https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/schools-and-employers>

- Search by On-the-Job Training/Apprenticeship” from the “Program Type” dropdown menu and click your preferred state.

Industry and Career Research

To conduct an industry/career research and MOS matching, visit this website:
www.mynextmove.org/vets/

Current Vacancies

To identify current apprenticeship vacancies available at over 16,000 employers nationwide, visit this website: <https://www.apprenticeship.gov/>

Current vacancies can also be found using this website: <https://www.glassdoor.com>.

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 both online and in person 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 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:
 - O2O Info Page: <https://ivmf.syracuse.edu/programs/career-training/>
 - O2O Enrollment: <https://ivmf.syracuse.edu/programs/career-training/o2o-admission/>
 - O2O Learning Pathways: <https://ivmf.syracuse.edu/programs/career-training/learning-pathways/>

The College Financing Plan

Education benefits, and other potential factors. <https://www.ed.gov/higher-education/paying-college/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

My Next Move: <https://www.mynextmove.org/vets/>

This website provides some extraordinary tools which provide a quick search function, MOS translator to find related careers (Through the O*NET Interest Profiler), connection to Bureau of Labor Statistics and O*NET Online and allows you to Print or email the results.

Chapter 9: LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS



9. Overview

ARNG loan repayment programs are part of the Selective Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP) and Army Medical Department Incentives Program (AMEDD SRIP). The programs assist the ARNG leadership and personnel managers in meeting the strength and readiness requirements for the ARNG with financial educational assistance.

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 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 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 Social Work Program (Army-UK MSW) are not eligible to participate in HPLRP until they satisfy their six-year contractual obligation.
- Must be on the critical wartime shortage list.
- Must be assigned to an authorized TDA/MTOE unit.
- Servicemember must possess outstanding educational loans toward the qualifying degree of 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 per 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.

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 annual 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 coded 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 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 lifetime benefit of the ARNG CLRP cannot exceed \$80,000 (up to \$20K for each three-year period of obligation) by law and covers the loan’s principle, interest, and related expenses Federal Aviation Administration (FAA Airman Knowledge Testing)

How Do I Qualify?

Be a Military member, a dependent or a DoD civilian.

What Do I Get?

The maximum annual payment, inclusive of interest, made for eligible participants under the CLRP may not exceed one-third of the \$20K contracted amount.

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 re- quest.
- 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 three-year service obligation period.
- In order to complete a new three-year CLRP agreement, the Chaplain must repeat the application process and sign a new CLRP agreement once approved.

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 Servicemembers 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 Servicemember is the borrower and the loans(s) are in the Servicemember's name.
- State and private loans are not eligible.
- To be eligible for payment, Servicemember 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 of its 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 Incentive Manager.
- The annual payment is 15 percent of the eligible Disbursed amount or \$1000, whichever is greater, the annual payment sum may not exceed maximum payment cap of \$8,333.
- Maximum annual payment cap is \$8,333.
- 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 Servicemembers may extend/continue existing agreement IOT reach full entitlement.
- Enlisted Servicemembers receiving SLRP will remain eligible while attending OCS or WOCS or after contracting into the ROTC/SMP programs as a non-scholarship participant.
- Servicemembers 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)/Incentive 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 of an authorized 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 applicants must have an Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) score of 50 or higher.
- PS applicants must be Duty Military Occupational Specialty Qualified (DMOSQ) in the contracted SLRP MOS at time of enlistment/affiliation.
- PS applicant must have less than sixteen years' Time-in-Service (TIS) on the start date of contract.
- PS Servicemember must have received an Honorable Discharge or an Honorable release at the conclusion of all periods of prior Military service.
- General under Honorable conditions discharge for any period of service is ineligible (Exception: Servicemembers who completed IADT with an uncharacterized discharge).
- PS Servicemember must not be enlisting under the provisions of a Conditional Release (DD Form 368) from a Selected Reserve (SELRES) component other than the United States Army Reserve (USAR), if already having the SLRP.
- NPS/ PS applicants contract at MEPS; Servicemembers affiliating from AD contract with an RCCC in GIMS.
- ARNG Unit Readiness NCOs/Retention NCOs/Incentive Managers determine current Servicemembers' eligibility SLRP eligibility using NSLDS documentation. To reenlist/extend for SLRP, Servicemembers 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 annual ARNG SRIP policy.
 - Must have less than sixteen years TIS at the 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 Dual Status MILTECH status on contract signature and start dates.
 - Must not be under any type of Suspension of Favorable Personnel Action (SFPA).
 - Servicemembers who enter the program after 1 March 2009 may extend beyond his/her initial six 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 \$8,333 for each anniversary year of the incentive term, inclusive of interest.

- Servicemember must meet all payment eligibility requirements per the annual ARNG SRIP policy.

How Do I Apply?

The Applicant/Servicemember 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.

- Once an eligible loan is verified by the NSLDS documents prior to issuance 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/Servicemember.
- These documents must be dated within 30 days of the contract issuance.
- The contract signature date on the SLRP addendum establishes the six year service obligation period for all NPS/PS Applicants/Servicemembers (Exception for Servicemembers transitioning off AD which the contract start date is the day after REFRAD).
- The six year service obligation for a current Service member begins one 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.

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?

Possess one or more qualifying/disbursed Title IV Federal loans (not currently in default).

- PLUS loans are eligible for repayment if the Servicemember is the borrower and the loans(s) are in the Servicemember's name; State and private loans are not eligible.
- Servicemembers 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, have or will receive a GRFD scholarship.
- Must have not previously received SLRP.
- Must have a GIMS SLRP Pre-Approval application approved by the State Incentive Mgr.
- The max annual payment is 15% of the eligible principle(s) or \$1000, whichever is greater, plus accrued interest.
- Payments are capped at \$8,333 annually. The current year's annual payment shall 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 this 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 obligation period.

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 \$8,333, inclusive of interest for each anniversary year of the incentive term.
- Servicemember must meet all payment eligibility requirements per the annual 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 contract signature date in GIMS. Once an eligible authorized loan is verified by the NSLDS documents and prior to issuance the Applicant/Servicemember must be projected to enlist at MEPS, whereby the MEPS GC will complete the eligibility processing.
- The MEPS GC will print out the GCRC 09S SLRP addendum and sign it with the Applicant/Servicemember. The signature date on the 09S SLRP addendum establishes the six - year service obligation period for all NPS/PS 09S SLRP Applicants/Servicemembers.

Chapter 9: COMMISSIONING PROGRAMS



Overview

Servicemembers 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, Servicemembers may receive a commission as an officer. Visit Cadet Command's Web site at <https://www.goarmy.com/rotc.html> for details.

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 2–4-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 (ARNG) as an officer.

NOTE: The ARNG now offers a 4-YR. 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 participate in the Simultaneous Membership Program (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 MSO with the respective component to serve in enlisted status.

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 GI Bill. 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 GI Bill.

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 taken the ACT or SAT to qualify for the 4 year Minuteman Scholarship (no minimum score requirement).
- Must be under 31 years of age for the entire year of commissioning.
- Must pass the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT).
- Must pass MEPS physical for enlistment and DoDMERB physical to contract.
- Must meet Army height/weight standards.
- Must be a full time student and be of good moral character.
- Scholarship Cadets will serve an eight-year Military Service Obligation (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 \$364 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.

Early Commissioning Program (ECP)

Overview

The ECP allows graduates of a Military junior college to become Commissioned Officers 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 be commissioned 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 Officer Strength Manager regarding current rates and benefits

Military Junior College 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 College, Milledgeville, Georgia. Georgia Military College, founded in 1879, includes a liberal arts junior college, a high school, and a middle school.

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 Individual Training (AIT) are deferred pending completion of SMP and commissioning. Basic Training and/or AIT is not a prerequisite, meaning you don't have to be MOSQ to contract with ROTC. 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 Servicemembers attending colleges with 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 qualification (Basic training, ROTC Basic Camp, JROTC or progression Cadets).

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).
- 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).

Federal Officer Candidate School (Active Component)

Overview

A twelve-week program conducted at Fort Moore, 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 16

basic branches of the Army. Candidates attend the course with Active Duty Servicemembers and Servicemembers 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.
- Servicemembers enlisting under the OCS Option must successfully complete BCT.
- To enroll, Candidates must be a US citizen.
- For information on testing procedures, contact your State ESO.
- For information on application procedures, contact your Chain of Command or local Recruiter.

State Officer Candidate School (OCS)

Overview

The State OCS option is a 16-to-18-month course of instruction (some school- houses may accelerate this timeline) conducted in four phases. This option is delivered over drill weekends and annual training in lieu of drilling with individual until. Upon commissioning, each Officer will attend the Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) 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.
- Servicemembers 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 (no waivers).
- Servicemembers enlisting under the OCS option with no prior service must be able to graduate Basic Combat Training before their 35th birthday. Servicemembers with Prior Service must complete all commissioning requirements before their 42nd birthday.
- 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.

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 commission before their 42nd birthday; Minimum age requirement to enroll is 18.
- In-service applicants must have successfully completed BCT and AIT.
- Servicemembers 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.
- Candidates must be a U.S citizen to enroll.
- For application information, contact your Chain of Command, or local Recruiter.

Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS)

Overview

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

appointed. State Regional Training Institutes also offer a five-month WOCS program on IADT weekends.

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 terms listed below are universal for all applicants.

- U.S Citizenship (No Wavers).
- GT score of 110 or higher (No Waivers).
- High School graduate or have a GED (No Waivers).
- Final Secret or Top-Secret Security Clearance (No Waivers).

Note: Interim clearances do not satisfy the requirement!

- Pass the standard 6-event Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) 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 Aviators; must be 18 but have not reached their 33rd birthday at the time of the board selection.
 - For Technical Warrants; must be 18 years of age, and not more than 46 years of age on the effective date of initial appointment to WO1.

Direct Commission

The intent of this program is to offer an alternative-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. Currently serving members must have served a minimum of 24 months' active Military status including twelve months in the Army National Guard. The nominated Servicemember must have completed their Baccalaureate degree and achieve an ASVAB GT score of 110 or higher. Each respective State G1 is the POC for direct commissioning. Non-prior service civilians may be eligible for direct commission as medical professionals, JAG Lawyers or Chaplains de- pending on civilian experience.

Chapter 10: SPOUSAL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMS



Overview

Spouses are essential to the Military and a strong nation as they support the Servicemember. Since the Army's inception, spouses have supported their Servicemembers on the field and on the home front. They are community leaders, mothers, fathers, and sometimes even Servicemembers themselves. While juggling all these hats, they also actively pursue careers. Because of their sacrifice, the Department of Defense, as well as many other federal and civilian agencies/organizations, offer programs specifically designed to help Military spouses succeed in their educational endeavors.

Post 9/11 GI Bill® Transfer of Education Benefit (TEB)

One of the most lucrative benefits available to spouses and dependents to pursue a college degree is the Post 9/11 GI Bill via the TEB program. ARNG Servicemembers who qualify for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, have served a minimum of six years of service, and agree to serve four additional years from the date of their TEB request, may qualify to transfer up to 36 months of their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to their eligible dependents under the TEB program.

Once approved, Servicemembers can assign months of benefits among their eligible dependents (it is highly recommended that you transfer at least one month of your benefit to everyone listed in DEERS. Once you separate you can adjust among your dependents, but you cannot give months to

a dependent who was not given months upon the initial transfer). The transfer is initiated by the Servicemember, using the following website: <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>.

See para 2.7 (page 16-17) of this handbook for further information on the TEB program.

Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship

A scholarship for children and spouses of certain Veterans. If your parent or spouse died in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001, while serving in one of the Armed Forces, or was a member of the Selected Reserve who died from a service-connected disability, you may qualify for this benefit. Eligible dependents will each receive 36 months of the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

To learn more about this program, please use the following link:

<https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/fry-scholarship/>.

Pennsylvania National Guard Education Center – Located on Fort Indiantown Gap

The Pennsylvania National Guard hosts an Education Center that offers in person adult education opportunities to all Servicemembers and their family members. Services include educational counseling, resume assistance, testing, the Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP program) and a Multi- Use Learning Facility (MLF).

Military OneSource for Spouses: <https://myseco.Militaryonesource.mil/portal/>

The Department of Defense established the Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO) program to provide education and career guidance to Military spouses worldwide, offering comprehensive resources and tools related to career exploration, education, training and licensing, employment readiness and career connections.

My Career Advancement Account Scholarship Program (MyCAA)

<https://mycaa.Militaryonesource.mil/mycaa/>

The MyCAA Scholarship is a workforce development program that provides eligible Military spouses with up to \$4,000 in financial assistance for the pursuit or maintenance of an associate's degree or certification program, including continuing education courses necessary to gain employment in an occupation or career field. Spouses can also use funds for national tests to earn course credits required for the degree approved under the program, including the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST). Below are the requirements to qualify for MyCAA:

- Be a spouse of an Service Member on active duty/AGR or mobilized on Title 10 orders in pay grades E-1 to E-5, W-1 to W-2, and O-1 to O-2.
- Have successfully completed high school.
- Have the ability to request tuition assistance while Military sponsor is on qualifying Title 10 Military orders.

State Licensure Reimbursement

Spouses of ARNG Servicemembers that were reassigned from a duty station in one state to another on or after 12 December 2017, and movement of the Servicemember's dependents is authorized, qualify for up to \$500 reimbursement in qualified relicensing costs with each reassignment. This program only applies to Title 10/32 AGR/AD (IDT not authorized).

The program pays exam, license/certification, and registration fees. To qualify, the spouse must have held the license/certification at a previous duty station.

For additional information go to: <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/login>

Scholarships

Below is a list of the numerous scholarships' spouses may be eligible for as a spouse of a service member:

- Army Scholarship Foundation: <https://armyscholarshipfoundation.org/scholarships/> Dependents (sons, daughters or spouses) of individuals who currently or previously served on active duty in the U.S. Army or with the Army Reserve or National Guard may apply. The program requires a minimum of 2.0 GPA.
- Allied Van Lines Military Scholarship: <https://www.allied.com/Military-scholarship> Military family members seeking a career in logistics or supply chain management are the focus of this scholarship. The application requires a brief essay. Allied Van Lines awards two scholarships annually.
- Army Nurse Corps Association Scholarship: <https://e-anca.org/Scholarships>
- This scholarship supports spouses of personnel who currently or previously served in the U.S. Army through active service, the Army Reserve, or the Army National Guard, and are currently enrolled in an accredited baccalaureate or advanced nursing program. However, applicants must not receive educational funding from the U.S. Army, such as GI Bill benefits.
- Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) <https://eangus.org/we-care-for-america/scholarship-information/> ENGAUS offers several scholarships to their members and their dependents.
- National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) <https://www.ngaus.org/membership/member-benefits/scholarships> NGAUS offers several scholarships to their members and their dependents.
- AMVETS (American Veterans): <https://amvets.org/scholarships>. AMVETS offers a scholarship specific to Spouses of Veterans, AD, Guard/Reserves.
- The National Military Family Association (NMFA) Spouse Scholarships <https://www.Militaryfamily.org/programs/spouses-scholarships/>
- NMFA is one of the nation's leading non-profit organizations geared towards Military family advocacy. Since 2004, NMFA has cheered on Military spouses by awarding scholarships to help pay for everything from GED's to PhD's, professional licenses and certifications, including

re-licensure, business and entrepreneurial expenses, supervised clinical hours, continuing education courses, and more.

- ThanksUSA: <https://www.thanksusa.org/apply.html>. ThanksUSA offers Military spouse scholarships annually to provide need-based college, technical and vocational school scholarships and pathways to meaningful employment for children and spouses of Military members. Since 2006, ThanksUSA has awarded approximately 5,000 scholarships valued at more than \$16 million to recipients from all 50 states and representing every branch of the Military.
- SMART Scholarship Program: <https://www.smartscholarship.org/smart>. Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship-for-Service Program: an opportunity to receive a full scholarship (from college through PhD) and be gainfully employed upon degree completion. Students pursuing degrees related to engineering, science, mathematics, architecture, oceanography and operations research are encouraged to apply. SMART facilitates a highly skilled Department of Defense (DoD) STEM workforce that competes with the dynamic trends in technology and innovation to protect national security.
- The AOC STEM Student of the Year: <https://crows.org/download/appendix-b-chapter-scholarship-and-stem/> Association of Old Crows STEM scholarship awards \$12,500 to one male and one female student studying in the fields of engineering or engineering technology and interested in working in the Aerospace and Defense Industry. These scholarships are funded by a generous \$25,000 donation from Raytheon Intelligence & Space.

Scholarship Search

The databases below contain a wealth of scholarship information, including scholarships offered by specific schools.

- Peterson's Scholarships, Grants, and Prizes <https://www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx>
- CollegeBoard Scholarship Search <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- The U.S. Veterans Magazine <https://usveteransmagazine.com/usvm/how-to-find-and-apply-for-military-scholarships> includes a list of over 100 Scholarships available to Veterans, Spouses and Families.

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.

See chapter 7 of this handbook for further information.

Career Spark: <https://mycareerspark.com/#/>

Hiring Our Heroes has a program that is specifically designed for Military spouses called Career Spark: This program offers a four-step process to help Military spouses attain their career goals:

Discover your expertise by creating a skills-based resume to maximize work and volunteer experience toward making resumes searchable to thousands of Military friendly employers in their database.

- Explore your options when it comes to the job search process.
- Prepare for success by practicing and knowing what to expect.
- Track your progress and overcome common obstacles.

HERC and DegreeQuest: <https://www.degreequickly.com//nationalguard.html>

The Higher Education Resource Center (HERC) offers free guidance, support and degree plans to all ARNG Servicemembers and their family members, including spouses and dependent children of college age, using their patented degree exploration system, DegreeQuest®. To take advantage of their free support, first submit an online application for assistance by clicking on the button at the bottom of the web page above.

Federal Academic Alliance

MWR Library: <https://www.dodmwrlibraries.org/>

The MWR library offers a variety of online resources to assist with test preparation needs, including the following:

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 “Benefits & Resources” drop-down menu near the top of the page.
Then select the “MWR Digital Library” link under the “Popular Benefits” Section.
Go to the bottom of the page and select the “ACCESS THE LIBRARY” button.
Click on “Digital Collections A-Z” and then enter “EBSCO” into the search box. You will now be able to select the “EBSCO DoD Learning Express Test Prep.”
You will need to register and login using your authentication certificate to have access to the EBSCO library.

APPENDIX A: Helpful Links

Mango Languages

Digital language learning program for learners of all levels, with courses in over 70 different foreign languages, 21 English Language Learning courses.

Tutor.com: <https://Military.tutor.com/home>

Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and provides on demand, online tutoring and homework help at no cost to service members and their dependents. With live, expert tutors available 24/7, Military connected students can receive academic help at their moment of need anywhere they have an internet connection.

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

GI Bill

GI BILL General Benefit Information <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/> DVA

Online Application for Benefits <https://www.va.gov>

Transfer of Education Benefit Web site <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>

Registered Apprenticeship <https://www.apprenticeship.gov>

Tuition Assistance/Credentialing Assistance

ArmyIgnitED <https://armyignited.army.mil>

Army COOL <https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/index.html>

TESTING & STUDY AIDS

Certification and Licensures <https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/index.html>

DANTES <https://dantes.mil>

Free Military Transcripts <https://jst.doded.mil/>

Modern States <https://modernstates.org/>

National Test Centers <https://clep.collegeboard.org/search/testcenters>

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/ooah

O*Net Online <http://www.onetonline.org/>

TOOLS WHILE IN COLLEGE

Joint Services Transcript (JST) <https://jst.doded.mil/jst/>
Verification of Military Experience <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/>
Khan Academy www.khanacademy.org
Coursera www.coursera.org
Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) <https://Military.tutor.com/>

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 Recon.com <https://collegerecon.com/Military-scholar-ships-2019/>
EANGUS <https://eangus.org/we-care-for-america/scholarship-information/>
NGAUS <https://www.ngaus.org/membership/member-benefits/scholarships>
Spouse Education Opportunities <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/scholarships>
<https://www.edvisors.com/scholarships/scholarship-finder/>
Student Veterans of America <https://studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships>
U.S. Veterans Magazine <https://www.usveteransmagazine.com>
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 & Continuing Education Services for Servicemembers
ADSO	Active-Duty Service Obligation
AFCOS	Automated Fund Control Orders System
AFQT	Armed Forces Qualification Test
AGRAActive	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	Educational Assistance Program
MFEP	Military Family Education Program
ECP	Early Commissioning Program
ESO	Education Services Officer
FTA	Federal Tuition Assistance
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-Selected Reserve
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