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FY19 ARNG EDUCATION BENEFITS HANDBOOK (For Soldiers)

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Note: Application procedures for the programs described in this brochure may vary from State to State. Contact your State Education Services Office, unit full-time support personnel, or your Recruiting and Retention NCO for further information.

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*.

This guide was developed by the Education Services Branch located at National Guard Bureau, Arlington, VA (ARNG-HRM-E).

For recommended edits/changes to this guide please send an email to: ng.ncr.ngb-arng.mbx.ngb-edu@mail.mil

Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1.0 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.national-guard.com/contacts/eso.

1.1 Responsibilities

- **Education Services Branch, Army National Guard Bureau (ARNG-HRM-E)**
  - 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.
  - Manage and deliver Army Continuing Education System (ACES) for the ARNG.
  - Provide guidance and support for implementing ACES programs and services to personnel assigned to State ARNG education services offices.

- **State Education Services Office**
  - 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.
  - Administer ARNG education programs and services including; GI Bill programs, federal and state tuition assistance, testing services (APT and DANTES) and support programs.
  - Provide education counseling and support to Soldiers.
  - Coordinate with unit leaders and other stakeholders to conduct education briefings to Soldiers, family members, ARNG state leadership, college/universities and outside agencies as necessary.

Chapter 2
GI BILL PROGRAMS

2.0 Overview

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

- Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)
- Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve Kicker Incentive (Kicker)
- Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607)
  Note: This program ended to new enrollees on 25 Nov 2015
- Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (Chapter 30)
- Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)
- Yellow Ribbon Program
- Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) Program

2.1 Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) Chapter 1606, Title 10 U.S. Code

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 one time in a Soldier's career. The ARNG determines initial eligibility, notifies Soldiers, and funds the program while the DVA administers payments to the Soldier. The MGIB-SR program is available to Enlisted, Officer, and Warrant Officer Personnel who are participating members assigned to the Selected Reserve. For members of the Selected Reserve, benefits generally end on the date of separation. Chapter 1606 benefits are paid on a monthly basis directly to the Service Member.

References

- Title 10 USC, Chapter 1606
- DoDI 1322.17, 15 January 2015
- AR 135-7, ARNG and United States Army Reserve (USAR) Incentives Programs, 15 April 1996
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017
- EIOM 15-004, The Army National Guard (ARNG) Montgomery GI-Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) Chapter 1606 Policy, 23 March 2015
- DVA Website: benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_sr.asp

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, for officers it is accomplished using 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.
- Soldiers mobilized on Title 10 Active Duty may receive an extension of their period of eligibility for the length of the mobilization plus four months. This is a DVA process that occurs after the Soldier separates from the Selective Reserve.

What Do I Get? Rates Effective 1 October 2018

Institutional Training

Training Time	Monthly rate
Full time	$384.00
3/4 time	$287.00
1/2 time	$191.00
Less than 1/2 time	$96.00

Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training

Training Period	Monthly rate
First six months of training	$288.00
Second six months of training	$211.20
Remaining pursuit of training	$134.40

Correspondence and Flight - Entitlement charged at the rate of one month for each $384.00 paid.
Cooperative - $384.00
Correspondence Payments - 55% of the approved charges
Flight Payments - 60% of the approved charges

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

How Do I Apply?

- **Step 1.** Apply Online. Go to www.vets.gov.
- **Step 2.** Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). After you apply on line, the DVA will send you a CoE in the mail. Take the CoE to the DVA representative/School Certifying Official (SCO) at the educational institution you are attending, or your place of employment if you are in a job-training program. The DVA Rep/SCO will certify your enrollment and submit it to the DVA Regional Processing Office (RPO) for processing.
- **Step 3.** Verify Your Attendance. Students receiving Chapter 30, 1606 or 1607 must verify their attendance monthly by Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) or by using the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. When students are awarded benefits, the award letter they receive describes WAVE and IVR.
    - The preferred verification method is WAVE, which includes features not found in IVR. WAVE allows students to verify their enrollment on the Internet. WAVE is on the DVA's Education Service website at www.gibill.va.gov/wave/.

- The WAVE system permits students to perform a multitude of functions. Students may perform the following functions in WAVE:
  - Verify that enrollment has not changed
  - Report a change in enrollment
  - Change mailing address
  - Initiate or change direct deposit information
  - View the enrollment period and monthly benefit amount
  - View the remaining entitlement
  - Sign up for a monthly e-mail reminder

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

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

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

2.2 Army National Guard (ARNG) Kicker Incentive Program

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

References

- Title 10 USC, Chapter 1606, Section 16131(i)
- Title 10 USC, Chapter 103, Section 2107
- 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

How Do I Qualify?

Be sure to refer to the ARNG Selective Reserve Incentive Programs (SRIP) Policy in effect at time of Kicker Incentive issue for a complete description of the current qualification criteria, procedures, contracting requirements and standards for administration of this incentive. Each Kicker Incentive must have a signed kicker addendum or contract.

- **$350 Enlisted Accessions (EA)**
  - Non-Prior Service
    - ASVAB score of 50 or above (Cat IIIA or higher).
    - Education Tier level 1 (High school diploma or equivalent).

- Prior Service
  - ASVAB 50 or above (Cat I-IIIA or higher).
  - DMOSQ E5 or below.
  - Meet RE and SPD code requirements for if affiliating from active duty.
  - If affiliating from a service other than Army, meet the requirement to be awarded a MOS at the time of affiliation/enlistment and be coded DMOSQ in SIDPERS.

- **$350 Re-Enlistment/Extension (RE)**
  - Reenlist or extend DMOSQ grade E7 or below.
  - May extend any time after completing 3 years of service, but prior to completing 14 years of service
  - Deployed Soldiers with a 999K excess code are eligible.
  - Soldiers in the ARNG Medical Management Activity (MMA) are not eligible while medically non-available.

- **$350 Officer Commissioning (OC)**
  - Supplemental (Bump-Up)
    - Have previously contracted and established eligibility for a $100 or $200 MGIB-SR kicker.
    - Have completed or agree to complete the original 6- year service obligation.
    - Be enrolled into a commissioning program.
    - Complete the Supplemental MGIB-SR Kicker addendum (NGB Form 5435-1) after entry into the Commissioning program, and prior to commissioning.
  - Officer Candidate School (OCS)
    - Complete MGIB-SR Kicker Addendum (NGB Form 5435) after completion of OCS Phase 1, and prior to commissioning.
    - Have a concurrent 6-year service obligation from the date of the Kicker contract.
  - Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC)
    - Be enrolled as a Simultaneous Member Program (SMP) as a MSIII Cadet.
    - Complete SMP Agreement (NGB Form 594-1).
    - Complete Kicker Addendum prior to commissioning.
    - Have a concurrent 6-year service obligation from the date of the Kicker contract.
  - Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC)
    - Complete Kicker Addendum after entry into commissioning program and <u>prior to</u> commissioning.
    - Have a concurrent 6-year service obligation from the date of the Kicker contract.

Notes:
-Receiving a Dedicated Guard ROTC Scholarship (Title 10 USC 2107) will terminate a Soldier's MGIB-SR (Ch 1606) basic benefit and kicker (if applicable)
-Cadets who have not completed AIT will not be eligible for payment until completion of BOLC

<u>What Do I Get</u>?

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

- Refer to the ARNG Selective Reserve Incentive Programs (SRIP) Policy in effect at time of Kicker Incentive issue for a complete description of the current qualification criteria, rates, procedures, contracting requirements and standards for administration of this incentive.

2.3 Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) Chapter 1607, Title 10 U.S. Code

Overview. Chapter 1607 is an educational program for active members of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve who served on active duty after 11 September 2001 in support of a contingency operation or a national emergency declared by the President or Congress.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2016 ended the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP) on 25 November 2015. DVA will only grant continued REAP eligibility to those enrolled in school and receiving REAP benefits on or before 24 November 2015, or during their school's last term, quarter or semester ending prior to that date. Soldiers who lost eligibility for REAP due to the NDAA 2016 rules may be eligible to convert their remaining entitlement to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. For questions about REAP benefits or eligibility, call 1-888-442-4551 to speak with a DVA Representative.

References

- Title 10 USC, Chapter 1607
- Public Law 114-92, Section 555 (NDAA 2016)
- DoDI 1322.30, 24 March 2014
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017
- DVA website: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_ad.asp

How Do I Qualify?

- Only ARNG Soldiers who were receiving REAP benefits on or during the term immediately preceding 24 November 2015 remain eligible for REAP.
- Soldiers who remain eligible will have until 25 November 2019 to use their benefits.
- For REAP applications received on or after 25 November 2015, the VA will evaluate eligibility for all programs, including Post-9/11 GI Bill, and may award benefits under a different program.

What Do I Get? Rates Effective 1 October 2018

A monthly payment directly to you based on the longest consecutive active duty period.

Consecutive Service on or after 11 Sep 2001	Payment for full-time
At least 24 consecutive or 36 cumulative months	$1,595.20
At least 12 months but less than 24 months	$1,196.40
At least 90 days but less than 12 months	$797.60

2.4 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
- DoDI 1322.16, 18 June 2002
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017
- AR 135-7, ARNG and United States Army Reserve (USAR) Incentives Programs, 15 April 1996
- NGB-ARM # 07-11, 31 May 2007
- DVA website: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_ad.asp

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 to September 30, 1996
  - Are an ROTC scholarship recipient on or after October 1, 1996 who received at least $3,400 of ROTC scholarship benefits in any one year of ROTC participation.

- Important! Soldiers 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, Soldiers must send a copy of their DD Form 214 to their DVA RPO.

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

What Do I Get? Rates Effective 1 October 2018

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

Training Time	Monthly Rate
Full time	$1,994.00
3/4 time	$1,495.00
1/2 time	$997.00
Less than 1/2 time More than 1/4 time	**$997.00
1/4 time or less	**$498.50
Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training	
1st six months	$1,495.00
2nd six months	$1,096.70
Remaining training	$697.90
Cooperative Training	
Monthly Rates	$1,994.00
** Tuition and Fees ONLY. Payment cannot exceed the listed amount Rates change every year on Oct 1. Go to http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/re-sources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.asp 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

How Do I Apply?

- **Step 1.** Contact the GI Bill Support Team (GIBST) at arng.esc.ch30@mail.mil. The GIBST will reply to applicants via email with enrollment instructions.
- **Step 2.** Apply On line. Once you receive confirmation of enrollment from the GIBST, go to www.vets.gov to apply.
- **Step 3.** Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). After you apply on line, the DVA will send you a CoE in the mail. Take the CoE to the DVA representative (DVA Rep)/School Certifying Official (SCO) at the college (or your place of employment if you are in a job-training program.

2.5 Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty $600 Plus-Up Program

Overview. This additional contribution 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 Chapter 30 benefit by $150 per month for a total of up to $5,400 in additional benefits. These additional contributions are not refundable for those who relinquish Chapter 30 to use the Chapter 33 program. AGRs will have their pay reduced via payroll deduction; mobilized Soldiers must submit a certified bank check or money order. On completion of enrollment requirements, it is the Soldier's responsibility to notify the DVA of their eligibility for the Plus-Up program.

How Do I Qualify?

- Be eligible for the MGIB-AD/Chapter 30 Program.
- Contribute up to $600.

What Do I Get?

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

How Do I Apply?

- **Step 1.** Contact the GI Bill Support Team at: arng.esc.ch30@mail.mil**.** The GI Bill Support Team will reply by email with enrollment instructions and required documentation to be completed.
- **Step 2.** Go to www.vets.gov to complete the application process.
- **Step 3.** Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). After applying on line, the DVA will send you a CoE in the mail. Take the CoE to the DVA representative (DVA Rep)/School Certifying Official (SCO) at the college or your place of employment if you are in a job-training program.

2.6 Post – 9/11 GI Bill
Chapter 33, Title 38 U.S. Code

Overview. Chapter 33 is an education program that is earned by veterans who serve a minimum of 90 days on active duty after September 10, 2001 and receive an honorable discharge. Reserve Component members can earn eligibility by serving on orders under Title 10 Section 672 (d), 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12303(g), 12301(h), 12302, 12304, 12304a, 12304b, on Title 10 or Title 32 AGR, or on Title 32, Section 502(f) under Operation Noble Eagle between September 11, 2001 and May 31, 2002.

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
- Army Post 9/11 GI Bill Implementation Policy
- NGB-EDU ARNG Post 9/11 GI Bill Guidance, 28 January 2010

How Do I Qualify?

- Serve at least 90 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 Section 502(f), between 11 September 2001 and 31 May 2002. Orders must read "Operation Noble Eagle".
  - If Soldier has eligibility for another GI Bill program(s), one of the programs must be relinquished when electing Post-9/11.

- Basic Training and AIT cannot be added to qualifying time unless the Soldier:
  - Attended all or a portion of IADT (Basic Training and/or AIT) on or after September 11, 2001; and completed 24 months of other qualifying active duty time.
- The following periods of service are NOT qualifying time for Post-9/11:
  - The four year ADSO after commissioning from a Title 10 U.S.C. 2107(b) (Dedicated Guard) ROTC scholarship.
  - The five year ADSO after attendance at or commissioning from a Service academy.
  - Service terminated due to defective enlistment agreement.
  - The three year ADSO associated with accepting the Active Duty Student Loan Repayment Program (Title 10 Section 109).
  - Any service period with less than an Honorable Discharge.
- Period of Eligibility.
  - For Soldiers whose last day of qualifying active duty was prior to January 1, 2013, eligibility to use Chapter 33 benefits expires 15 years from the date of the last Honorable discharge or release from active duty of at least 90 consecutive days.
  - For Soldiers whose last day of qualifying active duty was on or after January 1, 2013, eligibility never expires.
  - Soldiers who are subject to the 15-year limit can eliminate the limit by completing a new period of qualifying duty of at least 90 continuous days on or after 1 January 2013.

What Do I Get?

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

Qualifying Service	Payment Tier
At least 36 cumulative months* or Purple Heart recipients	100%
At least 30 cumulative months*	90%
At least 24 cumulative months	80%
At least 18 cumulative months	70%
At least 12 cumulative months	60%
At least 6 cumulative months	50%
At least 90 cumulative days	40%

*Including Basic Training and AIT

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

- Tuition and Fees
  - Up to 100% of in-state tuition if you are attending a public school.
  - Max payment of $23,671.94 per year for private or foreign school (effective August 1, 2018).
- Monthly Housing Allowance: (MUST be attending more than half-time)
  - Equivalent to BAH of E-5 with dependents.
  - Based on zip code of school.
  - If attending only online classes: $825.00 per month (effective August 1, 2018).
  - Subject to term start and end dates.
  - AGR/Active Duty Soldiers are NOT eligible for the Housing Allowance.
- Book and Supply Stipend
  - $41.67/credit hour.
  - Up to $1,000 per academic year.

- Post-9/11 may also be used for Non-College Degree (NCD) programs, Correspondence schools, Flight programs, Apprenticeships and On-the-Job Training(OJT), Independent Study programs, and National Test reimbursements
  - 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 $11,497.78 per academic year (effective August 1, 2018).
  - Flight students will receive the actual net costs for tuition and fees, up to $13,526.81 per academic year (effective August 1, 2018).
  - Information on National Testing, Licensing and Certification tests is in Chapter 4 of this handbook.
  - Rates for Apprenticeship and OJT are based on the 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 7 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 www.vets.gov.
- **Step 2.** Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). The DVA will send you a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) in the mail. Take the CoE to the DVA representative (DVA Rep)/School Certifying Official (SCO) at the college (or your place of employment if you are in a job-training program).

Note: For the Post-9/11 GI Bill, monthly verification is not required.

2.7 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 tuition cap. Payment is made directly to the school on behalf of the student when the school's enrollment certification is processed.

References

- DVA website: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon/yellow_ribbon_info_schools.asp

How Do I Qualify?

- Only individuals eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill at the 100% benefit level or dependents using transferred entitlement are eligible for Yellow Ribbon funding.
- See Section 2.6 for Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility criteria.

The following individuals are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program:

- Active Duty / AGR personnel.
- Spouses of Active Duty / AGR personnel using Transferred Entitlement.

What Do I Get?

- The Yellow Ribbon Program can provide additional funding to students whose tuition and fees charge exceeds the in-state, undergraduate cap (before August 1, 2011); or charges for out-of-state tuition, or charges in excess of the yearly cap for students enrolled in private institutions (after August 1, 2011).

- 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 basic tuition and fees amount payable by DVA and the tuition and fee amount charged to the student. The combined school and DVA contribution can't exceed the tuition and fee amount charged the student.

2.8 Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB)

Overview. The Department of Defense (DoD) allows members of the Armed Forces to transfer Chapter 33 benefits to their spouse or dependent children. Unlike the basic Post-9/11 GI Bill, the TEB program is NOT a Soldier entitlement. The ARNG TEB program is an incentive for further service and is intended to promote retention in the ARNG. Not every Soldier will qualify for TEB. Soldiers unable to commit or agree to the required service obligation due to various service-limiting situations will not be able to participate in this program. **All ARNG Soldiers considering TEB should initiate the TEB process as soon as they meet the TEB eligibility requirements.**

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
- Army Post 9/11 GI Bill Implementation Policy
- NGB-EDU ARNG Post 9/11 GI Bill Guidance, 28 January 2010

How Do I Qualify?

- Be actively serving in the ARNG;
- Be entitled to the Post-9/11 GI Bill;
- Have completed six or more years of qualifying service in the Armed Forces (Active Duty or Selected Reserve) at time of TEB request;
- Have completed fewer than 16 years of service (Important! Not effective until 12 July 2019);

- 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
- Currently have no adverse action flags, including for APFT failure or ABCP (i.e. height/weight failure).

What Do My Dependents Get?

- Dependent(s) receive the same tier payment as the Soldier.
- Spouse is subject to the same rules as the transferring Soldier
  - For Soldiers whose last day of active duty was before January 1, 2013, the spouse's eligibility ends 15 years from the Soldier's last day of qualifying time.
  - For Soldiers whose last day of active duty was on or after January 1, 2013, the spouse's eligibility never expires.
  - Spouses of Soldiers who are on Active Duty/AGR are NOT eligible for the Housing Stipend.
- Children:
  - Cannot use the benefit until the transferring Soldier has completed ten years in the Armed Forces.
  - Always paid as if the Service Member was in a 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 end date.
- You can modify and/or revoke months between any dependent you originally transferred months to – even after you separate from service.
- You cannot add dependents after you separate from service. Soldiers should consider transferring months to each dependent.

How Do I Apply?

- TEB requests are submitted on the DoD milConnect website at www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect.
- Other TEB approval criteria may apply. Refer to Army Regulation (AR) 621-202 or the current Army National Guard (ARNG) Post 9/11 GI Bill Transferability of Benefits (TEB) Program 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.

2.9 Comparison of GI Bill Education Programs Chart

A comprehensive comparison can be found on the GI Bill website at the following link: www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/comparison_chart.asp

	CH 33	**CH 30**	**CH 1606**
ELIGIBILITY	Eligibility criteria are complex and vary by program. The following statements are general eligibility criteria. Students should file an application so the Regional Processing Office can determine if they are eligible and the conditions of their eligibility.		
	Serve on qualifying active duty for at least 90 aggregate days after 10 Sep 2001.	2 years active duty, 3 years active duty, or 2 years active duty plus 4 years reserves.	Completion of high school diploma and initial active duty for training. Must be active reservist with 6-year obligation.
BENEFITS FOR INSERVICE STUDENT	***Refer to the specific benefit for detailed information***		
	Eligible for payment after completing 90 days of aggregate service.	Eligible for payment after completing 2 years continuous active duty.	Eligible while currently serving in the ARNG

ENTITLEMENT	36 months. May extend to end of term if benefit expires during term. Kickers do not extend.	36 months. May extend to end of term if benefit expires during term. Kickers do not extend.	36 months. May extend to end of term if benefit expires during term. Kickers do not extend.
	48 months maximum under two or more programs		
DELIMITING DATE	For separations on/after 1 Jan 2013, no expiration For separations prior to 1 Jan 2013, 15 years from last Honorable discharge or separation	10 years from last Honorable discharge or separation. May extend for subsequent period of active duty or disability that prevents completion of program.	14 years from your beginning date of eligibility, or on the day you leave the Selected Reserve. May extend if disability incurred or aggravated by service in Selected Reserve prevents completion of program.

2.10 General Application Process

To Obtain GI Bill and Kicker Benefits from the DVA:

Step 1: Apply for your Certificate of Eligibility (CoE)

- Be sure you have all of the required information before you start. You must complete the form in <u>one session</u> – there is no option to save and come back later. Required information:
  - Applicant's Social Security Number
  - Military history (Service Members only)
  - Sponsor's Social Security number (Dependents only)
  - Information about the school you wish to attend
  - Bank account and direct deposit information
  - Education history
- Go to www.vets.gov and click on "Education Benefits"
- Click on "Application Process"
- Click on "Select Correct Form" and answer the questions. Click "Apply Now". Based on your answer, the system will select the correct form
- Answer the questions in each section:
  - Page 1: Applicant Information
  - Page 2: Eligibility
    - In general, dependents will select 'Post-9/11'.
    - Service Members select the program you are eligible for and wish to use.
  - Page 3: <u>Service Members</u> - Military History
    - If you are currently on Title 32 FTNGD (ADOS/ADSW), select 'No' for "Are you on active duty now".
    - ROTC Cadets: Confirm whether you scholarship is Section 2107 or Section 2107a. If 2107a, select no for both questions.
    - Student Loan: Do not check this box if your Student Loan Repayment contract was from the Guard/Reserves.
  - Page 3: <u>Dependents</u> – Sponsor Information
  - Page 4: Education History
  - Page 5: Employment History
  - Page 6: School Selection
  - Page 7: Contact and Direct Deposit Information
  - Page 8: Review information and <u>click "Submit Application"</u>
- Normally, the VA will process your application within 30 days. You will receive a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) in the mail.
  - Call (888) GIBILL-1 to check the status of an application.

Step 2: Register for Classes

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

Step 3: Verify Attendance

- While you are in school, you must verify EVERY MONTH with the VA that you are still taking courses to receive your next monthly deposit. (Note: Monthly verification is not required if you are using the Post-9/11 GI Bill).
- You can do your monthly verification in one of two ways:
  - Call 1-877-823-2378
  - Go online at: **www.gibill.va.gov/wave** and verify attendance through the Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE).

Step 4: Next Semester

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

2.11 Upcoming Post-9/11 GI Bill Changes

The Post-9/11 GI Bill has had two major legislative changes since its inception in 2009, the most recent was the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, also known as the "Forever GI Bill," which was signed into law on August 16, 2017. This law allows more Veterans and service members to qualify for the GI Bill and more time to use it. The changes that went into effect on August 1, 2018 or earlier are reflected in this handbook. Some of the changes that go into effect at later dates are listed below.

- **Effective 1 August 2019:**
  - Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship.
    - Adds up to an additional 9 months of benefits after exhausting Post-9/11.
    - Maximum payment $30K.
    - Cannot be transferred.

- **Effective 1 August 2020:**
  - Payment Tiers.
    - 40% payment tier is eliminated.
    - 90 days to 6 months of service eligible for 50% payment tier.
    - 6 months to 18 months of service eligible for 60% payment tier.

- **Effective 1 August 2022:**
  - Yellow Ribbon. Service members on active duty are eligible for Yellow Ribbon.

- **Other Changes:**
  - VA High Technology Pilot Program.
    - Opportunity to enroll in High Tech programs.
    - VA determines eligible skills and training based on employer input.
    - Can use Chapters 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 1606, or 1607.
  - VA will use automated and electronic processing as much as possible.
  - Work Study program continued.
  - Schools must report whether they allow priority enrollment for Veterans
  - VA will provide information to schools about all GI Bill programs a Veteran or service member is entitled to. Student may opt out.
  - School Certifying Officials must be trained by VA.
  - VA will provide counseling on selected campuses.
  - Various agencies must provide GI Bill use data reports to Congress.
  - Increase in payments to State Approving Agencies.

- **For more information:**
  - **Visit** www.benefits.va.gov/gibill
  - Veterans Affairs GI Bill General Information
    Phone: 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)
    Be advised this line only accepts calls from 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM Central Time
  - **Contact your ARNG State Education Office**
    www.nationalguard.com/contacts/eso

Chapter 3

FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (FTA) PROGRAM

3.0 Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) Overview

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

Soldiers may use FTA to receive one degree/credential from each of the following levels:

- High school diploma or its equivalency
- Transition Academic Certificate
- Undergraduate/Graduate Academic Certificate
- Associate's degree
- Baccalaureate degree
- Master's Degree

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

References

- Title 10, USC, Section 2007, Payment of Tuition for Off-Duty Training or Education, 19 Jan 04.
- Title 10, USC, Section 2005, Advanced Education Assistance: Active Duty agreement; reimbursement requirements, 24 September 1980.
- DODI 1325.25, Voluntary Education Programs (Incorporating Change 3, 7 July 2014), 15 July 2015.
- AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System (ACES), Rapid Action Revision, 6 September 2009.
- AR 600-8-2, Suspension of Favorable Personnel Actions (Flags), 23 October 2012.

How Do I Qualify?

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

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

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

- **Additional Criteria:**
  - The college is regionally or nationally accredited AND is a participant in GoArmyEd (GAE).
  - The funded course(s) meets a requirement listed in your personalized degree plan provided by the school (this can include prerequisite courses).
  - You maintain an undergraduate GPA of 2.0 or a graduate GPA of 3.0 for FTA-funded courses.
  - You must submit your FTA request at least 5 business days prior to course start date.
  - NOTE! FTA is NOT authorized simultaneously with Chapter 1606/MGIB-SR or Chapter 1607/REAP for the SAME course (Ref. DODI 1322.25).

What Do I Get?

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

How Do I Apply?

- **Step 1.** Go to www.goarmyed.com and locate the "Create or Reactivate GoArmyEd Account" and select "Student".

- **Step 2.** Once the student account is established, select the "Request TA" smart link from the student homepage to establish your TA Eligible Role within GoArmyEd.

- **Step 3.** An Army Education Counselor will review your TA Eligible role request and advise you of any follow-on actions required.

- If assistance is required, select the green "?" icon at the top of the GoArmyEd homepage to open the GoArmyEd Assistance Center page. This page will provide GoArmyEd user training, top rated Soldier questions and answers, and access to GoArmyEd Helpdesk personnel.

3.1 Recoupment

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

- Receiving a course grade lower grade than C for undergraduates or a course grade lower than B for graduate students.

- Failing to resolve an incomplete ("I") grade within 120 days.

- Dropping courses for personal reasons on or after the course start date.

- Transferring to Inactive National Guard (ING) or Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) prior to the course end date.

3.2 Duplication of Benefits

Soldiers may not receive a duplication of federal funds in contradiction to US Laws, Army Regulations, and NGB guidance. 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.

- Soldiers receiving an ROTC scholarship under USC 2107 or 2107a **are not** eligible to receive FTA.

3.3 Use with GI Bill

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

Potential duplication issues are outlined on the next page.

- **MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606) or REAP (Chapter 1607) Recipients.** Effective in FY15, FTA may not be used concurrently with MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606) or REAP (Chapter 1607) for the same course: Soldiers may use TA and 1606/1607 benefits during the same semester, but may not use those benefits for the same course.

- **Chapter 33 Recipients.** Active duty, National Guard, and Reserve Service Members may receive Chapter 33 benefits for the same courses for which they receive FTA from the military. Depending on their mobilization time, National Guard and Reserve Service Members may have varying percentages of Chapter 33 benefits ranging from 40 to 100%. Schools must deduct FTA benefits from the net tuition and fees submitted to DVA, and Chapter 33 is used to pay toward the remaining out-of- pocket costs.

- **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 (with the exception of 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
TESTING PROGRAMS

4.0 Overview

Testing opportunities are available at your ARNG State Education Services Office, National Test Centers, Active Army Education Services Offices, and other approved Testing Sites based on the type of test being offered. Tests range from certification exams and college-credit-by-examination; to language, aptitude, and military classification tests. The day-to-day administration and coordination of the testing programs for the ARNG are provided at the State Education Services Office.

4.1 Army Personnel Testing (APT)

Army Personnel Tests affect Soldiers' career choices by determining eligibility for specialized training, and to support the Army's personnel selection and classification process including language proficiency testing. For the most current listing of APT tests, eligibility criteria and procedures go to; https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/APT%20Resources

References

- AR 611-5, Army Personnel Selection and Classification Testing, 5 February 2008
- AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System, 6 September 2009
- AR 11-6, Army Foreign Language Program, 23 August 2013
- AR 350-20, Management of the Defense Language Program, 15 March 1987

How Do I Qualify? (Eligibility Criteria)

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

What Do I Get?

Available APT Tests:

- **Armed Forces Classification Test** (AFCT) - Soldiers who need to improve their original ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) score may be administered the AFCT via the online iCAT. The iCAT replaces the paper-based version of the Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT). Soldiers may not be given the AFCT earlier than six months after the date of their MEPS ASVAB exam. The AFCT must be administered in its entirety.

- AFCT Retests. There is no limit on how many times a Soldier can retake the AFCT but may not be take the AFCT any earlier than six months from the previous AFCT.
- Exceptions to Policy (ETPs). Retests earlier than six months after the previous test require an approved ETP. ETP requests must include the number of times the Soldier has taken the AFCT, the dates of the tests and the General Technical (GT) scores obtained. Further, requests must document the preparations the Soldier has taken to improve his or her scores. The AFCT may not be used as a practice test.
- The new scores obtained upon completion of the AFCT will replace your previous ASVAB/AFCT; no exceptions.
- AFCT Preparation Course. The Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) is designed to help Soldiers prepare for the AFCT. This course is self-paced and customized based on your answers on a pre-assessment. Lessons utilize interactive exercises such as drag-and-drop matching, video games style multiple choice, and dynamic flash cards. Quizzes and practice problem sets also help students gauge their mastery of the material. Lessons include the following areas: Reading comprehension, math and vocabulary. OASC is available to all ARNG Soldiers at www.nelnetsolutions.com/DANTESNet/

- **Selection Instrument Flight Training** (SIFT) - The SIFT is a computer-based test battery that was developed using industry standard scientific methods to predict the success of students in aviation training programs. The complete test battery is used as a primary selection instrument for the Army aviation program. Applicants for the aviation program must have attained appropriate qualifying score(s) on the SIFT prior to selection for the Initial Entry Rotary Wing (IERW) program.
- **Defense Language Proficiency Test** (DLPT) - is a computer based battery of foreign language tests produced by the Defense Language Institute (DLI) and used by the DoD to document foreign language proficiency of Service members.
- **Defense Language Reading Proficiency Test** (DLRPT) - is a computer based test produced by DLI and used by the DoD to document foreign language reading proficiency of Service members.
- **Defense Language Aptitude Battery** (DLAB) - The DLAB evaluates the aptitude of a Service member to learn a foreign language. The test is used to determine a Soldier's eligibility for language training.
- **Oral Proficiency Interview** (OPI) – The OPI is a carefully conducted face---to---face conversational test in which the examinee speaks with two testers for 20 - 30 minutes. The test is designed to gather sufficient information about the examinee's speaking ability in the target language to match the examinee's speech sample to the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) Speaking Skill Level Descriptions, the rating criteria for the OPI.

How Do I Apply?

- Soldier must initiate a DA Form 4187 Request for Personnel Action.
- The Commander/Readiness NCO/Unit Administrator signs the request and the Soldier forwards the document to the State education office.
- The ESO and/or TCO will verify that the Soldier is eligible for testing using record data from iPERMS, DA 2-1, TAPDB-G or GIMS and will then coordinate a testing date, place and time with the Soldier.
- Upon completion of testing, the TCO inputs test results into GoArmyEd, and provides the Soldier, the ESO, and the Unit Administrator a copy of the score for record update (the Unit Administrator sends a copy of the test score document to the MILPO for records maintenance and finance for pay update).
- Approval for re-testing is set forth in the applicable regulations.
- Request for re-testing as an exception to policy will be forwarded through you're your state Education Services Officer to the Testing Program Manager at National Guard Bureau.

4.2 DANTES-Supported Examinations

Overview. ARNG Soldiers may benefit from free testing opportunities sponsored by DANTES, and save time and money as well as receive college credit and/or promotion points. College examinations can help you earn college credit while in high school or college; enter college with earned credits; save time and money toward your college degree; and bypass introductory classes in subject areas you already know.

How Do I Qualify? (Eligibility Criteria)

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

What Do I Get?

Available DANTES Sponsored Tests

- **College Level Examination Program (CLEP)** – measure knowledge of basic concepts, principles, relationships, and applications involved in various subject areas. CLEP exams can help you earn college credit while in high school or college; enter college with earned credits; save time and money toward your college degree; and bypass introductory classes in subject areas you already know. Service Members are able to take the computer-based CLEP exams at National Test Centers (NTCs) and local academic institutions offering these tests.
- **DANTES Standardized Subject Test (DSST)** – an extensive series of examinations in college level and technical subjects comparable to the final or end-of-course exam in specific undergraduate courses. DSST can help you earn college credit while in high school or college; enter college with earned credits; save time and money toward your college degree; and bypass introductory classes in subject areas you already know. DSSTs can only be taken at NTCs.
- **General Education Development (GED)** – developed for adults who have not completed a formal high school education. Soldiers wanting to take the GED can only be taken at NTCs.
- **Assessment Test (ACT)** – assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. ACTs can be taken twice for free through NTCs and a third time for free through a local Education Services Office.
- **Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT)** – a standardized test for college admissions. SAT can determine whether or not a person is ready for college. SATs can be taken twice for free through NTCs and a third time for free through a local Education Services Office.
- **Graduate Record Examination (GRE)** – a commercially run standardized test that is an admission requirement for many graduate schools. The exam focuses on testing abstract thinking skills in the areas of mathematics, vocabulary, and analytical writing. The GRE can only be taken at a NTC.
- **Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)** – a computer adaptive standardized test in mathematics and the English language for measuring aptitude to succeed academically in graduate business studies. Business schools commonly use the test as one of many selection criteria for admission into an MBA program. The GMAT can only be taken at a NTC.
- **The Praxis Series (tests for teacher licensing certification)** – one of a series of teacher certification exams written and administered by the Educational Testing Service. Various Praxis tests are usually required before, during, and after teacher training courses. The Praxis can only be taken at a NTC.

Notes: *For CLEP and DSST exams, always ensure that the college you are attending will accept the credit and inform you of acceptable passing scores for the test(s) you plan to take.*

Funding For DANTES-Supported Testing

- DANTES sponsored exams are either funded up-front or reimbursed.
- DANTES authorizes up-front funding of the CLEP and DSST tests at National Test Centers (NTCs), however, however, some NTCs may charge an administrative fee up to $25.
- The ACT and SAT may also be available at your State Education Office or Army Education Office at no cost for actively serving military personnel.

- For more information, consult your State Education Office or visit the DANTES web site at: www.dantes.doded.mil/

How Do I Apply?

- To take one of the tests listed above, Soldiers should contact their State Education Services Office and the NTC for further information and guidance.
  - To locate the nearest NTC for a CLEP exam go to; https://clep.collegeboard.org/test-center-search
  - To locate the nearest NTC for a DSST exam go to; http://getcollegecredit.com/

4.3 College Credit through the Credit by Examination Programs

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

Study Guides and Support Materials

Visit the individual DANTES, CLEP and DSST program websites for detailed exam information and test prep materials.

- DANTES: www.dantes.doded.mil/EducationPrograms/get-credit/creditexam.html
- The College Board/CLEP: www.clep.collegeboard.org
- Prometric/DSST: www.getcollegecredit.com

Additional free sites that may also be helpful in preparing for CLEP/DSST exams are listed below;

- 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.
- Khan Academy: www.khanacademy.org
  - Comprehensive videos and practice quizzes to help with college level mathematics, science, and history tests.
- Ted-Ed: www.youtube.com/user/TEDEducation/videos?sort=p&view=0&flow=grid
  - A vast and popular YouTube channel covering everything from writing a college essay to quantum physics.
- CK-12: www.ck12.org/student
  - Free digital textbooks in popular STEM subjects – Astronomy, Chemistry, Algebra, Engineering, and Technology.
- 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 everything in between.
- 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 Clep Prep: www.free-clep-prep.com/index.html
  - This website tells you what to expect for many CLEP and DSST exams, offers all kinds of test-taking tips, study guides, and resources, plus it's 100% free.

Note: Service members should visit their military Education Services Office or installation library for additional information regarding free and low-cost test preparation alternatives. Other resources may be available through local, used college textbook stores.

Test Prep Scams

Prospective examinees should be aware of test prep scams. Before you invest in any prep service, the respective national testing agencies which own the CLEP and DSSTs 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.

4.3.1 College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Examinations

Funding Eligibility

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

CLEP National Test Centers

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

Online Registration

Follow these steps:

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

Retest Policy

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

Scoring and Reporting

Visit https://clep.collegeboard.org/about-clep/scoring for score receipt and reporting information.

- Scores for all DANTES-funded CLEP exams taken by ARNG Soldiers are automatically reported to their Joint Services Transcript (JST).
- Scores for self-funded CLEP exams are **NOT** reported to JST. Ask the CLEP administrator for score report instructions.

4.3.2 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.
- Select a National Test Center nearest you by going to; http://getcollegecredit.com/institutions/search
- Note: there is no cost for the DSST exam, however, some NTCs may charge a non-reimbursable administrative fee up to $25. Only fully funded DANTES sites waive the administrative fee.

Scheduling a DSST Exam

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

Retest Policy

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

Scoring and Reporting

Refer to DSST SCORING POLICIES in the "*Test Taker Information Bulletin*."

- Scores for all DANTES-funded DSST exams taken by ARNG Soldiers are automatically reported to their Joint Service Transcript (JST)
- Scores for self-funded DSST exams are not reported to JST. Ask the DSST Test Administrator for score reporting instructions

4.4 College Admission Examinations

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

Who Can Take an ACT or SAT Exam?

The ACT and SAT exams are available to eligible Service members on a fully-funded basis when taken at a DANTES Test Site.

- Refer to *DANTES Funding Eligibility Requirements* in this guide to learn if you are eligible for funding
- If the ACT or SAT is taken other than through the local Education Services Office, DANTES can reimburse ACTs or SATs taken at National Test Centers.
- The optional ACT Plus Writing Test is **NOT** funded or reimbursed by DANTES and **NOT** available at DANTES Test Sites.
- Civilians and military dependents are **NOT** eligible for DANTES-funded ACTs and SATs and may **NOT** test at a DANTES Test Site.
- If the state Education Services Office does not support a DANTES Test Site, locate a nearby Active Army education office or email DANTES at exams@navy.mil for assistance.

Preparation for Testing

Visit the individual ACT and SAT program websites for exam information and test prep materials.

- ACT: www.actstudent.org
- SAT: www.sat.collegeboard.org
- ACT/SAT via eKnowledge at: https://www.eknowledge.com/

Funding Eligibility

- Service members are authorized to receive one (1) DANTES-funded administration (up front) of the ACT and SAT at an active DANTES Test Site. To locate an active DANTES test site go to; http://www.dantes.doded.mil/TestSiteLookup/index.html
- Service members are also eligible to receive up to two free administrations of the ACT and SAT at a National Test Center by reimbursement. To receive reimbursement for the ACT or SAT taken at a National Test Center download the electronic reimbursement form: https://daims.doded.mil/Reimbursements/ReimbursementRegistration.aspx

4.4.1 American College Test (ACT)

The ACT assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. ACTs can be taken twice for free through NTCs and a third free time through a local Education Services Offices.

- Contact your local State or Active Army Education Services Office to schedule administration of the ACT. Note: Only active DANTES test sites administer the ACT. To locate an active DANTES test site go to; http://www.dantes.doded.mil/TestSiteLookup/index.html.
- Do **NOT** register for the ACT on the ACT website when planning to test at your local Education Services Office.
- If you are unable to locate an active DANTES Test Site near you, contact your State Education office or email DANTES at **exams@navy.mil** for assistance.

Retest Policy

- Service members seeking an authorized funded or unfunded (self-pay) retest must wait at least 60 complete days from the last ACT administration at a DANTES Test Site. Retesting within less than 60 complete days will result in an invalid score.
- An examinee may not have more than 12 ACT administrations per lifetime.
- Authorization for a funded retest is **not** based on the score of a previously funded ACT (or SAT). A funded retest is only authorized when a "current" ACT score is required by a Service or education regulation which varies with individual programs.
- To test or retest at a National Test Center, visit ACT's website. Civilian testing/retesting policies apply.

Scoring and Reporting

Scores for ACTs administered at a DANTES Test Site are reported approximately 2-4 weeks after receipt of the answer folders at ACT.

- ACT does not offer expedited scoring.
- Student reports are mailed to the address provided at the time of testing.
- Students may also view their scores online by establishing a free ACT account at www.actstudent.org

4.4.2 Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

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

- Contact your local State or Active Army Education Services Office to schedule administration of the SAT. Note: Only active DANTES test sites administer the SAT. To locate an active DANTES test site go to; http://www.dantes.doded.mil/TestSiteLookup/index.html
- Do **NOT** register for the SAT on the SAT website when planning to test at your local Education Services Office.
- If you are unable to locate an active DANTES Test Site near you, contact your State Education office or email DANTES at **exams@navy.mil** for assistance.

Retest Policy

Service members seeking an authorized funded or unfunded (self-pay) retest **CANNOT** retest within the same calendar month or on the same form within the testing year as this will result in an invalid score.

Only two SAT test forms are available to DANTES Test Sites each testing year. Examinees wishing to test more than twice in any one year must do so at a civilian test center, on a self-funded basis.

Authorization for a funded retest is **NOT** based on the score of a previously funded SAT (or ACT). A funded retest is only authorized when a "current" SAT score is required by a Service or education regulation, which varies with individual programs.
For example:

- **The Physician's Assistance Program:** defines a "current" score as not older than 1 year. Members with a DANTES-funded SAT score less than 1 year old are not eligible for a funded retest.
- Unfunded retesting is authorized on a (self-pay basis) for any other reason (e.g., to improve scores of a "current," previously funded or unfunded administration).
- To test or retest at a National Test Center, visit SAT's website. Civilian testing and retest policies apply.

Scoring and Reporting

Scores for SATs administered at a DANTES Test Site are mailed to the address provided at the time of testing, about eight (8) weeks after receipt of the answer sheet at SAT.

- SAT does not offer expedited scoring.
- Scores are available online to Service members who create an online account at www.collegeboard.org/mysat. The DANTES registration number is required and may be retrieved from the mailed paper score report or by calling Customer Service toll-free at 866-756-7346 (or International 212-713-7789) about 5 weeks after testing and providing your social security number.

4.5 GED – High School Equivalency Test

A high school diploma remains the primary ticket to many entry-level jobs, and is also a prerequisite for promotions, occupational training, and postsecondary education. GED Testing Service offers the only nationally recognized opportunity to earn a high school-equivalency credential.

What is the GED?

The GED test has been used since 1942 to assess knowledge typically developed in a four-year high school education program. The 2014 GED test consists of four (4) tests designed to measure high school level of military personnel who are not high school graduates.

Who Can Take a GED?

The computer-based 2014 GED Test is available at authorized Pearson VUE Test Centers worldwide.

Who are DANTES GED candidates?

ARNG Soldiers who have not completed high school.

Study Guides and Support Materials

The Official GED Practice Test is **NOT** required for military examinees. However, all test-takers are strongly encouraged to take the practice test and utilize the GED Testing Service test preparation resources. The GED Ready is the Official Practice Test to provide potential test-takers the best information about their readiness for taking the GED Test. The GED Ready is available in computer-based format, and can be purchased through the MyGED student account. You may also choose to work with local adult education programs to assist you preparing for the GED.

GED Testing Service also makes preparation resources available, such as, sample test questions and the quarter length practice test. These can be found at the below web sites.

- Visit GED Testing Service at GED.com to establish a MyGED student account
  MyGED is the test-takers tool for GED Test Center locations, test preparation, registration, scheduling, score reporting, and for career and college information after testing

Adult Basic Education

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

GED Funding Eligibility

Service members are eligible for the DANTES-Sponsored reimbursement of the GED test fee:

- ARNG examinees must, at the time of testing, present a current Geneva Conventions Common Access Card (CAC), and meet the following requirements:
  - Have not taken more than three tests per year, per content area.
  - Must be minimum of 17 years of age and meet all other state minimum requirements.
  - Applying to or enrolled in college or university requiring the GED test or fulfilling a legitimate Service requirement.
  - Agree to contact your state Education Services Officer or DANTES Test Control Officer (TCO) learn more about the DANTES-funding options.
  - Submit the DANTES reimbursement form.
  - U.S. military family members, logistically supported U.S. citizens and their family members are **NOT** eligible for the DANTES-Sponsored voucher for the GED test fee.
    Note: The "DANTES Reimbursement Request Form" may **NOT** be used in lieu of a voucher for reimbursement of GED test fees
- Go to the DANTES web site to request reimbursement for an eligible test at: http://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/funding-and-reimbursement-eligibility/reimbursement-eligibility.html.
- Visit the GED Testing Service's Test Center Locator page at www.pearsonvue.com/ged/locate and enter the address or zip code to locate the nearest test center.

Scheduling the GED Test

- Visit GED Testing Service at **GED.com** to establish a MyGED student account. MyGED is the test-takers tool for GED Test Center locations, test preparation, registration, scheduling, score reporting, and for career and college information after testing.

Retest Policy

Retesting is necessary when examinees fail to meet required state standards for granting a high school equivalency credential or when scores are not acceptable for admission to a chosen college or university.

- DANTES will not fund retests for Service members with passing scores on file that meet minimum state requirements unless a legitimate Service requirement exits.
- Contact DANTES for assistance via email at; exams@navy.mil**.**

4.6 Graduate Admissions Exams

DANTES **reimburses** test fees for Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) exams that are not available at the State Education Services Office DANTES Test Sites and do not include a military registration process.

4.6.1 GMAT

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

Funding Policy

- DANTES funds one administration of a GMAT, per lifetime for eligible military personnel.

Reimbursement Eligibility

- Service members must, at the time of testing, possess a current, Geneva Conventions Uniformed Services Common Access Card (CAC) and meet the following requirements:
  - Have never been funded or reimbursed by DANTES for the GMAT.
  - Applying to or enrolled in a graduate school requiring the GMAT or
  - Fulfilling a legitimate Service requirement.
  - Agree to apply for reimbursement within 90 days of the scheduled test date.

Service member Reimbursement Responsibilities

- Go to the DANTES web site to request reimbursement for an eligible test at: http://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/funding-and-reimbursement-eligibility/reimbursement-eligibility.html

Reimbursement Method

- Service members receive reimbursement through their military pay bank account.
  - The disbursement is **NOT** reflected on your L.E.S.
  - Contact your respective bank representative to verify your DFAS funds disbursement.
  - Allow up to 3 weeks.
  - Email DANTES for assistance at exams@navy.mil**.**

Retest Policy

- DANTES does not fund or reimburse fees for retests of the GMAT.

4.6.2 GRE

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

Funding Policy

- DANTES funds one (1) administration of the GRE General and GRE Subject Tests (reimbursement limited to a single Subject exam) per lifetime for eligible military personnel.

Reimbursement Eligibility

Service members must, at the time of testing, possess a current CAC and meet the following requirements:

- Have never been funded or reimbursed by DANTES for the GRE revised General Test.
- Applying to or enrolled in a graduate school requiring the GRE revised General Test or fulfilling a legitimate Service requirement.
- Agree to apply for reimbursement within 90 days of the scheduled test date.

Service member Reimbursement Responsibilities

- Go to the DANTES web site to request reimbursement for an eligible test at: http://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/funding-and-reimbursement-eligibility/reimbursement-eligibility.html.

Reimbursement Method

- Service members receive reimbursement through their military pay bank account.
  - The disbursement is **NOT** reflected on your LES.
  - Contact your respective bank representative to verify your DFAS funds disbursement
  - Allow up to 3 weeks.
  - Email DANTES for assistance at exams@navy.mil**.**

Retest Policy

- DANTES does not fund or reimburse fees for retests of the GRE Subject.

4.7 Teacher Certifications

Perhaps you're wondering what type of career to pursue that will be both meaningful and progressive. Teaching offers an opportunity to affect the world by informing, enlightening and guiding young minds. Teaching is also a career filled with growth potential. If you enjoy helping students grow in knowledge and understanding, then teaching may be right for you. Different states and agencies have State Testing Requirements, so you'll need to find out which tests are required for teacher licensure in your state, territory or organization.

Licensing and Certification Requirements

Teaching certification requirements vary but generally applicants must complete a state-specific certification exam and/or one or more of the Praxis Series exams.

Who can take a Teacher Certification Exam?

Praxis Series® exams are available at an international network of test centers that include Prometric test centers, some universities and other locations.

- Go to this site to request reimbursement for an eligible test: http://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/funding-and-reimbursement-eligibility/reimbursement-eligibility.html

Study Guides and Support Materials

Visit ETS/Praxis at www.ets.org/praxis for exam information and test prep materials.

4.7.1 Praxis®

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

Funding Policy

DANTES funds one administration per lifetime of the following exams:

- Praxis I: Core (complete or partial battery)
- Praxis II: Subject Assessments or Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT)

Reimbursement Eligibility

Service members must, at the time of testing, possess a current, Geneva Conventions Uniformed Services Common Access Card (CAC) and meet the following requirements:

- Have never been funded or reimbursed by DANTES for the Praxis exams listed under "Funding Policy"
- Agree to apply for reimbursement within 90 days of the scheduled test date

Service member Reimbursement Responsibilities

- Go to this site to request reimbursement for an eligible test: http://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/funding-and-reimbursement-eligibility/reimbursement-eligibility.html

Reimbursement Method

- Service member receives reimbursement through their military pay bank account
- The disbursement is not reflected on your LES
- Contact your respective bank representative to verify DFAS funds disbursement
- Allow up to 3 weeks
- Email DANTES for assistance at exams@navy.mil

Retest Policy

- DANTES does not fund or reimburse retests of the Praxis Series exams.

4.8 Law School Admission Test (LSAT) Exam

There is no single path that will prepare you for a legal education. However, there are core skills and values that will provide you with a solid foundation. The LSAT is an integral part of the law school admission process. It provides a standard measure of acquired reading and verbal reasoning skills that law schools can use as one of several factors in assessing applicants.

Admission to the Bar in the United States

Each state has its own rules which are the ultimate authority concerning admission to its bar.

Who can take the LSAT Exam

- The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is a half-day, standardized test administered four times each year at designated testing centers throughout the world.
- The LSAT is **NOT** funded or reimbursed by DANTES.

Study Guides and Support Materials

Visit Law School Admission Council at: www.lsac.org for exam information and test prep materials.

Where to Take the LSAT

The LSAT exam is not funded or reimbursed by DANTES and may be taken at Published National Test Centers and DANTES Non-published Test Centers. For exam, registration, test preparation information and test center locations, visit www.lsac.org. Candidates may take the LSAT on an unfunded (self-pay) basis at Published National Test Centers.

DANTES Non-published Test Centers

Service members may request designation of a DANTES Test Site as a Non-published Test Center when there are no Published National Test Centers within 100 miles of their location, and take the LSAT on a self-pay basis. Overseas family members of U.S. military personnel, U.S. civilians employed by the U.S. government and their family members and retired U.S. military personnel and their family members may request designation of an overseas DANTES Test Site as a Non-published Test Center if there are no Published National Test Centers in their region.

- Provide justification to LSAC via a signed letter when requesting consideration to designate a DANTES Test Site as a Non-published Test Center.
- Must be registered for the LSAT and all appropriate fees paid, including the non-published test center fee. Visit www.lsac.org for associated fees.
- *Published National Test Center*: All candidates must register for the LSAT in time to meet the registration receipt deadlines. For additional registration information, visit www.lsac.org and follow the steps under "Registration for the LSAT" (on-line registration for Published Test Center administrations only).
- *DANTES Non-published Test Center*: Test dates and registration deadlines vary from Published National Test Centers. Visit www.lsac.org for additional information.

Retest Policy

- Candidates may not take the LSAT at a Published National Test Center and retest at a DANTES Non-Published Test Center during the same test administration cycle and may not test more than three times in a 2-year period
- All international non-published test centers will be non-disclosed administrations
- Fees for the LSAT must be paid each time a candidate registers to test

4.9 Using GI Bill for Testing, Licensure, and Certifications

- The DVA may reimburse the cost of approved licensing, certification, and national tests. Students are reimbursed the cost of the test, not to exceed the approved cost of the test or $2,000, whichever is less. 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 Department of Veterans Affairs website: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/licensing_certification.asp

- Complete detailed information and directions for applying for reimbursement can be found on the Department of Veterans Affairs website at**:** www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/national_testing.asp.

Entitlement Charge

- Entitlement is charged by dividing the amount paid by the full-time monthly institutional rate payable during the fiscal year in which the test was taken. The amount charged is not rounded to the nearest month.
- Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, individuals are charged one month of entitlement for each $1,972.66 reimbursed (for Academic Year 2018-2019)
- Effective 1 August 2018, Post 9/11 GI Bill entitlement charges for licensure and certification tests are pro-rated.

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: http://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)
- SERVE SAFE ALCOHOL EXAM
- SERVE SAFE FOOD HANDLER
- SERVSAFE FOOD PROTECTION MANAGER EXAM
- TECEP (Thomas Edison College Examination Program)
- TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
- VETERINARY TECHNICIAN NATIONAL EXAM

Chapter 5
EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMS

5.0 Overview

The Departments of Defense, Army, DVA, Education, Labor, and Education offer several education counseling programs that are designed to assist you while you are trying to decide your academic future. There are also some excellent non-governmental programs designed to help you with succeed in your education endeavors. Some of these programs are described below.

5.1 Joint Services Transcript (JST)

Did you know college credit can be awarded for your military training and work experience? The Joint Services Transcript (JST) contains a record of your military educational experiences, including those for which there are evaluated college credit recommendations. This document helps college registrars award college credit for learning experiences gained while in the military, provides a supplement to a Soldier's resume, and provides employers with a good understanding of the scope of responsibilities and skills acquired while serving in the military. 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/

- What is the JST?
  - JST is the Joint Services Transcript that has replaced the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS) and the Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART). 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.
- 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 you?
  - 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 in order to have your official JST sent to a school? How much does it cost?
  - 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".
- Do all colleges/universities accept the recommend credit listed on JST?
  - It is up to each institution to decide what ACE credit recommendations can be accepted, modified, or rejected. Whether an academic institution accepts the credit recommendations depends on its policies and procedures for transfer credit, your program of study, and your degree requirements.
- Is there a limit to the number of official transcripts you can have sent out?
  - Delivery method (indicated on screen when you order) determines how many transcripts can be ordered/sent out. If the delivery method is electronic then there is no limit. Army and National Guard can only order to institutes that have electronic delivery.
  - If the delivery method is US Postal Service (USPS) then only 2 transcripts can be ordered within a 30 day period due to the cost associated with generating and mailing.
- How far back does the data on JST go?
  - The data can go back as far as 1976 but data older than 1994 may be missing or incomplete. We can include training on your transcript that was taken prior to 1976. The older the data, the greater the chance something could be missing.

5.2 Tools to Help Make Your Educational Decisions

5.2.1 VIA

- What does VIA stand for?
  - The name VIA is not an abbreviation. It is the Latin word for “pathway” or “road” which reflects the belief that by requiring Soldiers to consider the connection between their career and degree goals prior to using TA they will be more likely to stay with a degree plan and follow a selected pathway instead of frequently changing schools and degrees.
- What is VIA?
  - VIA is a decision support tool that helps you:
    - Identify your long term **career goal**
    - choose a **degree plan** that prepares you for your career goal
    - Select a “best fit” and “best value” **school** offering the your preferred degree plan
    - Fit will be based on factors such as alignment with your location, learning modality preferences, and admissions criteria
    - Value will be based on cost factors such as tuition and fees and quality factors such as Soldiers retention rates.

- Who is required to use VIA
  - All Soldiers requesting a TA Eligible Role within GoArmyEd who do not already have an established GoArmyEd TA account or Soldiers requesting to change their existing school or degree plan
- There are existing Web-based tools such as O*NET (Career Planning), College Navigator (School Research), and other career and degree planning tools that enable consumers to research careers and/or schools, so **what makes VIA unique**?
  - VIA is integrated with GoArmyEd so Soldiers can be required to use VIA before using TA benefits to ensure they have made better informed decisions about their future. The Army cannot enforce usage of other available tools.
  - VIA uses data from GoArmyEd about Soldiers and schools to further personalize recommendations.
  - VIA guides Soldiers through a complete decision process, linking career goals to degree goals and to personalized school recommendations. Many existing tools only guide users through parts of the decision process.
  - VIA provides the Army greater confidence about the Army's return on investment for TA benefits through robust reporting.
- Benefits of VIA you;
  - Personalized data used to help you visualize impacts of your career and education choices on future salary potential
  - The VIA Menu will guide you through the process and tracks your progress
  - The "VIA Guide" provides you personalized instructions and tips.
  - VIA contains short videos designed to provide you additional tips to guide you through the tool.
  - VIA recommends civilian career paths, enables you to conduct your own searches, and compare options.
  - VIA 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 prior to submitting your career, degree, and school choices for Education Counselor review

5.2.2 TA DECIDE

TA DECIDE is an online information and comparison tool tailored to the unique educational needs of Service members. Launched by the Department of Defense (DoD) in April 2015, this program is designed to support decision-making when it comes to selecting schools, choosing the right program in which to enroll, 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 of the schools included in this tool have been vetted by the DoD. More than that, all of 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. To start your search, visit the website. See more at: www.dodmou.com/TADECIDE/

5.2.3 Career Path DECIDE

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

5.2.4 College Navigator

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

5.2.5 College Scorecard

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

5.2.6 CollegeRecon

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

5.2.7 GI Bill Comparison Tool

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

5.2.8 Kuder Journey

The website is a one-stop-shop for Service members as they plan, prepare and transition to civilian employment. During the registration process, users describe their situation, military background, needs and barriers, to create a custom menu of resources that facilitate an individualized and personalized approach to career development. Users are guided by a Personal To-Do list, which presents suggested activities to do throughout use of the system. This easy step-by-step development process begins with the completion of three assessments: The Kuder Career Interests Assessment. Kuder Skills Confidence Assessment – Adult, and Kuder Work Values Assessment provide a reliable foundation for which military members can build plans for the future. http://dantes.kuder.com

5.2.9 Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH)

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

*5.2.10 O*NET OnLine*

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

5.2.11 HERC and DegreeQuest®

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

- To take advantage of the free support offered you first submit an online application for assistance by clicking on the button at the bottom of this web page: http://degreequickly.com/nationalguard.html
- A "Welcome" e-mail will be sent to you with a link to the Joint Service Transcript (JST) and a reminder that an unofficial transcript needs to be sent to HERC from the college(s) previously attended, college level exam scores, and copies of professional certificates or licenses.
- The counselors at HERC will build an electronic education record for you which includes every potential source of credit earned in the past. The counselors at HERC then digitally stream your credits into the curricula requirements of degrees in the field of study desired, identifying the optimal degrees for consideration while minimizing loss of transfer college credits taken in the past. The HERC counselors then send notification to the colleges and universities, enabling them to log into the DegreeQuest system and review the placement of your credits toward their degree requirements.
- HERC counselors will also explain how to use the myriad of resources on SOCRATES to find low cost textbooks, explore scholarships and grants, and much more.
- **Test Preparation with SOCRATES:** The Higher Education Resource Center (HERC) provides free access to their student support website, SOCRATES (**S**tudents **O**nline **C**onnections, **R**esources & **A**cademics **T**o **E**nhance **S**uccess).
- Resources on SOCRATES can help you earn college credit by examination (CLEP/DSST), prepare for admissions examinations (ACT, SAT, GRE, GMAT), prepare for certification or license examinations, and more. There are more than 3,000 links on SOCRATES to help students succeed, including:
    - More than 500 semester hours of tuition-free college courses from many of the best universities in the nation. These tuition-free courses bring the subjects to life on the screen (for visual learners), cameras in the classrooms at top universities (for auditory learners), and completely downloadable test-based courses (for kinesthetic learners).
    - Hundreds of free practice tests.
    - Low cost textbook providers.
    - Links to numerous financial aid sites offering scholarships and grants.

5.3 Tools to Help While You Are in School

5.3.1 Army e-Learning

All actively serving members of the ARNG as well as Department of the Army civilian employees, are authorized to access over 5,000 Information Technology, Business Skills, and Interpersonal Skills courses from any location, around the clock (24/7). All you have to do to use Army e-Learning is get an AKO account and complete your registration through ATRRS (you do NOT need an ATRRS Logon ID/Account to register). To see what courses are available you can browse the Army e-Learning Course Catalog at; https://www.atrrs.army.mil/selfdevctr/sfcatalog.pdf or to enroll in courses go to; https://www.atrrs.army.mil/selfdevctr/eLearningWelcome.aspx.

5.3.2 Khan Academy

Khan Academy is a not-for-profit with the goal of changing education for the better by providing a free world-class education for anyone anywhere. All of the site's resources are available to anyone. It doesn't matter if you are a student, teacher, home-schooler, principal, or an adult returning to the classroom after 20 years. Khan Academy's materials and resources are available to you completely free of charge. Course offerings are continually expanding; courses are available in Math, Science, Economics and Finance, Humanities, and Computer programming. Students can make use of their extensive library of content, including interactive challenges, assessments, and videos from any computer with access to the web. Go to www.khanacademy.org to access Khan Academy.

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

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

5.3.4 Federal Academic Alliance

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

5.3.5 Coursera

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

5.3.6 Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

MOOCs are online courses designed for unlimited participation and open access to all via the web. MOOCs provide traditional course materials such as filmed lectures, readings, and problem sets, as well as providing interactive user forums to support community interactions between students, professors, and teaching assistants. MOOCs are a relatively new and have emerged as a popular mode of learning. MOOCs can especially be useful when preparing for CLEP and DSST exams. An excellent source to find available MOOCs is www.class-central.com

5.3.7 Modern States Education Alliance (MSEA)

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

5.4 Additional Tools and Resources

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

- Time Management and Organization Tools
  - Improve Your Time Management: www.senecacollege.ca/student/success/success-strategies/time-management.html
  - Strategies for Scheduling - Becoming a Master Student: www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/clas-advising/Documents/Vd.pdf
  - The Seven-Day Anti-procrastination Plan: www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/clas-advising/Documents/Vf.pdf
  - Time Management for Right-Brained People: www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/clas-advising/Documents/Vb.pdf
- Improve Note Taking Skills
  - Learning Styles and Strategies: http://www4.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/f/felder/public/ILSdir/styles.htm
  - Note Taking Skills and Strategies: www.testtakingtips.com/note/index.htm
  - OBSERVE - The note-taking process flows: http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/clas-advising/Documents/VIIc.pdf
  - Taking notes while reading: www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/clas-advising/Documents/VIIe.pdf
- Test Taking/Preparation Tips
  - 20 Memory Techniques: www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/clas-advising/Documents/VIIId.pdf
  - Cramming Techniques for Exams: www.testtakingtips.com/cramming/index.htm
  - Integrity in Test Taking -The costs of cheating: www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/clas-advising/Documents/IXd.pdf
  - 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

5.5 Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers (TTT) is a transition program that assists eligible military personnel in meeting the requirements necessary to become teachers in K-12 public, public charter, and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools serving low-income families. Implemented in 1994, this national program is overseen and funded by the Department of Defense through the DANTES. TTT is headquartered in Pensacola, Florida and serves all states and territories through its state and regional offices. To date, TTT has helped over 17,000 participants transition into second careers in K-12 education.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of TTT is to help improve American education by providing mature, motivated, experienced and dedicated personnel to teach in those schools where their skills are most needed. The program has three objectives:

- Help relieve teacher shortages, particularly in math, science, special education and other "critical need" subject areas
- Provide positive role models for the nation's public school students
- Assist military personnel to successfully transition to teaching as a second career

Services

After registration, TTT provides participants with two types of services:

- **Counseling, mentorship and referral assistance:** Includes guidance about certification pathways and access to a wide network of volunteer mentors who provide valuable advice and guidance at the local level. Referral assistance includes providing participants with the necessary information on job availability, preparing them for employment, and in some cases, arranging interview opportunities. These services are available to all program participants.
- **Financial Assistance:** Assistance provided to eligible TTT participants comes in two forms; a $5,000 stipend for teacher certification and licensure costs and a bonus up to $10,000. The maximum amount of financial assistance to any eligible participant may not exceed $10,000.TTT participants receiving financial assistance must agree to teach for three years in a high-need public, public charter, or Bureau of Indian Affairs school. Eligibility for financial assistance is determined by the TTT national office upon completion of the registration process.

Registration

- To register for the Troops to Teachers program visit www.proudtoserveagain.com
- Additional program information can be found on the DANTES website: www.dantes.doded.mil

5.6 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 1,100 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 sponsored by nearly 16,000 employers nationwide, visit www.dol.gov/apprenticeship/. To identify RA programs approved for the use of GI Bill benefits, visit http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do. Select "On-the-Job Training/Apprenticeship" from the "Program Type" dropdown menu, then search by either state or job title. Current vacancies can be found at https://www.glassdoor.com/index.htm (enter "apprenticeship in the website's search bar under the jobs tab). Industry and career research, and MOS-matching, can be conducted at www.mynextmove.org/vets/.

5.7 Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC)

SOC is a consortium of more than 2,000 institutions of higher education, 15 national higher education associations, the Department of Defense, and the military services, dedicated to supporting, expanding, and improving the voluntary postsecondary education needs of Service Members worldwide.

- SOC member institutions are accredited, degree granting, and are listed in the Higher Education Directory. As members, they agree to: a reasonable transfer of credit to avoid excessive loss of previously earned credit and avoid course work duplication, recognize and use the *ACE Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services* in evaluating and awarding academic credit for military training and experience, award credit for at least one nationally-recognized testing program such as College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DSST, and limit academic residency requirements to no more than 25% of the overall degree requirement, or 30% if the degree is **entirely** online.
- Each institutional member has designated an Institutional Representative, SOC Counselor, and DVA Counselor to assist Service Members with their educational requirements and answer their questions. These individuals are the Soldier's first line of contact for issues involving their education.
- SOC members welcome the added advantage of Soldier-students attending their institutions and are committed to enhancing the quality of their work through education. Soldiers with questions or concerns about SOC colleges and universities can call SOC's helpline at **1-800-892-7205** for assistance. For more information visit: https://www.gosoced.org/.

5.8 Financial Aid Shopping Sheet

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

5.9 Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau website is an official U.S. Federal Government website that is designed to help students navigate financial decisions that are tied to attending college. This website provides student financial guides, financial aid comparison tools, and information on student debt repayment options. To gain more information, visit https://www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/.

Chapter 6
ARNG EDUCATION INCENTIVES

6.0 Overview

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

6.1 ARNG Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP)

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

How Do I Qualify?

Be sure to reference current policy and inquire with your State's AMEDD Recruiter and Incentives Manager for up-to-date details on this program. To be eligible, AMEDD Officers must meet all the requirements for accessioning and commissioning as an AMEDD Officer in the ARNG. Some requirements include

- Graduates of the Inter-Service Physician Assistant Program (IPAP) and the University of Kentucky College of Social Work Program (Army-UK MSW) are not eligible to participate in HPLRP until they satisfy their 6-year contractual obligation.
- Must be on the critical wartime shortage list.
- Must be assigned to an authorized TDA/MTOE unit.
- Soldier must possess outstanding educational loans toward the qualifying degree of AOC.
- Program participants must remain in a qualifying (AOC) duty position in order to receive loan repayments, monthly stipend, or special pay.
- Must be sitting in an authorized duty position, or authorized duty position on the substitution list.
- HPLRP contractual obligation depends on AOC.

What Do I Get?

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

How Do I Apply?

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

6.2 ARNG Chaplain Loan Repayment Program (CLRP)

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

How Do I Qualify?

Individuals enrolled in the Chaplain Candidate Program are NOT eligible to participate in the ARNG CLRP, but may become qualified to participate in CLRP upon becoming fully qualified as a Chaplain. Be sure to reference current policy and inquire with your State's Incentives Manager for up to date details on this program. Chaplains must meet all the requirements for affiliating as a Chaplain in the ARNG, and

- Must not be simultaneously receiving an Officer Accession Bonus (OAB), Officer Affiliation Bonus (OAFB), Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) or any enlisted bonus incentive.
- Must be Duty Area of Concentration Qualified (DAOCQ) as a 56A and assigned in the authorized military grade commensurate for AOC 56A as a Chaplain coded in GIMS.
- Chaplains that are listed as "9993" in GIMS are not eligible.
- Must be assigned to an authorized Unit Identification Code (UIC).
- Must not have been a two-time non-select for promotion.
- Must possess outstanding educational loans secured on or after 1 October 1975; loans must have been applied towards a graduate education or professional qualifying degree courses resulting in a Masters of Divinity Degree or equivalent.
- State and private loans are not eligible.
- Must possess a degree from an accredited theological seminary that is 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 Manager.
- Must sign a written agreement to serve not fewer than three years as a Chaplain in the ARNG.

What Do I Get?

The maximum ARNG CLRP is up to $60,000 (up to $20K for each 3-year period of obligation) by law and covers the loan's principle, interest, and related expenses. The maximum annual payment made for eligible participants under the CLRP may not exceed $6,666.66 for each year of the incentive term.

How Do I Apply?

- Provide the State Officer Strength Manager (OSM) copies of the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) Summary Aid and Detailed Loan Information Sheet(s) or copies of promissory note(s) and disbursement sheet(s) for any Title IV loan(s) not listed on the NSLDS documentation.
- These documents must be dated within 30-days of the CLRP Pre-Approval request.
- Once the State OSM has submitted the CLRP Pre-Approval request in GIMS and it is approved by the State Incentive Manager, the State OSM will then answer the CRLP eligibility questions in GIMS.

- Once GIMS determines that the Chaplain meets CLRP eligibility, the OSM will print out the CLRP agreement and sign it with the Chaplain.
- The date on the CLRP agreement establishes the 3-year service obligation period.
- In order to complete a new 3-year CLRP agreement, the Chaplain must repeat the application process and sign a new CLRP agreement once approved.

6.3 ARNG Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)

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

How Do I Qualify?

- May sign for a SLRP incentive without current qualifying student loans, however, all loads must be Title IV Federal loans that are not currently in default.
- Federal Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS loans) are eligible for repayment as long as the Soldier is the borrower and the loans(s) are in the Soldier's name.
- State and private loans are not eligible.
- Applicants may select the SLRP incentive even though they have no outstanding loan(s) when signing the contractual agreement; however eligible loans must be at least 1-year old on the Soldiers anniversary date.
- In order to be eligible for payment. Must be affiliating, enlisting or reenlisting/extending for a minimum period of 6-years in an active drilling status.
- Loan(s) that are in default on the SLRP contract signature date are never eligible for repayment, regardless if default status is removed afterwards.
- Must not be affiliating/enlisting as a Glossary Non-Prior Service (GNPS), 09R Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) Cadet, 09S Officer Candidate School (OCS) Candidate.
- Must not be affiliating/enlisting into the Recruit Force Pool (RFP), Reserve Officers Training Corps. (ROTC) program or have or will receive a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) scholarship.
- Must not have previously received ELRP.
- Must have a GIMS SLRP Pre-Approval application approved by the State Incentive Manager.
- The maximum annual payment is 15 percent of the eligible Disbursed amount or $500.00, whichever is greater.
- Payments are capped at $7,500.00 annually.
- The current annual payment may include interest as long as the combined principal and interest payment does not exceed the maximum amount authorized by DoDi.
- Entitlement is for the contracted period only.
- Enlisted Soldiers receiving SLRP will remain eligible while attending OCS or WOCS or after contracting into the ROTC/ SMP programs as a non-scholarship participant.
- Soldiers may also remain eligible upon commissioning or appointment, subject to the original restriction that their loan will be paid within the same period established in their original enlistment documents.
- 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 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 current ARNG SRIP policy.
- NPS applicant must have an Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) score of 50 or higher.

- PS applicant must be Duty Military Occupational Specialty Qualified (DMOSQ) in the contracted SLRP MOS at time of enlistment/affiliation.
- PS applicant must have less than 16-years' Time-in-Service (TIS) on contract start date.
- PS Soldier must have received an Honorable Discharge or an Honorable release at the conclusion of all periods of prior military service.
- A General under Honorable conditions discharge for any period of service is ineligible (Exception: Soldiers who completed IADT with an uncharacterized discharge).
- PS Soldier must not be enlisting under the provisions of a Conditional Release (DD Form 368) from a Selected Reserve (SELRES) component other than the United States Army Reserve (USAR).
- NPS/ PS applicants contract at MEPS; Soldiers affiliating from AD contract with an RCCC in GIMS.
- ARNG Unit Readiness NCOs/Retention NCOs/Incentive Managers determine current Soldiers' eligibility SLRP eligibility using NSLDS documentation. To reenlist/extend for SLRP, Soldiers must meet the following criteria:
    - Must be in Pay Grade E-7 or below.
    - Must be DMOSQ and assigned as the primary position holder.
    - Must reenlist/extend in an authorized UIC per current ARNG SRIP policy.
    - Must have less than 16 years TIS at time of current ETS date.
    - Must reenlist/extend within 365-0 days of his or her ETS date.
    - Must not be in an AGR or FT MILTECH status on contract signature and start dates.
    - Must not be under any type of Suspension of Favorable Personnel Action (SFPA).
    - Soldiers who enter the program after 1 March 2009 may extend beyond his/her initial 6-year SLRP contract until such time as he/she reaches the maximum dollar amount that was authorized on the date of the initial SLRP contract. This does not currently apply to officers.

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

What Do I Get?

- The maximum lifetime amount (currently) of the ARNG SLRP is $50,000.00.
- The maximum annual payment made for eligible participants under the SLRP may not exceed $7,500 for each anniversary year of the incentive term.
- Soldier must meet all the payment eligibility requirements per the current ARNG SRIP policy.

How Do I Apply?

- The Applicant/Soldier must provide the Recruiter, RCCC or RNCO copies of the National Student Loan Data System Summary Aid and Detailed Loan Information Sheet(s) or copies of promissory note(s) and disbursement sheet(s) for any Title IV loan(s) not listed on the NSLDS documentation.
- These documents must be dated within 30-days of the SLRP Pre-Approval request.
- Once the Recruiter, RCCC or Unit Readiness NCO has submitted the SLRP Pre-Approval and it is approved by the State Incentive Manager, the MEPS Guidance Counselor (GC), Recruiter, RCCC or Unit Readiness NCO will complete the eligibility process within the Recruit Quota System (REQUEST)/GIMS and upon eligibility being determined, the MEPS Guidance Counselor (GC), Recruiter, RCCC or Unit Readiness NCO will print out the SLRP agreement out of the Guidance Counselor Resource Center (GCRC)/GIMS and sign it with the Applicant/Soldier.
- The contract signature date on the SLRP addendum establishes the 6-year service obligation period for all NPS/PS Applicants/Soldiers.
- The 6-year service obligation for a current Service member begins 1-day after Service member's current ETS date.
- Current Service member's reenlisting/extending under and continuing a SLRP contract executed after1 March 2009, must not complete a new SLRP addendum.

6.4 ARNG 09S SLRP

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

How Do I Qualify?

- Must possess one or more qualifying and disbursed Title IV Federal loans (not currently in default).
- PLUS loans are eligible for repayment as long as the Soldier is the borrower and the loans(s) are in the Soldier's name; State and private loans are not eligible.
- Soldiers may sign for a SLRP incentive without current Title IV qualifying student loans, which may be added later. However, all loans must be one year old on the anniversary date qualifying for payment.
- Must enlist for a minimum period of 6-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 listed on official transcripts or a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Must not be enlisting into the RFP, ROTC program or have or will receive a GRFD scholarship.
- Must not have previously received SLRP.
- Must have a GIMS SLRP Pre-Approval application approved by the State Incentive Manager.
- The maximum annual payment is 15% of the eligible principle(s) or $500.00, whichever is greater
- Payments are capped at $7,500.00 annually.
- The current year's annual payment will include interest as long as the combined principal and interest payment does not exceed the maximum amount authorized by law.
- Must complete BOLC within 2-years from date of graduation from OCS.
- Must be commissioned with 3-years from date of enlistment.
- Is eligible to retain 09S SLRP upon being commissioned.
- Is not eligible to contract for the OAB incentive.

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

What Do I Get?

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

How Do I Apply?

- Obtain a copy of the NSLDS Summary Aid and Detailed Loan Information Sheet(s) or promissory note(s) and disbursement sheet(s) for any Title IV loan(s) not listed on the NSLDS documentation.
- These documents must be dated within 30-days of the 09S SLRP Pre-Approval request in GIMS. Once the Recruiter has submitted the 09S SLRP Pre-Approval and approved by the State Incentive Manager, the Applicant/Soldier must be projected to enlist at MEPS, whereby the MEPS GC will complete the eligibility processing.
- For 09S OCS candidate, the MEPS GC will print out the GCRC 09S SLRP addendum and sign it with the Applicant/Soldier. The contract signature date on the 09S SLRP addendum establishes the 6-year service obligation period for all NPS/PS 09S SLRP Applicants/Soldiers.

Chapter 7
COMMISSIONING PROGRAMS

7.0 Overview

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

7.1 Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)

Overview. Over 1,100 colleges and universities across the nation have a Senior ROTC program as part of their curriculum. Army ROTC is a 2- to 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 as an officer.

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

7.2 ROTC Scholarships

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

How Do I Qualify?

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

What Do I Get?

- These scholarships pay full time tuition and mandatory fees, or can pay room & board (flat rate of $10,000 per year) at either Private or Public Universities.
- Room & board payment option pays flat rate of $10,000.
- All scholarships come with a $1,200 per year book allowance paid directly to the student.
- National Guard scholarships can be used with any type of State Tuition Assistance; however, GRFD and Dedicated National Guard scholarships cannot be used with Federal Tuition Assistance.
- All Cadets are also paid a monthly stipend of $420 per month for 10 months.
- 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 $290 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 at USACC HQ.*

7.3 Early Commissioning Program (ECP)

Overview. The ECP allows graduates of one of the country's four military junior colleges to become commissioned officers in the armed forces reserves in two years, instead of the usual four. Once commissioned, the Officer is required to complete a Bachelor's degree per ARNG contract entry requirements (normally this is a three-year contract). The program is a financial incentive for students to commission early and serve as Officers while attending college and earning time for promotions and retirement.

What Do I Get?

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

Note: Consult your ESO or Officer Strength Manager for 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 2 year junior college program, as well as a military boarding school for young men grades seven through twelve.
- **New Mexico Military Institute**, Roswell, New Mexico. Founded in 1891 by Col. Robert S. Goss as the Goss Military Institute, and inspired by Virginia Military Institute, NMMI includes a four-year high school and a two-year junior college.
- **Marion Military Institute**, Marion, Alabama. Marion Military Institute is the State military college of Alabama. Founded in 1842 as Howard English & Classical School by the Alabama Baptist Convention, the school reorganized as Marion Military Institute in 1887.
- **Georgia Military Colleg**e, Milledgeville, Georgia. Georgia Military College, founded in 1879, includes a liberal arts junior college, a high school, and a middle school.

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

7.4 Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP)

Overview. Students attending college and enrolled in the ROTC program may be eligible for the SMP option. SMP is a two to four-year program. ROTC provides SMP cadets with a monthly subsistence allowance. Students may also apply for a Two-Year Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship or a Two or Three Year Dedicated Army National Guard Scholarship. Scholarships in ROTC programs pay for full tuition and fees and a flat rate for textbooks, classroom supplies, and equipment. Graduates (except Dedicated ARNG scholarship recipients who must serve in the ARNG) may be offered a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army, Army Reserves (USAR), or Army National Guard. Basic and Advanced Training are deferred pending completion of SMP and commissioning. Prior service Soldiers who are MOSQ are NOT required. Ask your recruiter for information and a list of colleges offering Army ROTC.

Important: Program is now 4, 3.5, 3, 2.5 or 2 years depending on the Cadets academic alignment.

How Do I Qualify?

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

How Do I Apply?

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

7.5 Federal Officer Candidate School (Active Component)

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

How Do I Qualify?

- Candidates must have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and must furnish a copy of their official transcripts.
- Achieve a General Technical Aptitude Test (GT) score of 110 or higher on the ASVAB.
- Candidates must be no more than 33 years, 364 days of age at the time of commissioning; Minimum age requirement to enroll is 18.
- In-service applicants must have successfully completed Basic Combat Training (BCT) and AIT.
  - Soldiers 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.

7.6 State Officer Candidate School (OCS)

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

How Do I Qualify?

- In-Service Applicants must have successfully completed BCT and AIT.
  - Soldiers enlisting under the OCS Option must successfully complete BCT
- Candidates must have a minimum of 90 semester hours from an accredited college or university annotated on an official transcript ***prior to enrollment into the program, along with an approved plan for degree completion.***
- Applicants with a 4-year degree must submit an official transcript (from the Institution's Registrar's Office through the State Education Office) confirming graduation.
- Achieve a General Technical Aptitude Test (GT) score of 110 or higher on the ASVAB.
- Commissioning must occur before 42 years of age (this is not waiverable)
  - Soldiers enlisting under the OCS option must be under the age of 35 at the time of enlistment
- Candidates must sign an Officer Service Agreement.
- Candidates must provide proof of citizenship (naturalized or by birth). US citizenship is required for commissioning.
- For information on testing procedures, contact your State ESO.
- For information on application procedures, contact your chain of command or local recruiter.

7.7 Accelerated Officer Candidate School (OCS)

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

How Do I Qualify? (Eligibility Criteria)

- Candidates must complete 90 semester hours towards a Bachelor's degree on an official transcript, and provide a copy of their approved Bachelor's degree plan ***prior to enrollment.***

- Applicants with a 4-year degree must submit an official transcript (from the Institution's Registrar's Office through the State Education Office) confirming graduation.
- Achieve a GT score of 110 or higher on the ASVAB.
- Candidates must be no more than 41 years, 364 days of age at the time of commissioning; Minimum age requirement to enroll is 18.
- In-service applicants must have successfully completed BCT and AIT
  - Soldiers enlisting under the OCS Option must successfully complete BCT
- Candidates must sign an Officer Service Agreement.
- For information on testing procedures, contact your State ESO.
- Candidates must be a US citizen to enroll.
- For application information, contact your chain of command, or local recruiter.

7.8 Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS)

***Overview*.** The Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate School (RC-WOCS) is conducted at Fort Rucker, AL, over a four-week period and must be completed in order for the Soldier 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 items listed below are universal for all applicants or applicable as indicated:

- US Citizenship (No Waivers).
- GT score of 110 or higher (No Waivers).
- High school graduate or have a GED (No Waivers).
- FINAL Secret or Top Secret Security Clearance - **Interim clearances do not satisfy the requirement!**
- Pass the standard 3-event Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) and meet height/weight standards.
- Pass the commissioning physical for technical specialties or the Class 1 flight physical for Aviators.
- All applicants must have 12 months remaining on their enlistment contract.
- Age Requirements: For 153A, 33rd birthday or less prior to their packet being boarded. For all other WO MOS', 46th birthday or less prior to their packet being boarded.

7.9 Direct Commission

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

APPENDIX A
Links

COUNSELING

Department of Education	http://www.ed.gov/
Department of Education Accreditation	http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/
DoD MOU	https://www.dodmou.com/

TESTING & STUDY AIDS

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

GI BILL

DoD Transferability GIBILL Web site	https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect
DVA Online Application for Benefits	https://vets.gov
Montgomery GI Bill	http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS

Adventures in Education	http://www.aie.org/
College Net	http://www.collegenet.com/elect/app/app
EANGUS	https://eangus.org/we-care-for-america/scholarship-information/
EStudent Loan	https://www.estudentloan.com/
Fast Web	http://www.fastweb.com/
Financial Aid Tips	http://www.financialaidtips.org/
Folds of Honor	https://www.foldsofhonor.org/
GoArmyEd	https://www.goarmyed.com/
Minuteman Scholarship Program	https://www.army.mil/standto/2016-07-11
National Military Family Association	https://scholarships.militaryfamily.org/offers/nmfa-spouse-scholarship/
NGAUS	https://www.ngaus.org/membership/member-benefits/scholarships
Smart Guide to Financial Aide	http://www.finaid.org/
Spouse Education & Career Opportunities	https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/
Student Scholarship Search	http://www.studentscholarshipsearch.com/
College Board	https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/

MISCELLANEOUS

National Guard Education Programs	http://www.nationalguard.com/education
Registered Apprenticeship	https://www.apprenticeship.gov/apprenticeship-finder
Verification of Military Exp and Trng (VMET)	https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/tgps/

APPENDIX B
ACRONYMS

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