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FY20 ARNG Education Benefits Handbook

"Education, the Key to Strength and Readiness"

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ★

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Important!
Application procedures for the programs described in this handbook 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.

This guide was developed by the Education Services Branch located in the Personnel Policy Division at National Guard Bureau, Arlington, VA (ARNG-HRH-C).

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

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

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1.0 Overview

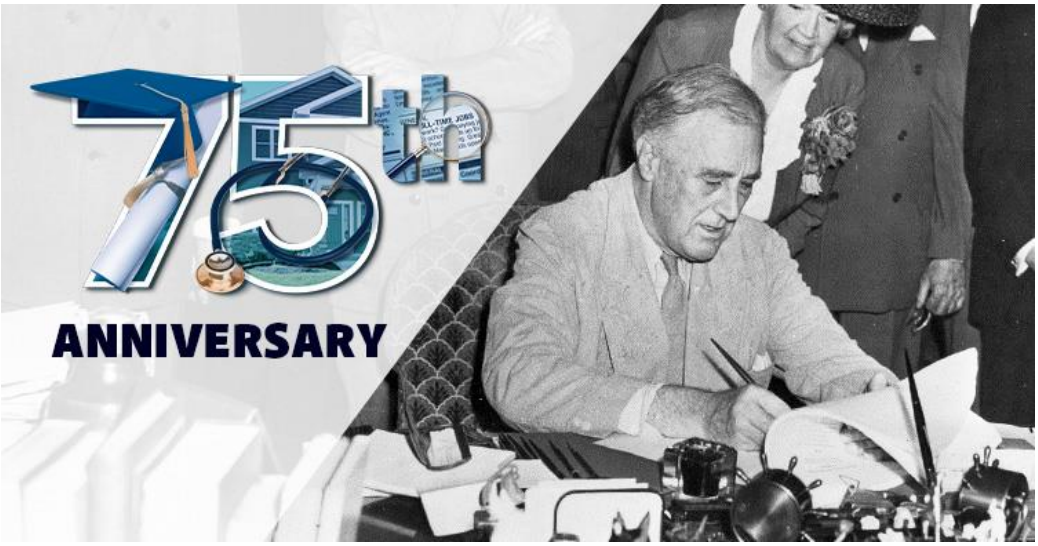
This guide provides information on application procedures and benefits for all Army National Guard (ARNG) education programs and services. For the most current information on ARNG education programs, as well as specific State programs, contact your State Education Services Office at www.nationalguard.com/contacts/contact-your-state

1.1 Responsibilities

- **Education Services Branch, Army National Guard Bureau (ARNG-HRH-C)**
  - Provide policy, guidance, training, resources, oversight and relevant education programs and services to the 54 States and Territories to support lifelong learning, enhance force readiness, and develop the next generation of leaders.
  - Manage and deliver Army Continuing Education System (ACCESS ARMYU) for the ARNG.
  - Provide guidance and support for implementing ACCESS ARMYU 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, credentialing assistance, APT and DANTES programs 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)
- 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), Ch 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: https://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, officers use a DA Form 5447-R).
- Complete Initial Active Duty Training (IADT) or Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC).
- Remain a member in good standing in the Selected Reserve.
- 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 2019

Institutional Training

Training Time	Monthly rate
Full time	$392.00
3/4 time	$293.00
1/2 time	$195.00
Less than 1/2 time	$98.00

Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training

Training Period	Monthly rate
First six months of training	$294.00
Second six months of training	$215.60
Remaining pursuit of training	$137.20

Correspondence and Flight - Entitlement charged at the rate of one month for each $392.00 paid.

Cooperative - $392.00

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

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

How Do I Apply?

- **Step 1.** Apply Online at; www.vets.gov.
- **Step 2.** Obtain your Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). After you apply on-line, the DVA will send you a CoE in the mail. Take the CoE to the DVA representative/School Certifying Official (SCO) at the educational institution you are attending, or your place of employment if you are in a job-training program. The DVA Rep/SCO will certify your enrollment and submit it to the DVA Regional Processing Office (RPO) for processing.
- **Step 3.** Verify Your Attendance. Students receiving Chapter 30 or 1606 must verify their attendance monthly by Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) or by using the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. When students are awarded benefits, the award letter they receive describes WAVE and IVR.

    - 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 branch qualified. Officers/Officer Candidates should contact their State GI Bill Manager to verify their eligibility.*

2.2 Army National Guard (ARNG) Kicker Incentive Program

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

Refer to the current ARNG Selective Reserve Incentive Programs (SRIP) Policy for a detailed description of the qualification criteria, contracting requirements and standards for administration of this incentive.

- **$350 Enlisted Accessions (EA)**
  - Non-Prior Service
    - ASVAB score of 50 or above (Cat I-IIIA).
    - Education Tier level 1 (High school diploma or equivalent).
    - Critical Skill/Critical UIC Vacancy (Tier Level 1-6)

  - Prior Service
    - ASVAB 50 or above (Cat I-IIIA).
    - DMOSQ E7 or below.
    - Critical Skill/Critical UIC Vacancy (Tier Level 1-6)
    - Meet RE and SPD code requirements for if affiliating from active duty.
    - If affiliating from a service other than Army, meet the requirement to be awarded a MOS at time of affiliation/enlistment and be coded DMOSQ in SIDPERS and GIMS.

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

- **$350 Officer Commissioning (OC)**
  - Officer Candidate School (OCS). A Soldier enrolled in OCS without a previous Kicker may contract for the $350 Kicker provided they;
    - Complete MGIB-SR Kicker Addendum (NGB Form 5435) after completion of OCS Phase 1, and prior to commissioning.
    - Have a concurrent 6-yr service obligation from the date of the Kicker contract.
  - Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC)
    - Be enrolled as a Simultaneous Member Program (SMP) as a MSII Cadet or higher without a previous MGIB-SR Kicker contract and who has not received financial assistance in the form of a Senior ROTC Scholarship may contract for the $350 MGIB-SR Kicker provided;
    - Complete SMP Agreement (NGB Form 594-1) and ROTC Cadet Contract (DA Form 597 series) prior to contracting for the Kicker.
    - Complete Kicker Addendum (NGB Form 5435) prior to commissioning.
    - Have a concurrent 6-yr service obligation from the date of the Kicker contract.
  - Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC). A Soldier on orders in the WOC program (09W) without a previous MGIB-SR Kicker contract may contract for the $350 MGIB-SR Kicker provided they;
    - Complete Kicker Addendum after entry into commissioning program and <u>prior to</u> commissioning.
    - Have a concurrent 6-yr service obligation from the date of the Kicker contract.
  - The Standard Officer Kicker (SOK). A Commissioned or Warrant Officer who has not previously contracted and established eligibility for a MGIB-SR Kicker may, within one year after commissioning contract for a $350.

        - Must complete the MGIB-SR Kicker Addendum and sign a DA 544-7R for a period of six or more years on the same day.
        - Commissioned Officers without a bachelor's degree and Direct Commissioned Officers are eligible for this incentive.
    - Supplemental (Bump-Up)
        - 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.
        - No additional service obligation is required for Soldiers who have completed the original MGIB-SR Kicker six-year obligation.
        - The Soldier must sign the MGIB-SR Kicker Supplemental addendum (NGB Form 5435-1) no later than one year after commissioning.
- ***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 branch qualified.*

What Do I Get?

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

2.3 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: https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_sr.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 2019

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

Training Time	Monthly Rate
Full time	$2,050.00
3/4 time	$1,537.50
1/2 time	$1,025.00
Less than 1/2 time More than 1/4 time	**$1,025.00
1/4 time or less	**$512.50
Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training	
1st six months	$1,537.50
2nd six months	$1,127.50
Remaining training	$717.50
Cooperative Training	
Monthly Rates	$2,050.00
** 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/resources/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 Education Support Team (ESC) at arng.esc.ch30@mail.mil. The ESC will reply to applicants via email with enrollment instructions.
- **Step 2.** Apply Online. Once you receive confirmation of enrollment from the ESC, go to

www.vets.gov to apply.

- **Step 3.** Obtain your Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). After you apply online, 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.

2.4 Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty $600 Buy-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 Buy-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 Education Support Team at: arng.esc.ch30@mail.mil**.** The Education 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.** Obtain your Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). After applying online, 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 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. RC members can earn eligibility by serving on orders under Title 10, Sections 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12303(g), 12301(h), 12302, 12304, 12304a, 12304b, or Title 32 AGR, or on Title 32, Section 502(f) under Operation Noble Eagle 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 (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 amount of qualifying time a Soldier accrues.

Qualifying Service	Payment Tier
At least 36 cumulative months* or Purple Heart recipients	100%
At least 30 continuous days on active duty and must be discharged due to service-connected disability	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%

*Includes Basic Training and AIT

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

- Tuition and Fees
  - Up to 100% of in-state tuition if you are attending a public school.
  - Max payment of $24,476.79 per year for private or foreign school (effective August 1, 2019).
- Monthly Housing Allowance: (MUST be attending more than half-time)
  - Equivalent to BAH of E-5 with dependents.
  - Based on zip code where attending classes.
  - If attending only online classes: $894.50 per month (effective August 1, 2019).
  - 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 $11,888.70 per academic year (effective August 1, 2019).
  - Flight students will receive the actual net costs for tuition and fees, up to $13,986.72 per academic year (effective August 1, 2019).
  - Information on National Testing, Licensing and Certification tests is in Chapter 6 of this handbook.
  - Rates for Apprenticeship and OJT are based on length of time the student is in training:

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

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

How Do I Apply?

- **Step 1.** Go to www.vets.gov.
- **Step 2.** Obtain Certificate of Eligibility (CoE). The DVA will send you a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) in the mail. Take the CoE to the DVA representative (DVA Rep)/School Certifying Official (SCO) at the college (or your place of employment if you are in a job-training program).

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

2.6 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.

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 2.5 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.

2.7 Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB)

Overview. The Department of Defense (DoD) allows members of the Armed Forces to transfer their 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. TEB is an incentive for further service and is intended to promote retention in the ARNG. Not every Soldier will qualify for TEB. Soldiers unable to commit or agree to the required service obligation due to service-limiting situations will not be able to participate in this program.

References

- Title 38 USC, Chapter 33, Section 3319
- DoDI 1341.13, Post 9/11 GI Bill, Change 1, 12 July 2018
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017
- 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 (Effective 12 January 2020);
- Commit to serve at least four additional, continuous years in the Armed Forces (must have an ETS or MRD equal to or greater than four years from the TEB request date and not be in the IRR or ING); and
- Have no adverse action flags, including 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 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.

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

2.8 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 IN-SERVICE STUDENT	***Refer to the specific benefit for detailed information***		
	Eligible for payment after completing 90 days of aggregate service.	Eligible for payment after completing 2 years continuous active duty.	Eligible while currently serving in the ARNG
ENTITLEMENT	36 months. May extend to end of term if benefit expires during term. Kickers do not extend.	36 months. May extend to end of term if benefit expires during term. Kickers do not extend.	36 months. May extend to end of term if benefit expires during term. Kickers do not extend.
	48 months maximum under two or more programs		
DELIMITING DATE	For separations on/after 1 Jan 2013, no expiration For separations prior to 1 Jan 2013, 15 years from last Honorable discharge or separation	10 years from last Honorable discharge or separation. May extend for subsequent period of active duty or disability that prevents completion of program.	14 years from your beginning date of eligibility, or on the day you leave the Selected Reserve. May extend if disability incurred or aggravated by service in Selected Reserve prevents completion of program.

2.9 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 required information before you start. You must complete the form in one session – there is no option to save and come back later. Required information:
  - 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 "Apply for education benefits"
- Click on "Find your education benefits 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: Benefits Eligibility
    - In general, dependents will select 'Post-9/11'.
    - Service Members select the program you are eligible for and wish to use.
  - Page 3: Service Members - 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 your scholarship is Section 2107 or Section 2107a. If 2107a, select no for both questions.
    - Student Loan: Do not check this box if your Student Loan Repayment contract was from the Guard/Reserves.
  - Page 4: Education History
  - Page 5: Employment History
  - Page 6: School Selection
  - Page 7: Contact and Direct Deposit Information
  - Page 8: Review information and click "Submit Application"

- Normally, the VA will process your application within 30 days. You will receive a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) in the mail.
    - Call (888) GIBILL-1 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.

2.10 Recent and 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.
        - STEM Designated Degree Program List, Effective August 1, 2019

- **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, or 1606.
  - 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/select-your-state

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 most 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 degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's Degree

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

References

- Title 10, USC, Section 2007, Payment of Tuition for Off-Duty Training or Education, 19 Jan 04.
- Title 10, USC, Section 2005, Advanced Education Assistance: Active Duty agreement; reimbursement requirements, 24 September 1980.

- DODI 1325.25, Voluntary Education Programs (Incorp. Change 3, 7 July 2014), 15 July 2015.
- AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System (ACCESS ARMYU), 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 Certificate (undergraduate/graduate).
- Up to 21 semester hours towards a Transition Certificate (undergraduate/graduate, only if another certificate was not earned with FTA within 5 years)

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 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 Sections 2107 or 2107a **are not** eligible to receive FTA.

3.3 Use with GI Bill

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

- **MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606) Recipients.** Effective in FY15, FTA may not be used concurrently with MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606) for the same course: Soldiers may use TA and Chapter 1606 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 (except for Top-up). If a student takes several courses, the student cannot receive Chapter 30 benefits for the courses for which FTA is paid. The student may, however, receive Chapter 30 benefits up to the cost of tuition for courses for which FTA has not paid.

- **Chapter 30 and "Top-up"** Service Members who are serving on Active Duty or AGR and are eligible for Chapters 30 and approved for FTA are eligible for Top-up. Top-up allows DVA to pay the difference between what FTA pays and the cost of the course. The law prohibits Active duty or AGR students from receiving regular Chapter 30 benefits and FTA for the same course.

- **Important! Former Active duty Service Members, who earned Chapter 30 benefits while on Active duty and are currently M-day members of the National Guard or Reserve,** may receive Chapter 30 benefits for the same courses for which they receive FTA and are not subject to 'Top up'.

3.4 State Tuition Assistance

Many states offer State TA programs that vary from full tuition and fees, to partial waivers, to reimbursements. To find out what different states offer, go to Appendix A of this handbook or visit https://www.nationalguard.com/select-your-state.

Chapter 4: CREDENTIALING ASSISTANCE

4.0 Overview

Credentialing Assistance allows Soldiers to develop marketable skills, not necessarily aligned to their military occupational specialty, which will help them find civilian employment post-service. The program supplements the Army's current credentialing programs offered through Army schools as part of institutional training. Credentials offered through this program will have a military nexus to ensure the Army benefits from the program during the Soldier's service. The Army's Credentialing Assistance (CA) Program provides Soldiers with funding for more than 1,600 credentials listed on https://www.cool.army.mil/

References

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

How Do I Qualify?

- Soldiers may begin work on their **first** 'credential pathway' upon successful completion of AIT, WOBC or BOLC (Tier 1).
- Soldiers establish eligibility for a **second** 'credential pathway' upon successful completion of ALC, WOAC or CCC or equivalent (Tier 2).
- Soldiers assigned to the following states (including TX and KY) are eligible for the CA program;
    - Effective 1 Oct 2019: CO, KS, NY and WA
    - Effective 1 Nov 2019: GA, HI and NC
    - Effective 1 Dec 2019: AZ, CA, LA, PA, SC and VA
    - Effective 1 Jan 2020: All States/Territories

What Do I Get?

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

What Are Some Popular Certifications?

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

How Do I Apply?

- Contact your State ESO/ESS to discuss the CA application process and verify eligibility.
- Ensure your credential is listed on Army Cool at: https://www.cool.army.mil/
- Identify your school/training facility/credentialing agency.
- Establish your GoArmyEd account at: www.goarmyed.com
  - New Users: Click "Request TA Access" OR for reactivations: Click "Change Degree/School".
  - Establish your degree plan by selecting "Credentialing Pathway".
  - Establish your school by selecting "Credential School" (click on green search button to enter these selections).
- Open a GoArmyEd Helpdesk case and select "Credentialing Request" as case type.
- Download and save the Credentialing Plan (CP) and Statement of Understanding (SOU).
  - You may close the case/window if you are not able to upload the CP and SOU.
- Complete the Credential Plan for each training course and exam.
  - The CP has 3 tabs
    - Pathway Plan (list all required training courses and exam)
    - Main Tab (all yellow shaded blocks must be completed)
    - Cost Details Tab (all yellow shaded blocks must be completed)

Start date must be 30 business days from submission

- Using your CAC, sign your Statement of Understanding.
- Open a GoArmyEd helpdesk again and upload the CP and SOU. Select "add a note" to attach the digitally signed SOU.
  - Add any supporting documentation such as an invoice, prerequisite info, etc., by selecting "add note".
- Monitor the status of your request via the helpdesk case. You will also receive email updates to your default email address you provided GoArmyEd (Military or Civilian).

Where Can I Go for Testing?

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

Chapter 5: FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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5.0 Overview

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

5.1 Types of Aid Available

5.1.1 Government Financial Aid - for military service or family members of military

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

5.1.2 Grants - often called "gift aid" because they are free money — financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid. Grants are often need-based, versus scholarships which are merit-based.

- Federal Pell Grants
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)
- Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants
- Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants
- https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/federal-grant-programs.pdf

5.1.3 Work-study - a work program to earn money and help you pay for school. It provides part-time employment while you are enrolled in school.

- Available to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students with financial need.
- Available to full-time or part-time students.
- Administered by schools participating in the Federal Work-Study Program. Check with your school's financial aid office to find out if your school participates.
- https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/work-study

5.1.4 Loans - borrowed money for college or career school; you must repay your loans, with interest. If you apply for financial aid, your school will likely include student loans as part of your financial aid package. Generally, there are two types of student loans—federal and private.

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

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

- Aid from Your State Government - Even if you're not eligible for federal aid, you might be eligible for financial aid from your state. Many States have special grants or Student Loan Repayment Programs that will forgive loans based upon service in designated areas within their respective state. https://www2.ed.gov/about/contacts/state/index.html
- Some States also offer a lottery scholarship with varying eligibility requirements. Check with your school's financial aid office to see if your State has one.
- Aid from Your College or Career School - Many schools offer financial aid from their own funds. Find out what might be available to you
- Aid from a Nonprofit or Private Organization - Many organizations offer scholarships or grants to help students pay for college or career school. This free money can make a real difference in how affordable your education is.

5.2 Scholarships

- Scholarships are grants or payments made to support a student's education, awarded, typically, based on academic or other achievement. Eligibility for scholarships vary greatly as eligibility can be based on intellectual or personal achievement, religion, ethnicity, geographic area, area of study, hobbies, interests, volunteerism, club based, the list is endless. There are thousands of scholarships out there and a few will fit you perfectly! Most scholarships have criteria you must meet by a deadline. Most scholarships require a written work to demonstrate the specific criteria.
- The search for these scholarships can be long arduous and tricky! Be aware there are nefarious characters out there praying on naïve, new students. Be careful which websites you choose as you could be bombarded by schools by entering your data into data collection sites that sell your information to schools. .ORG websites are typically Nonprofits, foundations, philanthropic and cultural institutions, religious, civic, arts, social and fraternal organizations, health and legal services, clubs and community volunteer groups. These are generally considered very reputable and safe. .Com websites are typically for-profit organizations. Use all scholarship search engines only after reviewing their terms of agreement.
- While NGB does not endorse any college or organization, we have listed various scholarships hosted by both .org and .com websites to help you in your search.

5.2.1 ORG Hosted Scholarships

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

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

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

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

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

- **AMVETS:** https://amvets.org/scholarships
  - For: - Two scholarships specific to Veterans, AD, Guard/Reserves $4k
    - One scholarship specific to Spouses of Veterans, AD, Guard/Reserves $12k
    - Two scholarships are specific to children/grandchildren of Veterans, Active Duty, Guard/Reserves who are currently high school seniors $4k & $1k

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

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

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

5.2.2 COM Websites hosting Scholarships

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

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

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

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

How Do I Apply?

- Military Financial Aid – See your local education office, Recruiting & Retention recruiter, AMEDD recruiter of visit the DANTES website for TTT.

- Grants and Student Loans (Federal and State) - Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa. Colleges usually use the FASFA to determine your eligibility for additional State financial aid available to you. Check with your college financial aid office for more information.

- Scholarships – follow the directions provided in the links associated with the specific scholarship you are interested in.

Chapter 6: TESTING PROGRAMS

6.0 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.

6.1 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 more information about DLPT testing visit: https://www.dliflc.edu/resources/dlpt-guides/

References

- AR 611-5, Army Personnel Selection and Classification Testing, 9 December 2015
- AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System, 6 September 2009
- AR 11-6, Army Foreign Language Program, 18 February 2016
- AR 350-20, Management of the Defense Language Program, 12 March 2018
- APT Handbook, 25 July 2019

How Do I Qualify? (Eligibility Criteria)

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

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). All ETPs for National Guard Soldiers *MUST* be processed through your State's Test Control Officer (TCO) and submitted through NGB. There are no exceptions to this rule. HQ ACCESS ARMYU will reject your ETP if submitted incorrectly.
    - 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?

- Should read The Unit Commander approves and signs the DA4187. (Readiness NCO and Unit Admin can only sign if DA4187 is accompanied by a Memo of Signature Authority in the Absence of the Commander).
- 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 through GKO.

6.2 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 can 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 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 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.
- GED, ACT, SAT, GRE, GMAT, and Praxis are available for reimbursement. https://daims.doded.mil/Reimbursements/ReimbursementRegistration.aspx

- 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/

6.3 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: https://clep.collegeboard.org/
- Prometric/DSST: www.getcollegecredit.com

Additional free sites that may also help 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.

6.3.1 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.

6.3.2 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 re-test on a self-paid basis after the 90-calendar day waiting period has elapsed.

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

- Scores for all DANTES-funded DSST exams taken by ARNG 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

6.4 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?"

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

6.4.1 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.

ACT National or International Test Centers:

- Up to two ACT exams are funded per lifetime of service for eligible Service members.
- Service members are responsible for scheduling the test, adhering to the published National and International Test Dates Calendar, and paying the test fee at time of registration.
- Commercially administered ACT exam fees are funded on an "after-the-fact" reimbursement basis. The official score report and payment receipt are required for reimbursement.
- All exam reimbursement requests must be submitted within 90 days of exam completion via the Electronic Reimbursement Request. Paper-based forms are not accepted.
- Learn more about current ACT fees and services at: http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration/fees.html

Scoring and Reporting

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

6.4.2 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 many colleges/universities use the SAT to make admission decisions.

SAT National or International Test Centers:

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

Scoring and Reporting

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

- SAT does not offer expedited scoring.
- Students may view and print their student score report online by establishing a free SAT web account.
- Visit https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/scores for information about receiving and sending scores.

6.5 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.

GED Funding Eligibility

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

Adult Basic Education

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

6.6 Graduate Admissions Exams

Meet Graduate Admission and Military-Specific Program Requirements. Whether planning to go to graduate school, business school - or just exploring your education options show the schools that you are applying to that you have the skills necessary for graduate or business school.

6.6.1 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

GMAT Funding Eligibility

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

6.6.2 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 https://www.ets.org/gre/

GRE Funding Eligibility

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

- Go to the DANTES web site to request reimbursement within 90 days of exam date http://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/funding-and-reimbursement-eligibility/reimbursement-eligibility.html

6.7 Teaching Prep & Certification Exam (PRAXIS®)

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

Praxis®

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

Reimbursement Eligibility

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

6.8 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.

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.

Where to Take the LSAT

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 a National Test Center.

6.9 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 re-taken 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 DVA 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 $2,042.06 reimbursed (for Academic Year 2019-2020)
- 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)

Chapter 7: EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMS

7.0 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.

7.1 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 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.

7.2 Tools to Help Make Your Educational Decisions

7.2.1 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 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
- 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 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

7.2.2 TA DECIDE

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

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

- One of the greatest benefits of using TA DECIDE is that all the schools included in this tool have been vetted by the DoD. More than that, all the schools signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) conveying the commitments and agreements between the educational institution and DoD prior to receiving funds from a service's TA program. The TA DECIDE engine is fueled by more than 10 recognized and trusted data sources from across the departments of Defense, Education, and Veterans Affairs.
- There are thousands of schools included in TA DECIDE, and all are eligible for military tuition assistance. You can use TA DECIDE on your own or utilize it while working with an educational counselor. It's an additional resource that can help you start a conversation or launch right into your own search. See more at: www.dodmou.com/TADECIDE/

7.2.3 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/

7.2.4 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/

7.2.5 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/

7.2.6 CollegeRecon

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

7.2.7 GI Bill Comparison Tool

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

7.2.8 Kuder Journey

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

7.2.9 Coalition for College

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

7.2.10 Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH)

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

7.2.11 O*NET OnLine

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

7.2.12 HERC and DegreeQuest®

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

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

7.3 Tools to Help While You Are in School

7.3.1 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 must 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 (Must be on CAC enabled computer to access).

7.3.2 Khan Academy

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

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

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

7.3.4 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

7.3.5 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

7.3.6 Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

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

7.3.7 Modern States Education Alliance (MSEA)

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

7.4 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

- 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
  - Cramming Techniques for Exams: www.testtakingtips.com/cramming/index.htm
  - Reducing Test Taking Anxiety: www.testtakingtips.com/anxiety/index.htm
  - Study Skills Help & Study Tips: www.testtakingtips.com/study/index.htm
  - Test Preparation Tips: www.testtakingtips.com/test/genpre.htm

7.5 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

7.6 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 1,300 officially recognized occupations. Key RA industries include aerospace, biotechnology, construction, energy, geospatial, health care, information and communications technology, advanced manufacturing, and transportation and logistics.

To identify current apprenticeship vacancies available at over 16,000 employers nationwide visit https://www.apprenticeship.gov/apprenticeship-finder. Current vacancies can also be found at https://www.glassdoor.com. To identify RA programs approved for the use of GI Bill benefits, visit http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do. Select “On-the-Job Training/Apprenticeship” from the “Program Type” dropdown menu, enter a job title or the word “apprentice” and then click your preferred state. Enter “apprenticeship in the website’s search bar under the jobs tab. Industry and career research, and MOS-matching, can be conducted at www.mynextmove.org/vets/

7.7 Onward to Opportunity (O2O)

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

What do I get?

- Career Training and access to online learning pathways
- Direct connections to 850+ national employer partners through Hire Heroes USA
- Networking opportunities and connections

- One FREE industry certification exam
- FREE resume assistance, interviewing technique training and matching to employers in your industry
- Non-credit certificate of completion from the IVMF at Syracuse University upon course completion.
- IVMF Alumni Services Support
- O2O & Google.org are working together. If you're a military spouse that's interested, you can apply now and start your journey to gaining employment no matter where the military moves you next.

How do I apply?

- Start the application process at https://ivmf.syr.acuse.edu/onward-to-opportunity/

7.8 The College Financing Plan

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

Chapter 8: ARNG EDUCATION INCENTIVES

8.0 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).

8.1 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 in an authorized duty position, or authorized duty position on the substitution list.
- HPLRP contractual obligation depends on AOC.

May Qualify For:

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

How Do I Apply?

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

8.2 ARNG Chaplain Loan Repayment Program (CLRP)

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

How Do I Qualify?

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

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

May Qualify For:

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

How Do I Apply?

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

8.3 ARNG Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)

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

How Do I Qualify?

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

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- The annual payment is inclusive of interest if the combined principal and interest payment does not exceed the maximum amount authorized by DoDI.
- 50K is a lifetime max and eligible Soldiers may extend/continue existing agreement IOT reach full entitlement
- Enlisted Soldiers receiving SLRP will remain eligible while attending OCS or WOCS or after contracting into the ROTC/ SMP programs as a non-scholarship participant.
- Soldiers may also remain eligible upon commissioning or appointment, subject to the original terms and conditions within their incentive agreement.
- ARNG Recruiters/Reserve Component Career Counselors (RCCC)/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 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.*

Commented [CTLMNNA5]: Attributing USAR/ARNG transfers as PS. PS requires a 365 day break in service?

Commented [ELWCUUNA6]: Duplicate Info Noted above

What Do I Get?

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

How Do I Apply?

- The Applicant/Soldier must provide the Recruiter, RCCC or RNCO copies of the National Student Loan Data System Summary Aid and Detailed Loan Information Sheet(s) or copies of promissory note(s) and disbursement sheet(s) for any Title IV loan(s) not listed on the NSLDS documentation.
- These documents must be dated within 30-days of the SLRP Pre-Approval request.
- Once the Recruiter, RCCC or Unit Readiness NCO has submitted the SLRP Pre-Approval and it is approved by the State 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.

8.4 ARNG 09S SLRP

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

How Do I Qualify?

- Must possess one or more qualifying and disbursed Title IV Federal loans (not currently in default).
- PLUS loans are eligible for repayment if the Soldier is the borrower and the loans(s) are in the Soldier's name; State and private loans are not eligible.
- Soldiers may sign for a SLRP incentive without current Title IV qualifying student loans, which may be added later. However, all loans must be one year old on the anniversary date qualifying for payment.
- Must enlist for a minimum period of 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 or a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Must not be enlisting into the RFP, ROTC or have or will receive a GRFD scholarship.

- Must not have previously received SLRP.
- Must have a GIMS SLRP Pre-Approval application approved by the State Incentive Mgr.
- The max annual payment is 15% of the eligible principle(s) or $500, whichever is greater
- Payments are capped at $7,500.00 annually.
- The current year's annual payment will include interest if the combined principal and interest payment does not exceed the maximum amount authorized by law.
- Must complete BOLC within 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 9: COMMISSIONING PROGRAMS

9.0 Overview

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

9.1 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 to serve in enlisted status.*

9.2 ROTC Scholarships

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

How Do I Qualify?

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

What Do I Get?

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

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

9.3 Early Commissioning Program (ECP)

Overview. The ECP allows graduates of a military junior college to become commissioned officers in the armed forces reserves in two years, instead of the usual four. Once commissioned, the Officer is required to complete a bachelor's degree per ARNG contract entry requirements

(normally this is a three-year contract). The program is a financial incentive for students to commission early and serve as Officers while attending college and earning time for promotions and retirement.

What Do I Get?

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

Note: Consult your 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

9.4 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 Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship or a Two- or Three-Year Dedicated Army National Guard (DED-ARNG) Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship. Scholarships in ROTC programs pay for full tuition and fees or a room and board option. The scholarship also covers a flat rate for textbooks, classroom supplies, and equipment. Graduates (except Dedicated ARNG scholarship recipients who must serve in the ARNG) 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 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).

9.5 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.

9.6 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.

9.7 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.

9.8 Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS)

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

9.9 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.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ★

APPENDIX A

State Tuition Assistance Programs

STATE	AMOUNT or CREDITS AUTHORIZED	SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED (Public, Private, Both)
AK	Up to 12 Credits per Semester at a State University after the FTA limit has been reached.	Public Only
AL	Up to $5,406/ semester	Both
AR	100% Tuition.	Public Only
AZ	$250 per semester hour not to exceed $4,000 per State Fiscal year (1 July to 30 June)	Both
CA	Depending on type of school, the maximum 9-month award amount for an undergraduate is $12,240.	Both
CO	Up to $475 per credit hour. Up to $4,250 paid per semester/trimester/quarter. Cap of 132 semester hours or 8 calendar years whichever is reached first.	Both
CT	100% Tuition.	Public Only
DC	Up to $10,000/ year for tuition (less $4,000 if eligible for GAE) and $500/ year for fees.	Both
DE	Up to the in-state tuition rate 100%.	Both
FL	Funds 100% Undergraduate programs; 50% Graduate programs, as well as vocational/technical, industry certification, and continuing education credits from accredited institutions physically located in Florida, subject to availability of funds. Additionally, supports successful completion of authorized professional license and industry certification exams. Pays highest In-State tuition rates for both Public and Private schools. Subject to availability of funding, EDD may also reimburse approved book and instructional material costs.	Both
GA	100% tuition at state schools (or up to $2,174/sem. at other approved schools) for undergrad; also helps pay (but not 100%) for grad (Master's, Doctorate). Scholarship up to $2,000/year for 4 years.	Both
GU	N/A	N/A
HI	50% for tuition at university, 100% for community college/semester.	Public Only
IA	Award amount is based on the current budget and will not exceed awardee's actual tuition. Will not exceed 100% or be less than 50% of the State Regent's current average tuition rate.	Both
ID	Up to $4,000 per state fiscal year.	Both
IL	100% tuition (max of 180 credit hours).	Public Only
IN	Up to 100% Tuition (15 SH) and certain fees after FTA is used.	Public Only
KS	100% tuition and required fees for 15 credit hours per semester. Capped at the highest public in-state rate.	Both
KY	KY Army and Air Guard eligible. Pays 100% tuition at any KY public college, some fees. All KYNG members receive in-state tuition at public colleges. Participating private schools eligible, paid up to average cost of 4-year public college (currently $4,932 per semester). Lifetime caps apply.	Both
LA	100% Tuition.	Public Only
MA	100% Tuition and academic fee free.	Public Only
MD	Up to 50% of Tuition and Fees for waiver and up to $750 or 50% of remaining balance after applying all other applicable benefits. For Reimbursement: Must attain a C or better and is limited to E4 and below pursuing first degree.	Both
ME	100% Tuition Only	Both
MI	$600 per SH, up to $6000/year.	Both
MN	Up to 100% of tuition based on the University of MN undergrad SEM rate or 50% of graduate SEM rate. 144 lifetime credit limit. Pays only tuition, no fees.	Both
MO	Rate will always be the University of Missouri (MU) rate.	Both

MS	$4,500 / Not to exceed $2,250 per semester.	Both
MT	$100 a credit/up to $1,200 a semester.	Public Only
NC	Varies each year. Academic 2019-20 rates: 100% tuition and fees at NC Community Colleges. 60% undergraduate tuition and fees, but at least 100% tuition, at UNC System School. (Graduate programs paid at undergraduate rate). $3,000 year at NC Private and Proprietary Schools. $3,000 year Flight Training (must have private pilot license). No credit hour maximums, No lifetime maximums.	Both (only those approved by the NC State Approving Agency)
ND	Capped at the highest state school rate for like amount of credits, lifetime limit of 130 undergraduate credits and 39 graduate credits.	Both (Private schools must agree to waive 25% of tuition)
NE	75% of tuition up to in-state rate,	Both
NH	Free Tuition while attending a NH State College or University, $4,000 or 16 Credits per fiscal year (OCT 1st-Sept 30th), New Hampshire National Guard Scholarship awarded annually and paid directly to school.	Public Only
NJ	100% tuition only, up to 16 credits per semester (undergraduate & graduate),	Public Only
NM	Up to but not to exceed 100%. 150 SH Credits or bachelor's degree; whichever comes first. No Masters or professional programs.	Public Only
NV	100% Tuition only.	Public Only
NY	100% of SUNY Tuition Rate.	Both
OH	100% for Ohio Public Institutions / Max for Private is average cost of public schools.	Both
OK	Up to 18 credits per semester, 100% Tuition only at public in-state schools.	Public Only
OR	100% in-state resident tuition only, no fees. Must be an Oregon public community college or university. Includes Associates and bachelor's degree only. Lifetime cap of up to 180 QH. Last dollar paid after Federal TA and State/Federal Grants are deducted. Starting Fall 2020, private non-profit college/university are included and certificate programs.	Public Only
PA	$3,858/semester plus a $239 technology fee for full time students (12 of more credits per semester) or $322 per credit not to exceed 11 credits per semester and a $20 technology fee per credit.	Both
PR	Up to 18 credits/year, up to $75/credit (Masters or PHD) up to $1,350/ Yr. or $50/ credit (Certificate or Bachelors) up to $900/yr. Studies to obtain a Medical Specialty, up to $1,000 per year (max 2 years). Veterans who have served on active duty for 180 days or more attend public schools for free and dependents are 50%.	Both
RI	5 Classes per semester.	Public Only
SC	Full-time receives $2,250 per semester, a maximum of $4,500 per academic year not to exceed $18,000 or 130 credit hours throughout the SM's lifetime. Funds may be used to cover the cost of attendance, but funds may not exceed the cost of attendance when applied with all other grants and assistance.	Both
SD	50% of tuition only at certain colleges; 83.5% of tuition at certain technical schools.	Public Only
TN	100% for 120 credit hours or equivalent/ 8 full semesters toward first bachelor's degree.	Both
TX	Maximum authorized: 12hr of tuition & mandatory fees NTE $4,500 per semester. Can be used up to 10 semesters.	Both
UT	Two Programs; Public school 100% waiver & Private/Public school tuition assistance up to $7k at $250/semester hour including fees. Soldiers may use FTA for tuition and STA for fees if in a verified STEM-C program. Subject to the availability of funds.	Both
VA	Annual stipend depends on funding available.	Both
VI	Not to exceed 32 semester hours.	Public Only
VT	Free tuition to any State School, or a scholarship in the amount of what Northern Vermont University charges for in-state students.	Both
WA	Reimbursement program that pays up to $12,000 depending on how many courses taken during the state FY.	Both
WI	Up to UW Madison rate ($4,636).	Both
WV	Up to $7,000/ year.	Both
WY	100% tuition and mandatory fees charged to all students. No lab fees, course fees, internet fees or books. Private schools and Air University Associate to Baccalaureate Cooperative (AU to ABC). $1,400/ semester full time.	Both

APPENDIX B: 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 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/
Affordable Colleges.com	https://www.affordablecolleges.com/re-sources/scholarships-for-military/
American Legion	https://www.legion.org/scholarships
AMVETS	https://amvets.org/scholarships
College Board	https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/
College Net	http://www.collegenet.com/elect/app/app
College Recon.com	https://collegerecon.com/military-scholar-ships-2019/
EANGUS	https://eangus.org/we-care-for-amer-ica/scholarship-information/
EStudent Loan	https://www.estudentloan.com/
Fast Web	http://www.fastweb.com/
Financial Aid Tips	http://www.financialaidtips.org/
Fisher House	https://www.militaryscholar.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/of-fers/nmfa-spouse-scholarship/
NGAUS	https://www.ngaus.org/membership/mem-ber-benefits/scholarships

Scholarships.com	https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/military-scholarships/
Smart Guide to Financial Aide	http://www.finaid.org/
Spouse Education & Career Opportunities	https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/
Student Scholarship Search	http://www.studentscholarshipsearch.com/
Student Veterans of America	
- Raytheon Patriot Scholarship	https://studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships?layout=edit&id=752
- Google-SVA Scholarship	https://studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships?layout=edit&id=733
U.S. Veterans Magazine	https://www.usveteransmagazine.com/list-of-military-scholarships-for-service-members-spouses-and-dependents/
Veterans of Foreign Wars	https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support
25 Great Scholarships for Members of the Military and Their Families	https://www.top10onlinecolleges.org/scholarships-for/members-of-the-military/

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 C: ACRONYMS

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