

FY16 Army National Guard EDUCATION BENEFITS HANDBOOK



NATIONAL GUARD 

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

Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES



1.0 Overview

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

1.1 Responsibilities

- **Education Services Branch, Army National Guard Bureau (ARNG-HRM-E)**
 - Develop ARNG unique priorities, policies, programs and procedures
 - Manage and deliver Army Continuing Education System (ACES) for the ARNG
 - Provide guidance for implementing ACES programs and services to the State ARNG Education Services Officer (ESO)
 - Issue procedures and processing guidance for Tuition Assistance (TA)
- **State Education Services Officer (ESO)**
 - Supervise implementation of NGB guidance for all education and incentives programs
 - Be knowledgeable in all education programs and resources available to ARNG Soldiers
 - Coordinate with the recruiting force on implementing the federal education programs
 - Act as liaison between Soldiers and NGB, United States Property & Fiscal Office (USP&FO), recruiting/retention personnel, units, and/or any other agency which may be involved with the education programs in the State
 - Be proficient in all systems relating to data entry of education/incentives programs. (SIDPERS, AFCOS, DMDC, iPERMS, and the Guard Incentive Management System [GIMS])
 - Develop, implement and monitor a quality assurance plan for the services and program provided by the Education Services Office
 - Provide counseling and testing services
 - Coordinate with units for unit education briefings

Chapter 2

GI BILL PROGRAMS



2.0 Overview

The 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 www.gibill.va.gov. The following are the most common GI Bill educational assistance programs available to ARNG Soldiers:

- Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)
- Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve Kicker Incentive (Kicker)
- Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607)
- Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (Chapter 30)
- Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)
- Yellow Ribbon Program
- Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) Program

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

Overview. Chapter 1606 is generally 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 Selected Reserve Soldiers, 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, 29 November 1999
- AR 135-7, ARNG and United States Army Reserve (USAR) Incentives Programs, 15 April 1996
- EIOM 15-004, The Army National Guard (ARNGN) Montgomery GI-Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) Chapter 1606 Policy, 23 March 2015
- DVA Website: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mqib_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
- 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 2015

Institutional Training		Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training	
Training Time	Monthly rate	Training Period	Monthly rate
Full time	\$368.00	First six months of training	\$276.00
3/4 time	\$275.00	Second six months of training	\$202.40
1/2 time	\$183.00	Remaining pursuit of training	\$128.80
Less than 1/2 time	\$92.00		

Correspondence and Flight - Entitlement charged at the rate of one month for each \$368.00 paid.
Cooperative - \$368.00
Correspondence Payments - 55% of the approved charges
Flight Payments - 60% of the approved charges

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

How Do I Apply?

- Go to www.gibill.va.gov and complete an online Application for Education Benefits (VA Form 22-1990). Take a printed copy of this application and coordinate with 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).
- The DVA Rep/SCO will complete an Enrollment Certification (VA Form 22-1999) and submit it, along with the DVA Form 22-1990 and a copy of your NOBE to the DVA Regional Processing Office (RPO) for processing.
 - Students receiving Chapter 30, 1606, and 1607 must verify their enrollment 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/index.do. The WAVE system permits students to perform a multitude of functions. For instance, students may:
 - 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 “phone in” (1-877-823-2378) 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.

Enlisted

- Enlisted Soldiers can obtain a copy of the NOBE by going to the State Education Services Office or by accessing it in iPERMS. The State GI Bill Manager will provide a copy of the NOBE to the Soldier and to the Soldier’s unit. NGB-HRM-E, Chief, Education Services Branch is the only authorized signature in the Commanding Officer or Designees signature block of the NOBE. After obtaining the NOBE, the Soldier submits a copy to the DVA Rep/SCO at their school.

Enlisted Non-Prior Service

- GIMS will automatically generate a NOBE for the State Education Services Office to distribute and/or load into iPERMS after the Soldier meets the three criteria.

Enlisted Prior Service

- Soldiers gaining eligibility for MGIB-SR in another RC may still be eligible for MGIB-SR when affiliating with the ARNG. Soldiers must work with their State GI Bill Manager and/or unit to ensure that eligibility criteria has been met and documented. Please refer to the ARNG MGIB-SR/Chapter 1606 guidance in effect at time of enlistment for a complete description of eligibility criteria.

Officers

- Officers must complete an Officer Service Agreement Selected Reserve Educational Assistance Program (DA Form 5447-R). Officer eligibility is established on the date the officer signs the DA Form 5447-R, Officer Service Agreement, if they have previously completed Initial Active Duty Training or Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC). If not, the Officer establishes eligibility on completion of BOLC. The Officer may obtain the NOBE by visiting the State Education Services Office or accessing it in iPERMS. After obtaining the NOBE, submit a copy to the VA Rep/SCO at the school.

Note: *Non-Prior Service applicants enlisting under the OCS and ROTC enlistment option will not be entitled to receive the benefit until the day following completion of BOLC. Officers 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 \$200 or \$350 education incentive used to encourage qualified Soldiers to enter into specific units or skills to meet and sustain ARNG readiness requirements. ARNG Soldiers may be eligible for a Kicker Incentive at various times in their career. There are Enlisted, Officer Candidate and Officer specific Kicker Incentives available with each category of Kicker – having specific criteria and rules for issue. A Soldier may only contract for a Kicker once in their career.

References

- Title 10 USC, Chapter 1606, Section 16131(i)
- Title 10 USC, Chapter 103, Section 2107
- Title 38 USC, Chapter 30, Section 3021-3023
- DoDI 1322.17, 15 January 2015
- NGR 600-7 SRIP, 12 August 2014
- ARNG-HRZ SRIP Policy #14-01, 2 June 2014
- ARNG-HRM-15-001 FY14 SRIP Policy Extension, 3 October 2014

How Do I Qualify?

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

- **\$200 Non-Prior Service (NPS):**
 - Enlist into the ARNG for a minimum of 6 years in a critical skill MOS vacancy
- **\$200 Prior Service (PS):**
 - E5 or below Prior Service Soldier
 - DMOSQ
 - Enlist into the ARNG for a minimum of 6 years in a critical skill MOS vacancy
- **\$200 Re-Enlistment (RE)**
 - E5 or below ARNG Soldier
 - DMOSQ
 - Enlist/extend between 365 and 91 days from their ETS for a minimum of 6 years
- **\$350 Supplemental (Bump-Up)**
 - Have previously contracted and established eligibility for a \$100 or \$200 MGIB-SR kicker
 - Be enrolled into a commissioning program
 - Complete the \$350 Supplemental MGIB-SR Kicker addendum before the date of commission
- **\$200 Officers Without a Degree (OWD)**
 - Within 90 days after commissioning:
 - Be a Second- or First Lieutenant who has not completed a bachelor's or higher degree at commissioning
 - Complete a 6 year Officer Service Agreement (OSA) (DA Form 5447-R)
- **\$350 Standard Officer Kicker (SOK)**
 - Within 90 days after commissioning:
 - Complete a 6 year OSA (DA Form 5447-R)
- **\$350 Officer Candidate School (OCS)**
 - Before date of commissioning:
 - Complete Phase I of OCS
 - Extend for a minimum of 6 years
- **\$350 Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC)**
 - Before date of commissioning:
 - Be placed on orders as a WOC
 - Extend for a minimum of 6 years
- **\$350 Direct Commission (DC)**
 - Within 90 days after commissioning:
 - Be a commissioned officer in the grade of O1-O3
 - Complete a 6 year OSA (DA Form 5447-R)

- **\$350 Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)**
 - Before date of commissioning:
 - Complete SMP agreement (NGB Form 594-1)
 - Complete ROTC Contract (DA Form 597)
 - Extend for a minimum of 6 years

Note: *Receiving a Dedicated Guard ROTC Scholarship (Title 10 USC 2107) will terminate a Soldier's MGB-SR (Ch 1606) basic benefit. Soldiers will not be able to contract nor receive payment for a MGIB-SR Kicker.*

What Do I Get?

A Soldier may receive a maximum of 36 months of benefits under the Kicker program. 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), MGIB-AD (Chapter 30), or Post-9/11 (Chapter 33) programs. When eligibility for the MGIB-SR/MGIB-AD benefit expires, so does eligibility for the Kicker.

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

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

Overview. Chapter 1607 is an educational program for active members of the SR and IRR called to active duty in support of a contingency operation or a national emergency declared by the President or Congress.

References

- Title 10 USC, Chapter 1607
- Title 10 USC, Chapter 103, Section 2107
- DODI 1322.30, REAP, 14 March 2014
- NGB-EDU-10-004 ARNG REAP Guidance, 22 December 2009
- DVA Website: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/reap.asp

How Do I Qualify?

- Mobilize for 90 consecutive days or more in support of a contingency operation under Title 10, Section 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12302, or 12304
- Perform full-time National Guard duty under 32 USC 502(f) between 11 September 2001 - 31 May 2002 for 90 consecutive days or more (Operation Noble Eagle)
- Serve in either of the first two categories above and be released before completing 90 consecutive days because of an injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty(not due to misconduct)

What Do I Get?

- The Chapter 1607 benefit pays a percentage of the Chapter 30 three-year rate based on the number of continuous service days on active duty.

Rates Effective 1 October 2015

Training Time	Consecutive service of 90 days but less than one year (40% level)	Consecutive service of 1 year + (60% level)	Consecutive service of 2 years + * (80% level)
Full time	\$715.60	\$1,073.40	\$1,431.20
3/4 time	\$536.70	\$805.05	\$1,073.40
1/2 time	\$357.80	\$536.70	\$715.60
Less than 1/2 time More than 1/4 time	**\$357.80	**\$536.70	**\$715.60
1/4 time or less	**\$178.90	**\$268.35	**\$357.80
Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training			
1st six months	\$536.70	\$805.05	\$1,073.40
2nd six months	\$393.58	\$590.37	\$787.16
Remaining training	\$250.46	\$375.69	\$500.92
Cooperative Training			
Monthly Rates	\$715.60	\$1,073.40	\$1,431.20
<p>* Or 36 or more cumulative months of service ** 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</p>			

Correspondence Training	
40% level	22% of the approved cost of course
60% level	33% of the approved cost of course
80% level	44% of the approved cost of course
Entitlement is charged based on the rate of one month for a benefit amount equal to the full-time institutional rate.	

Flight Training	
40% level	24% of the approved cost of course
60% level	36% of the approved cost of course
80% level	48% of the approved cost of course
Entitlement is charged based on the rate of one month for a benefit amount equal to the full-time institutional rate.	

- Chapter 1607 benefits are paid on a monthly basis directly to the Service member/Veteran
- Soldiers who separate or who are discharged from the SELRES after completing their military service obligation under honorable conditions may receive the REAP benefits for 10 years following their separation date
 - SELRES Soldiers who transfer, or are discharged to the IRR and who subsequently separate from the IRR are not eligible for the ten-year delimiting period
- Prior to 1 August 2011, Selective Reservists may be eligible for both Chapter 1607 and Chapter 33 after serving 90 consecutive days on active duty for a qualifying contingency operation
- A Soldier eligible for Chapter 1607 who is also eligible for the Chapter 1606 kicker may also receive payments for the Chapter 1606 kicker

2.4 REAP \$600 Buy-Up Program

Overview. Service Members eligible for Chapter 1607 may be able to participate in the “REAP Buy-up” program. This provision allows Service Members to contribute an additional amount of money to increase their monthly benefit payout. **Soldiers do not have to be on active duty in order to pay the additional money for the Buy-Up Program.** Soldiers must be members of the SELRES to contribute to the \$600 Buy-Up. The maximum \$600 additional contribution will increase the basic full-time Chapter 1607 benefit by \$150 per month, for a potential total of \$5,400 in additional benefits.

How Do I Qualify?

- Have current eligibility for REAP
- Contribute up to \$600
- Notify the DVA of your eligibility for the REAP Buy-Up program

What Do I Get?

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

How Do I Apply?

- Contact the Education Support Team at:
 - arng.esc.ch1607@mail.mil
- The Education Support Team will reply to applicant by email with enrollment instructions and required documentation to be completed

2.5 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 or AGR service for the first time after June 30, 1985, contributed \$1,200, and received an Honorable Discharge.

References

- Title 38 USC, Chapter 30
- DoDI 1322.16, 18 June 2002
- AR 135-7, ARNG and United States Army Reserve (USAR) Incentives Programs, 15 April 1996
- NGB-ARM # 07-11, 31 May 2007
- DVA website: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_ad.asp

How Do I Qualify?

- Service Members are eligible to enroll in the MGIB-AD if they:
 - Served on Title 10 Active Duty after 30 June 1985
 - Serve 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
- ARNG Soldiers who are eligible for the MGIB-AD (whether their 10-year delimiting date has expired or not) and who are federally mobilized on Title 10 Active Duty for 90 days or more and received an Honorable Discharge will have their 10-year delimiting date re-established so long as they have remaining benefit entitlement. To receive the additional delimiting time, Soldiers must make a request to the DVA and send a copy of their mobilization DD Form 214 to their DVA Regional Processing Office (RPO).

What Do I Get? Rates Effective 1 October 2015

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

Training Time	Monthly Rate (3+ yrs)	Monthly Rate (2 yrs)
Full time	\$1,789.00	\$1,454.00
3/4 time	\$1,341.75	\$1,090.50
1/2 time	\$894.50	\$727.00
Less than 1/2 time More than 1/4 time	**\$894.50	**\$727.00
1/4 time or less	**\$447.25	**\$363.50
Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training		
1st six months	\$1,341.75	\$1,090.50
2nd six months	\$983.95	\$799.70
Remaining training	\$626.15	\$508.90
Cooperative Training		
Monthly Rates	\$1,789.00	\$1,454.00
<small>** 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</small>		

- 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?

- Contact the GI Bill Support Team (GIBST) at arnq.esc.ch30@mail.mil
- The GIBST will reply to applicants via email with enrollment instructions.

2.6 Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty \$600 Plus-Up Program

Overview. This additional contribution option allows Service Members currently serving on a qualifying period of Active Duty to contribute an additional amount up to \$600.00. The maximum \$600.00 additional contribution will increase the basic full-time Chapter 30 benefit by \$150.00 per month for a total of \$5400.00 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 Service Members responsibility to notify the DVA of their eligibility for the Plus-Up program.

How Do I Qualify?

- Contribute up to \$600
- Notify the DVA of your eligibility for the Plus-Up program

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?

- Contact the GI Bill Support Team at: arnng.esc.ch30@mail.mil
- The GI Bill Support Team will reply to applicant by email with enrollment instructions and required documentation to be completed.

2.7 Post – 9/11 GI Bill

Chapter 33, Title 38 U.S. Code

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

References

- Title 38 USC, Chapter 33
- DoDI 1341.13, Post 9/11 GI Bill, 31 May 2013
- 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 672(d), 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12302 or 12304,
 - 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”.
 - Make an irrevocable election for Post-9/11 GI Bill. If the Service Member has eligibility for another GI Bill program, it must be relinquished when electing Post-9/11.

- Basic Training and AIT cannot be added to qualifying time unless the Soldier:
 - Completed IADT (Basic Training and/or AIT) on or after September 11, 2001; and
 - Completed 24 months of qualifying active duty time
- The following periods of service are NOT qualifying time for Post-9/11:
 - The four year ADSO after commissioning from a Title 10 U.S.C. 2107(b) (Dedicated Guard) ROTC scholarship
 - The five year ADSO after attendance at or commissioning from a Service academy
 - Service terminated due to defective enlistment agreement
 - The three year ADSO associated with accepting the Active Duty Student Loan Repayment Program (Title 10 Section 109)
 - Any service period with less than an Honorable Discharge
- Period of Eligibility. In general, an individual's 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. The 15-year period can be reset by completing a new period of qualifying duty and by submitting a VA form 21-4138 to the DVA

What Do I Get?

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

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

*Including Basic Training and AIT

- There are three benefit payments for the Post-9/11 GI Bill: Tuition and Fees, a Monthly Housing Allowance, and a Book and Supply Stipend. All three are pro-rated by the Service member's payment tier. The Monthly Housing Allowance and the Book and Supply stipend are further pro-rated by the Service member's rate of pursuit (number of credit hours).
 - Tuition and Fees
 - Up to 100% of in-state tuition if you are attending a public school
 - Max payment of \$21,084.89 per year for private or foreign school (effective August 1, 2015)
 - Monthly Housing Allowance: (MUST be attending more than half-time)
 - Equivalent to BAH of E-5 with dependents
 - Based on zip code of school
 - If attending only online classes: \$783.00 per month (effective August 1, 2015).
 - Subject to term start and end dates
 - AGR/Active Duty Soldiers are NOT eligible for the Housing Stipend
 - 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), and National Test reimbursements
 - Students at NCD institutions receive the same benefits as those attending traditional colleges and universities (see above)

- Correspondence
- Flight students will receive the actual net costs for tuition and fees, up to \$12,048.50 per academic year (effective August 1, 2015).
- Rates for Apprenticeship and OJT are based on the length of time the student is in training:

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

- For information on National Testing and Licensing and Certification tests, see Chapter 4 of this handbook.
- Students living in rural areas may qualify for a one-time, \$500 benefit if the student:
 - Resides in a county with fewer than 7 people per square mile; and,
 - Relocates at least 500 miles to attend school; or
 - Relocates any distance by air when no other land-based transportation exists.

How Do I Apply?

- Go to www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/ and complete a Veterans Online Application for Education Benefits (VA Form 22-1990).
- If you previously used GI Bill benefits complete VA Form 22-1995 instead of VA Form 22-1990
- The DVA will send a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE)
- Take a copy of the CoE to the DVA representative at the college (or your place of employment if you are in a job-training program)
- The VA representative will complete an Enrollment Certificate (VA Form 22-1999) and submit it, along with the VA Form 22-1990 to the regional VA office for processing

2.8 Yellow Ribbon Program

Overview. The Yellow Ribbon Program allows institutions of higher learning in the United States to enter voluntarily into an agreement with DVA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the annual tuition cap. Payment is made directly to the school on behalf of the student when the school's enrollment certification is processed.

References

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

How Do I Qualify?

- Only individuals eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill at the 100% benefit level or dependents using transferred entitlement are eligible for Yellow Ribbon funding
- See Section 2.7 for Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility criteria

The following are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program:

- Active Duty personnel
- Spouses of Active Duty personnel using Transferred Entitlement
- Fry Scholarship recipients

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 the student. The combined school and DVA contribution can't exceed the tuition and fee amount charged the student.

2.9 Transferability

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

References

- Title 38 USC, Chapter 33, Section 3319
- DoDI 1341.13, Post 9/11 GI Bill, 31 May 2013
- 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 served six or more years of qualifying service in the Armed Forces (Active Duty or Selected Reserve) at time of TEB request, and either:
 - Commit or extend as required 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); or
 - Currently have ten or more years of qualifying service and be precluded from committing to the four additional years of service due to a statutory release date (MRD or RCP), and agree to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed
- Currently have no adverse action flags, including for APFT or Height/Weight failure

What Do My Dependents Get? (Benefits/Rates)

- Dependent(s) receive the same tier payment as Soldier
- Spouse is subject to the same rules as the transferring Soldier
 - Spouse eligibility ends 15 years from your last day of qualifying time
 - Spouses of Soldiers on Active Duty/AGR are NOT eligible for the Housing Stipend
- Children:
 - Cannot use the benefit until you have 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.
- 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.

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 the current Army National Guard (ARNG) Post 9/11 GI Bill Transferability of Benefits (TEB) Program Policy for the most up to date guidance on the ARNG TEB Program.
- If you have questions about your eligibility for the TEB program, consult with your State or Territory Education Services Officer or GI Bill Manager.

2.10 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	CH 1607
ELIGIBILITY	Eligibility criteria are complex. 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 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 initial active duty for training. Must be active reservist with 6-year obligation.	90 days or more active duty support of contingency operation or full-time National Guard duty responding to National emergency.
BENEFITS FOR INSERVICE STUDENT	<i>Refer to the specific benefit for detailed information</i>			
	Eligible after completing 90 days of aggregate service.	Payable after 2 years continuous active duty.	Yes	Yes
ENTITLEMENT	36 months. May extend to end of term if expires during term. Kickers do not extend.	36 months. May extend to end of term if expires during term. Kickers do not extend.	36 months. No extensions. Kickers do not extend.	36 months. No extensions. Kickers do not extend.
	48 months maximum under two or more programs			
DELIMIT DATE	15 years from last Honorable discharge or separation.	10 years from last Honorable discharge or separation. May extend for later 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.	10 years from the separation date if separated after completing military service obligation and General or higher character of discharge 10 years from Chapter 1607 eligibility date if separated for disability.

2.11 General Application Process

To Obtain GI Bill and Kicker Benefits from the DVA:

- **Step 1: Apply via the VONAPP**
 - Go to www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/ and click on “Apply for Benefits”. Click on “Launch VONAPP and Apply for Benefits”. Then click on “Apply for Veterans Benefits Online (VONAPP).” This will open the VONAPP application
 - Create an account by clicking “I am a new VONAPP user” and filling out the standard personal identifying information
 - Login to the VONAPP and fill out the VA Form 22-1990 (for Soldiers) or VA Form 22-1990e (for Dependents)
 - On the application, ensure you elect the GI Bill you are eligible for and want to use.
 - Upload supporting documents during the application

- Chapter 1606, (MGIB-SR), Submit the NOBE - available from the State GI Bill Manager or in iPERMS
 - Chapter 1607 (REAP), or Ch. 33 (Post 9/11) - Submit DD 214's for Qualifying Active Duty Periods or Orders for current Qualifying Active Duty Periods
 - Chapter 30 (MGIB-AD) - Submit DD 214 for Qualifying Active Duty periods and DD 2366
 - Plus-Up and/or Buy-Up - Submit DD form 2366-1
 - For GI Bill Kicker - Submit your Kicker contract
- **Step 2: Register for Classes and Track Application Progress**
 - Register for classes as soon as your school's registration period opens
 - Schedule an appointment with your school's DVA Rep/SCO who handles GI Bill Processing. This is a school employee; they do not work for the DVA. They typically work in the financial aid office
 - The school's DVA Rep/SCO will certify your enrollment using a VA form 1999 and the VA Once system. This informs the DVA how many hours you are taking, the cost of tuition & fees and reports your rate of pursuit (1/2 time, ¾ time, full time, based on academic discipline of degree program)
 - If a payment is due before you receive your Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) from the DVA, your DVA Rep/SCO may be able to place your school account on hold to wait for payment from DVA.
 - On average, the turnaround time from application to receipt of CoE is 6 to 8 weeks for first-time applicants.
 - You can call the DVA at (888) 442-4551 to check the status of an application.
 - When you receive your CoE from the DVA, submit a copy to your DVA Rep/SCO.
- **Step 3: Verifying Attendance**
 - EVERY MONTH while you are in school, you must verify with the DVA that you are still attending courses to receive your next monthly deposit. Monthly verification is not required when using the Post-9/11 GI Bill
 - You can do this in one of two ways: Call 1-877-823-2378, or go online at www.gibill.gov/wave/index.do and verify attendance through the Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE)
- **Step 4: Next Semester**
 - Do NOT resubmit the VONAPP unless you are changing schools or degree plans
 - If you have changed either of these, use the VA Form 22-1995 in VONAPP
 - As soon as registration for the next term opens, register for classes early and have the school submit the VA Form 1999 in VA Once
- **For more information:**
 - Visit www.benefits.va.gov/gibill
 - Veterans Affairs GI Bill General Information
Phone: 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)
Be advised this line only accepts calls from 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM Central Time
 - **Contact your ARNG State Education Office**
www.nationalguard.com/contacts/es0

Chapter 3

FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (FTA) PROGRAM



3.0 Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) Overview

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

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

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

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

References

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

How Do I Qualify?

- Enlisted Soldiers and Warrant Officers One (WO1) must serve in an active drilling status through the end date of the course unless involuntarily separated with an honorable discharge, or may otherwise face recoupment action.
- Commissioned Officers and Chief Warrant Officers (CW2 - CW5) serving in an M-day status must serve a four year Reserve Duty Service Obligation (RDSO). Soldiers serving in an AGR or ADOS status when their class begins must serve a two year Active Duty Service Obligation (ADSO) from the date of completion of the course in which they received GAE FTA per Title 10 USC 2007, otherwise recoupment will begin on a prorated basis.
- Officers and enlisted Soldiers must complete one year of service after graduation from AIT or BOLC prior to being eligible to use FTA.
- Officers and Enlisted who use FTA for any portion of their undergraduate degree must have completed 10 years of service prior to using FTA to pursue a master's degree.
- Must currently hold a minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.0 or higher, or graduate GPA of 3.0 or higher, for all prior FTA use.

What Am I Eligible For?

- 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.

How Do I Get Started?

- Go to www.goarmyed.com and locate the "Create/Activate GoArmyEd Account" and select "Student" icon.
- Once the student account is established, select the "Request TA" smartlink from the student homepage to establish your TA Eligible Role within GoArmyEd.
- An Army Education Counselor will review your TA Eligible role request and advise you of any follow-on actions required.
- If at any time when assistance is required, select the green "?" icon at the top of the GoArmyEd student 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 FTA Recoupment

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

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

3.2 Duplication of Education Benefits

Service Members (SMs) 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 have no impact on FTA programs and should not be a factor in determining FTA; subject to any State laws or directives. FTA may be used concurrently with State TA but, when combined, **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.
- 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.
- Applicants receiving ROTC scholarship funding under USC 2107 or USC 2107a **are not** entitled to FTA.

3.3 FTA Use with GI Bill

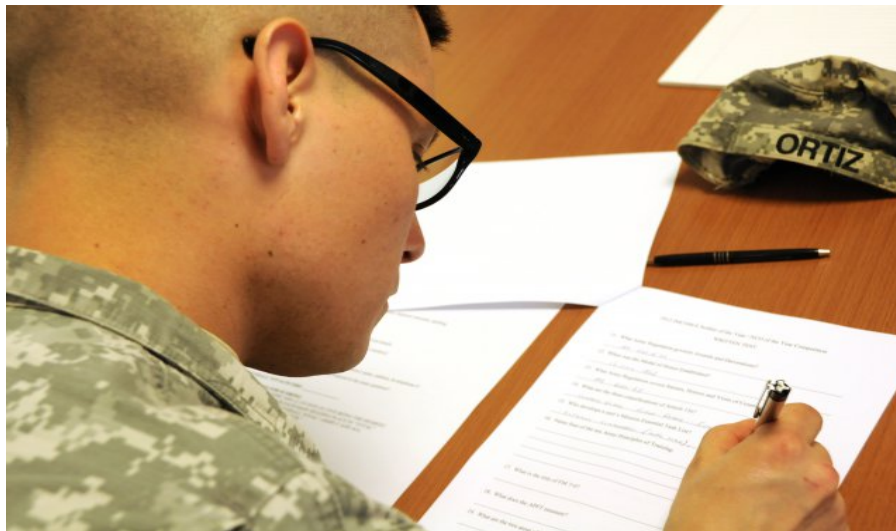
If a student receives education benefits from DVA and receives FTA benefits from the military, duplication of benefits may be an issue. The issue might involve DVA regulations, DoD regulations, military branch specific regulations, or all three since DVA, DoD, and the military branches all have regulations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

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

- **Chapter 33 Recipients.** Active duty, National Guard, and Reserve Service Members may receive Chapter 33 benefits for the same courses for which they receive FTA from the military. Depending on their mobilization time, National Guard and Reserve Service Members may have varying percentages of Chapter 33 benefits ranging from 40 to 100%. Schools must deduct FTA benefits from the net tuition and fees submitted to DVA, and Chapter 33 is used to pay toward the remaining out-of-pocket costs.
- **Chapter 30 Recipients.** Active duty Service Members and National Guard and Reserve AGRs may not receive standard Chapter 30 benefits for the same courses for which they receive FTA from the military (with the exception of Top-up). If a student takes several courses, the student cannot receive Chapter 30 benefits for the courses for which FTA is paid. The student may, however, receive Chapter 30 benefits up to the cost of tuition for courses for which FTA has not paid.
- **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 standard Chapter 30 benefits for the same courses for which they receive FTA from the military National Guard and Reserve.
- **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.

Chapter 4

TESTING PROGRAMS



4.0 Overview

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

4.1 Army Personnel Testing (APT) - Military Only

Army Personnel Tests affect Soldiers' career choices by determining eligibility for specialized training, and to support the Army's personnel selection and classification process including language proficiency testing. For the most current listing of APT tests, eligibility criteria and procedures go to;

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/APT%20Resources>

References

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

How Do I Qualify? (Eligibility Criteria)

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

What Do I Get?

Available APT Tests:

- **Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT)** - Soldiers who need to improve their original ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) score may be administered the online iCAT that replaces the paper-based Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT). Soldiers must not be given the AFCT any earlier than six months after the date of their MEPS ASVAB exam. The AFCT must be administered in its entirety. The AFCT can be administered a total of four times (initial test plus three retests) and no

earlier than 6 months between each retest. The first administration of the AFCT is considered the initial test; this does not include the initial enlistment ASVAB. Request for the first and second retests may be approved by the Soldier's immediate commander, but not earlier than six months after the previous test. An ETP approved by the APT Program Manager is required for the fourth test (third retest), or to retest within the six-month window. 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 should document the preparations the Soldier has taken to improve his or her scores. The AFCT may not be used as a practice test.

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

How Do I Apply?

- Soldier must initiate a DA Form 4187 Request for Personnel Action
- The Commander/Readiness NCO/Unit Administrator signs the request and the Soldier forwards the document to the ESO
- The ESO personnel verify that the Soldier is eligible for testing using record data from iPERMS, DA 2-1, TAPDB-G or GIMS and then forwards test request to the TCO to establish a test date

Please note that the ESO and TCO could be the same person

- The TCO coordinates a testing date, place and time with the Soldier
- Upon completion of testing, the TCO inputs test results into GoArmyEd, and provides the Soldier, the ESO, and the Unit Administrator a copy of the score for record update (the Unit Administrator sends a copy of the test score document to the MILPO for records maintenance and finance for pay update)
- Approval for re-testing is set forth in the applicable regulations
- Request for re-testing as an exception to policy will be forwarded through you're your state Education Services Officer to the Testing Program Manager at National Guard Bureau

4.2 DANTES Sponsored Examinations

Overview. ARNG Soldiers may benefit from free testing opportunities sponsored by the DANTES, and save valuable 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. ARNG credit-by-exam tests are administered in accordance with the DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH). This reference provides examples of all forms, briefly describes test content, and sets forth administration, re-test, and security procedures. Consult the State Education Office about costs for specific tests. Some tests may include an administrative fee not covered by DANTES. For detailed information on DANTES testing programs: www.dantes.doded.mil/

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. Service Members are able to take the computer-based CLEP exams at base-sponsored National Test Centers (NTC) 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
- **Assessment Test (ACT)** – assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work
- **Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT)** – a standardized test for college admissions. SAT can determine whether or not a person is ready for college.
- **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.
- **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 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.

Note: 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 Sponsored Testing

- DANTES sponsored exams can be funded up-front, reimbursed, or voucher based
- Military personnel with a valid Geneva Conventions Common Access Card (CAC) are eligible for DANTES-funded testing
- Personnel not Funded by DANTES
 - Discharged Veterans and military retirees: May be eligible for reimbursement from the Veterans Administration. Visit www.gibill.va.gov for information
 - Dependents (other than spouses) of Active Duty Military
 - Inactive Guard, Inactive Reserve, and Coast Guard Auxiliary
 - DoD Acquisition Workforce Personnel
 - Spouses of the Army National Guard Soldiers
 - For further information, go to: www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations/funding-and-reimbursement-eligibility/funding-eligibility.html#sthash.cfjUhe1e.dpuf
- Most tests sponsored by DANTES and offered through the ARNG Education Centers are at no cost for eligible military personnel. CLEP and DSST are offered free to the ARNG Soldier. DANTES authorizes up-front funding of the CLEP eCBT and DSST test fees for eligible military at National Test Centers. **DANTES does not fund the advanced, non-refundable registration fee charged by National Test Centers to reserve a date and time for testing.** The examinee is responsible for paying this fee. For current testing and registration fees, consult your ESO or TCO.

How Do I Apply?

- To take one of the tests listed above Soldiers should contact their local Education Services Office to determine if the test is administered within the Education Services Office or a National Test Center (NTC) and the test's funding process
- For the nearest NTC, visit: http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_clep/searchCLEPTestCenter.jsp or www.getcollegetest.com and follow the search criteria. An "Open" center agrees to test any examinee that pays the non-refundable advance registration fee. Those centers designated by an American flag are Military-Friendly test centers and actively promote testing services to members of the US Armed Forces. Military identification is required for DANTES-funded testing.
- National testing sites offer the following advantages:
 - May offer all CLEP and DSST test titles are available
 - Availability of year-round testing on the "English Composition with Essay" test
 - Instant scoring for all but the "English Composition with Essay" test

Note: Soldiers are recommended to contact the NTC directly, as procedures and scheduling varies at each NTC.

Check with your local State ESO to see which testing options are available in your State.

4.3 College Credit Through the Credit by Examination Programs

The college credit examinations, CLEP and DSST, are widely accepted by colleges and universities. By passing these examinations, you may earn one-third or more of the credits required for a college degree. These examinations are available in more than 70 subject areas and are similar to end-of-course tests offered by colleges and universities. These credit-by-exam programs allow students to earn college credit by testing knowledge gained through military classes, technical assignments or through personal reading, travel, and intellectual curiosity, without attending class.

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 CLEP and DSST program websites for exam information and test prep materials.

- The College Board/CLEP www.clep.collegeboard.org
- Prometric/DSST www.getcollegetcredit.com
- Pearson's DoD MWR Library <http://www.nelnetsolutions.com/dodlibrary/>
- Service members should visit their military Education Services Office or installation library for information regarding free and low-cost test preparation alternatives. Other resources may be available through local, used college textbook stores.

Test Prep Scams

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

4.3.1 College Level Examination Program (CLEP) Examinations

Funding Eligibility

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

CLEP National Test Centers

- Prior to testing, determine if the college or university you're enrolled in awards credit for CLEP exams, then select a CLEP National Test Center nearest you from the "Contact your Test Center" search
- On-Campus: test centers are colleges and universities that do not agree to waive the registration fee. Service members are responsible for paying the registration fee which is not funded or reimbursed by DANTES.
- Fully-Funded: test centers may be located on-base or on-campus and agree to waive the registration fee for DANTES-funded examinees. Administration and examination fees are paid by DANTES
- Non-refundable advance registration fees at sites not designated as Fully-Funded are not funded or reimbursed by DANTES. Service members self-fund the administration fee. Fees vary by institution.

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. Contact the College Board for assistance with the registration process through "Contact Us" on their website

Retest Policy

Effective 11 Dec 10, 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 www.clep.collegeboard.org/about/score for score receipt and reporting information.

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

4.3.2 DANTES Standardized Subject Test (DSST) Examinations

Funding Eligibility

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

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 at the selected DSST Test Center. Prior to testing, determine if the college or university you're enrolled in awards credit for DSST exams

DSST Testing Sites

- Select a National Test Center nearest you from the "Locate an Institution" search
- Fully-funded test centers may be located on-base or on-campus and agree to waive the registration fee for DANTES-funded examinees. Administration and examination fees are paid by DANTES
- Non-fully funded test centers may **NOT** agree to waive the registration fee. In these situations, Service members are responsible for paying the registration fee which is not funded or reimbursed by DANTES
- On-Campus test centers are colleges and universities that do not agree to waive the registration fee
- Service members are responsible for paying the registration fee which is not funded or reimbursed by DANTES
- Non-refundable advance registration fees at sites not designated as Fully-Funded are not funded or reimbursed by DANTES
 - Service members and eligible civilians self-fund the administration fee, which may vary by institution

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 at the selected DSST Test Center.

Retest Policy

Effective 11 Dec 10, DANTES only funds fees for the first attempt on all DSST titles.

Examinees may retest on a self-paid basis after the 90-calendar day waiting period has elapsed.

Scoring and Reporting

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

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

4.4 College Admission Examinations

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

Who Can Take an ACT or SAT Exam?

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

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

Preparation for Testing

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

- ACT www.actstudent.org
- The College Board/SAT www.sat.collegeboard.org

Funding Eligibility

- Service members are authorized (one) DANTEs-funded administration at a DANTEs Test Site, of either the ACT or SAT for a Service or education requirement
- DANTEs does not fund or reimburse ACT or SATs taken at National Test Centers

4.4.1 American College Test (ACT)

- Contact your local Education Services Office, DANTEs Test Site, to see if they administer the ACT.
 - Schedule an ACT administration with your state Education Services Office
- Do **NOT** register for an administration on the ACT website when planning to test at a DANTEs Test Site
- If your state Education Services Office is not support a DANTEs Test Site, email DANTEs at exams@navy.mil for assistance

Retest Policy

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

Scoring and Reporting

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

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

4.4.2 Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

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

Funding Eligibility

- Service members are authorized (one) DANTES-funded administration at a DANTES Test Site, of either the SAT (or ACT) for a Service or education requirement
- DANTES does **NOT** fund or reimburse SATs taken at National Test Centers

DANTES Test Sites

Contact your local DANTES Test Site to schedule an SAT administration.

- Do **NOT** register for an administration on the SAT website when planning to test at a DANTES Test Site
- If your Education Services Office does **NOT** support a DANTES Test Site, email DANTES at exams@navy.mil for assistance

Retest Policy

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

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

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

For example:

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

Scoring and Reporting

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

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

Preparation for Testing

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

- ACT www.actstudent.org
- The College Board/SAT www.sat.collegeboard.org

4.5 GED – High School Equivalency Test

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

What is the GED?

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

Who Can Take a GED?

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

Who are DANTES GED candidates?

ARNG Soldiers who have not completed high school.

Study Guides and Support Materials

The Official GED Practice Test is **NOT** required for military examinees. However, all test-takers are strongly encouraged to take the practice test and utilize the GED Testing Service test preparation resources, which are aligned to potential outcomes on the 2014 GED Test.

The GED Ready is the Official Practice Test to provide potential test-takers the best information about their readiness for taking the 2014 GED Test. The GED Ready is available in computer-based format, and can be purchased through the MyGED student account. You may also choose to work with local adult education programs to assist you preparing for the GED.

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

- www.gedtestingservice.com/testers/sample-questions
- www.gedtestingservice.com/educators/freepracticetest

- Visit GED Testing Service at GED.com to establish a MyGED student account
- MyGED is the test-takers tool for 2014 GED Test Center locations, test preparation, registration, scheduling, score reporting, and for career and college information after testing

GED Funding Eligibility

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

- ARNG examinees must, at the time of testing, present a current Geneva Conventions Common Access Card (CAC), and meet the following requirements:
 - Have not taken more than three tests per year, per content area
 - Must be minimum of 17 years of age and meet all other state minimum requirements
 - Applying to or enrolled in college or university requiring the GED test or
 - Fulfilling a legitimate Service requirement
 - Agree to contact your state Education Services Officer or DANTES Test Control Officer (TCO) learn more about the DANTES-funding options
 - Obtain a DANTES-Sponsored voucher code from the TCO **prior** to registering OR completing the GED Test
 - U.S. military family members, logistically supported U.S. citizens and their family members are **NOT** eligible for the DANTES-Sponsored voucher for the GED test fee.
Note: The “DANTES Reimbursement Request Form” may **NOT** be used in lieu of a voucher for reimbursement of GED test fees

Visit the GED Testing Service’s Test Center Locator page at www.pearsonvue.com/ged/locate and enter the address or zip code to locate the nearest test center.

Scheduling the GED Test

- Prior to registering for the GED Test, Service members should contact the Education Services Office’s DANTES TCO for assistance with obtaining a payment voucher code; to be redeemed for payment of computer-based GED **prior** to test administration.
- Visit GED Testing Service at **GED.com** to establish a MyGED student account. MyGED is the test-takers tool for 2014 GED Test Center locations, test preparation, registration, scheduling, score reporting, and for career and college information after testing.

Retest Policy

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

- DANTES will not fund retests for Service members with passing scores on file that meet minimum state requirements unless a legitimate Service requirement exists.
- Contact the DANTES TCO for assistance or email exams@navy.mil

4.6 Graduate Admissions Exams

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

4.6.1 GMAT

- The GMAT is available computer based 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.
- DANTES reimburses the test fee for eligible military personnel, once per lifetime. Carefully review the rescheduling and cancellation sections in the “*GMAT Handbook*” as Service members are responsible for paying all fees charged for these services.

Funding Policy

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

Reimbursement Eligibility

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

Service member Reimbursement Responsibilities

- Download electronic reimbursement form from: <https://daims.doded.mil/Reimbursements/Reimbursement.aspx>
- Electronically complete the reimbursement request form and digitally sign it using your CAC ID

Reimbursement Method

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

Retest Policy

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

4.6.2 GRE

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

- DANTES reimburses the test fee only for eligible military personnel, once per lifetime. Carefully review the rescheduling and cancellation sections in the “*GRE Information and Registration Bulletin*” as Service members are responsible for paying all fees charged for these services.

Funding Policy

DANTES funds one administration of a GRE revised General Test, per lifetime for eligible military personnel.

Reimbursement Eligibility

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

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

Service member Reimbursement Responsibilities

- Download electronic reimbursement form from: <https://daims.doded.mil/Reimbursements/Reimbursement.aspx>
- Electronically complete the reimbursement request form and digitally sign it using your CAC ID

Reimbursement Method

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

Retest Policy

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

4.7 Teacher Certifications

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

Licensing and Certification Requirements

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

Who can Take a Teacher Certification Exam

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

- Service members should refer to *DANTES Funding Eligibility Requirements* in this guide to learn if they are eligible for reimbursement of the test fees by DANTES

Study Guides and Support Materials

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

4.7.1 Praxis®

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

- Obtain information regarding testing policies, fees, registration procedures and the nearest Praxis Test Center by visiting www.ets.org/praxis

- DANTES reimburses the test fee only for eligible military personnel, once per lifetime. Carefully review the rescheduling and cancellation sections in the “*The Praxis Series Information Bulletin*” as Service members are responsible for paying all fees charged for these services

Funding Policy

DANTES funds one administration per lifetime of the following exams:

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

Reimbursement Eligibility

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

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

Service member Reimbursement Responsibilities

- Download electronic reimbursement form from <https://daims.doded.mil/Reimbursements/ReimbursementRegistration.aspx>
- Electronically complete the reimbursement request form and digitally sign it using your CAC ID
- Payment receipt **must** be included

Reimbursement Method

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

Retest Policy

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

4.8 Law School Admission Test (LSAT) Exam

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

Admission to the Bar in the United States

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

Who can Take a LSAT Exam

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

Study Guides and Support Materials

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

Where to Take the LSAT

The LSAT exam is not funded or reimbursed by DANTES and may be taken at Published National Test Centers and DANTES Non-published Test Centers.

For exam, registration, test preparation information and test center locations, visit www.lsac.org. Candidates may take the LSAT on an unfunded (self-pay) basis at Published National Test Centers.

DANTES Non-published Test Centers

Service members may request designation of a DANTES Test Site as a Non-published Test Center when there are no Published National Test Centers within 100 miles of their location, and take the LSAT on a self-pay basis.

Overseas family members of U.S. military personnel, U.S. civilians employed by the U.S. government and their family members and retired U.S. military personnel and their family members may request designation of an overseas DANTES Test Site as a Non-published Test Center if there are no Published National Test Centers in their region.

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

Retest Policy

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

4.9 Using GI Bill for Testing, Licensure and Certifications

- **Effective August 1, 2009**. Chapter 33 students may be reimbursed for one licensing or certification test. The reimbursement cannot exceed \$2,000. The test must be approved for VA benefits.
- **Effective October 1, 2011**. Individuals may be reimbursed for multiple licensing and certification exams. One month of entitlement (rounded to the nearest whole month) will be charged for each \$1,460 paid. The test must be approved for DVA benefits. The amount equivalent to one month of entitlement will be adjusted each year based upon a COLA.
- Additional information on approved licensing and certification tests can be found on the Department of Veterans Affairs website: <http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchLCCriteria.do>

National Tests

- **Effective October 1, 2011**. Individuals may be reimbursed for multiple national tests (e.g. SAT, GRE, LSAT, etc.). One month of entitlement (rounded to the nearest whole month) will be charged for each \$1,460 paid. The test must be approved for DVA benefits. The amount equivalent to one month of entitlement will be adjusted each year based upon a COLA.
- Additional detailed information on approved national tests can be found on the Department of Veterans Affairs website: <http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchNE.do>

Additional information on Licensing, Certification and National Tests using the following education assistance programs: Chapters 30, 32, 33, 35, 1606, 1607

- The DVA can reimburse the cost of approved licensing and certification tests. Students are reimbursed the cost of the test, not to exceed the approved cost of the test or \$2,000. Benefits can be paid for tests that are not passed, for tests retaken if not passed, and for tests required to be recertified or to renew a license.
- Students must be eligible for benefits to receive test reimbursement. They must 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
- DVA students can be reimbursed the fee charged for national admission tests and national tests for college credit. Currently the only approved tests are:
 - SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)
 - LSAT (Law School Admission Test)
 - GRE (Graduate Record Exam)
 - GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test)
 - AP (Advanced Placement Exam)
 - CLEP (College-Level Examination Program)
 - ACT (American College Testing Program)
 - DAT (Dental Admissions Test)
 - MAT (Miller Analogies Test)
 - MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test)
 - OAT (Optometry Admissions Testing)
 - PCAT (Pharmacy College Admissions Test)
 - TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language)
 - DSST (DANTES Subject Standardized Tests)
 - ECE (Excelsior College Examinations)
 - TECEP (Thomas Edison College Examination Program)
- Complete detailed information and directions for applying for reimbursement can be found on the Department of Veterans Affairs website at: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/national_testing.asp.
- 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>.

Entitlement Charge

- Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, individuals are charged one month of entitlement for each \$1,759.08 reimbursed (for Academic Year 2015-2016) rounded to the nearest non-zero whole month. This amount is subject to an annual cost of living allowance.
- Under the other benefit programs, 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.

Chapter 5

EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMS



5.0 Overview

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

5.1 Joint Services Transcript (JST)

Did you know college credit can be awarded for your military training and work experience? The Joint Services Transcript (JST) contains a record of your military educational experiences, including those for which there are evaluated college credit recommendations. This document helps college registrars award college credit for learning experiences gained while in the military, provides a supplement to a Soldier's resume, and provides employers with a good understanding of the scope of responsibilities and skills acquired while serving in the military. The acceptance of American Council on Education (ACE) credit recommendations varies depending on an institution's policies, procedures, and degree requirements. To request a transcript visit the JST Web site at <https://jst.doded.mil/>

- What is the JST?
 - JST is the Joint Services Transcript that has replaced the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS) and the Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART). JST is an academically accepted document approved by ACE to validate a service member's military occupational experience and training along with the corresponding ACE college credit recommendations.
- Who is eligible for a JST?
 - All enlisted, officers and warrant officers, both active and veterans from all Army components, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy

- What benefit does JST provide you?
 - It provides a description of military schooling and work history in civilian language. It serves as a counseling tool for academic and career counselors in advising Service members and veterans. It serves as an aid in preparing resumes and explaining Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, National Guard and Navy work experience to civilian employers. It also saves time and money by awarding academic credits, which means **less tuition to pay and less time spent in the classroom.**
- How do you view and print your personal/unofficial transcript?
 - Once you have logged into the JST website, click on the link at the top that says "Transcripts". From there, you can view your transcript by using the "Transcript" link. This page also has links that allow you to view your transcript. The transcript contains sections for Military Course Completions, Military Experience and College Level Test Scores. You can print or save the transcript for your records.
- What do you have to do in order to have your official JST sent to a school? How much does it cost?
 - After you log on to the JST website you will click the "Transcript" link at the top of the page and then on the "Transcripts menu" you will click the "Official Transcript Request. On the next page, search for the school and select the institution from the list. Select the correct institution (verify spelling and location are correct) in the resulting search results. On the next page, acknowledge the consent statement and click "Yes".
- Do all colleges/universities accept the recommend credit listed on JST?
 - It is up to each institution to decide what ACE credit recommendations can be accepted, modified, or rejected. Whether an academic institution accepts the credit recommendations depends on its policies and procedures for transfer credit, your program of study, and your degree requirements.
- Is there a limit to the number of official transcripts you can have sent out?
 - Delivery method (indicated on screen when you order) determines how many transcripts can be ordered/sent out. If the delivery method is electronic then there is no limit. Army and National Guard can only order to institutes that have electronic delivery.
 - If the delivery method is US Postal Service (USPS) then only 2 transcripts can be ordered within a 30 day period due to the cost associated with generating and mailing.
- How far back does the data on JST go?
 - The data can go back as far as 1976 but data older than 1994 may be missing or incomplete. We can include training on your transcript that was taken prior to 1976. The older the data, the greater the chance something could be missing.

5.2 Tools to Aid You in Your Education Decisions

5.2.1 VIA

- What does VIA stand for?
 - The name VIA is not an abbreviation. It is the Latin word for "pathway" or "road" which reflects the belief that by requiring Soldiers to consider the connection between their career and degree goals prior to using TA they will be more likely to stay with a degree plan and follow a selected pathway instead of frequently changing schools and degrees.
- What is VIA?
 - VIA is a decision support tool that helps you:
 - Identify your long term **career goal**
 - choose a **degree plan** that prepares you for your career goal
 - Select a "best fit" and "best value" **school** offering the your preferred degree plan
 - Fit will be based on factors such as alignment with your location, learningmodality 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 TAA account or Soldiers requesting to change their existing school or degree plan
- There are existing Web-based tools such as O*NET (Career Planning), College Navigator (School Research), and other career and degree planning tools that enable consumers to research careers and/or schools, so **what makes VIA unique?**
 - VIA is integrated with GoArmyEd so Soldiers can be required to use VIA before using TA benefits to ensure they have made better informed decisions about their future. The Army cannot enforce usage of other available tools.
 - VIA uses data from GoArmyEd about Soldiers and schools to further personalize recommendations.
 - VIA guides Soldiers through a complete decision process, linking career goals to degree goals and to personalized school recommendations. Many existing tools only guide users through parts of the decision process.
 - VIA provides the Army greater confidence about the Army's return on investment for TA benefits through robust reporting.
- Benefits of VIA you
 - Personalized data used to help you visualize impacts of your career and education choices on future salary potential
 - The VIA Menu will guide you through the process and tracks your progress
 - The "VIA Guide" provides you personalized instructions and tips.
 - VIA contains short videos designed to provide you additional tips to guide you through the tool.
 - VIA recommends civilian career paths, enables you to conduct your own searches, and compare options.
 - VIA also recommends degrees that align with your career goal and best fit/best value schools offering the selected degree.
 - You will be able to review your selections and view personalized success tips prior to submitting your career, degree, and school choices for Education Counselor review

5.2.2 TA DECIDE

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

- TA DECIDE works for everyone, whether pursuing education full or part-time. By entering personal parameters such as preferred degree level, program area and residential area, TA DECIDE provides vital information. This information includes number of Service members using DoD tuition assistance, annual tuition costs, graduation rates, comparisons of schools and programs, and much more.
- One of the greatest benefits of using TA DECIDE is that all of the schools included in this tool have been vetted by the DoD. More than that, all of the schools signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) conveying the commitments and agreements between the educational institution and DoD prior to receiving funds from a service's TA program. The TA DECIDE engine is fueled by more than 10 recognized and trusted data sources from across the departments of Defense, Education, and Veterans Affairs.
- There are thousands of schools included in TA DECIDE, and all are eligible for military tuition assistance. You can use TA DECIDE on your own or utilize it while working with an educational counselor. It's an additional resource that can help you start a conversation, or launch right into your own search. To start your search, visit the website. - See more at: www.dodmou.com/TADECIDE/

5.2.3 College Navigator

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

5.2.4 GI Bill Comparison Tool.

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

5.2.5 Kuder Journey

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

5.2.6 Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH)

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

5.2.7 O*NET OnLine

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

5.3 Tools to Aid You While You Are in School

5.3.1 Army e-Learning

At no out-of-pocket cost, all members of the National Guard, Department of the Army civilian employees, and USMA and ROTC cadets are authorized to access over 5000 Information Technology, Business Skills, and Interpersonal Skills courses from any location, around the clock (24/7). All you have to do to use Army e-Learning is get an AKO account and complete your registration through ATRRS (you do NOT need an ATRRS Logon ID/Account to register). Browse the Army e-Learning Course Catalog to see the courses available to you. Go to <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/selfdevctr/sfcatalog.pdf> to access the Army e-Learning Course Catalog.

5.3.2 Khan Academy

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

5.3.3 The Online Academic Skills Course (OASC)

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

5.3.4 Tudor.com

Funded by the DoD MWR Library Program, Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, Army General Library Program, and Navy General Library Program. Tutor.com provides homework and study help from a professional tutor any time you need it. It is FREE for students in the National Guard Soldiers and their families. Expert tutors are online 24/7 and available to help in more than 16 subjects, including test prep, proofreading, Math, Science, English, and Social Studies. Tudor.com can be accessed at: www.military-tutor.com/home

5.3.5 Coursera

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

5.3.6 Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)

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

5.4 Aids to Being a Better Student

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

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

5.5 Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers (TTT) is a transition program that assists eligible military personnel in meeting the requirements necessary to become teachers in K-12 public, public charter, and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools serving low-income families. Implemented in 1994, this national program is overseen and funded by the Department of Defense and managed by the Department of the Navy 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 to 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 DAN TES website: www.dantes.doded.mil

5.6 Army e-Learning (Self Development Center)

The Self Development Center is an Army Computer Based Training (CBT) System that provides free access to more than 1,500 Information Technology, Business Skills, and Interpersonal Skills courses and personal mentoring. These courses may apply as college credit and may count for promotion points. Courses in application development, systems administration, business skills, and interpersonal skills are a good source for use in preparation of some certification exams. For further information and to enroll visit <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/selfdevctr/eLearningWelcome.aspx> and log onto Army eLearning.

5.7 Registered Apprenticeship and On-the-Job Training Programs

Employer-sponsored Registered Apprenticeship (RA) and On-the-Job training programs provide a unique opportunity to earn full-time wages, collect GI Bill benefits, and attain a nationally recognized credential in over 1,100 officially recognized occupations. Key RA industries include: aerospace, biotechnology, construction, energy, geospatial, health care, information and communications technology, advanced manufacturing, and transportation and logistics.

To identify RA programs sponsored by nearly 16,000 employers nationwide, visit www.dol.gov/apprenticeship/. To identify RA programs approved for the use of GI Bill benefits, visit <http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do>. Select "On-the-Job Training/Apprenticeship" from the "Program Type" dropdown menu, then search by either state or job title. Current vacancies can be found at www.glassdoor.com/Job/job-training-finder/index.htm. Industry and career research, and MOS-matching, can be conducted at www.mynextmove.org/vets/.

5.8 Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC)

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

- SOC member institutions are accredited, degree granting, and are listed in the Higher Education Directory. As members, they agree to: a reasonable transfer of credit to avoid excessive loss of previously earned credit and avoid course work duplication, recognize and use the *ACE Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services* in evaluating and awarding academic credit for military training and experience, award credit for at least one nationally-recognized testing program such as College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DSST, and limit academic residency requirements to

no more than 25% of the overall degree requirement, or 30% if the degree is **entirely** online.

- Each institutional member has designated an Institutional Representative, SOC Counselor, and DVA Counselor to assist Service Members with their educational requirements and answer their questions. These individuals are the Soldier's first line of contact for issues involving their education.
- SOC members welcome the added advantage of Soldier-students attending their institutions and are committed to enhancing the quality of their work through education. Soldiers with questions or concerns about SOC colleges and universities can call SOC's helpline at **1-800-368-5622** for assistance. For more information visit: www.soc.aascu.org

Chapter 6

ARNG EDUCATION INCENTIVES



6.0 Overview

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

6.1 ARNG Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP)

Overview. For Army Medical Department (AMEDD) officers on the critical war time shortage list who have qualifying student loans upon joining the ARNG or acquired during their time as a member in the Army National Guard for continued qualifying education, this program may pay up to \$240,000 while they are a member of the ARNG. Current Army National Guard 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, and:

- Must be on the critical wartime shortage list
- Must be assigned to an authorized TDA/MTOE unit
- Must be sitting in an authorized duty position, or authorized duty position on the substitution list
- Must possess outstanding educational loans toward the first qualifying degree towards the awarded area of concentration

What Do I Get?

- Medical Corps, Dental Corps: \$40,000 per year, with a \$240,000 lifetime cap.
- Physician Assistants and Behavioral Science Officers: \$25,000 per year, with a \$75,000 lifetime cap.

How Do I Apply?

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

6.2 ARNG Chaplain Loan Repayment Program (CLRP)

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

How Do I Qualify?

Individuals enrolled in the Chaplain Candidate Program are NOT eligible to participate in the ARNG CLRP. Be sure to reference current policy and inquire with your State's Incentives Manager for up to date details on this program. To be eligible, Chaplain must meet all the requirements for accessioning and commissioning 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 not coded excess "9993" in the Guard Incentive Management System (GIMS)
- Must be assigned to an authorized Unit Identification Code (UIC)
- Must not have been a two-time non-select for promotion
- Must possess outstanding educational loans secured on or after 1 October 1975; loans must have been applied towards a graduate education or professional qualifying degree courses resulting in a Masters of Divinity Degree or equivalent
 - State and private loans are not eligible
- Must possess a degree from an accredited theological seminary that is listed as a National Faith-Related Accrediting Organization in the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) or approved by the Armed Forces Chaplains Board
- Must have a GIMS CLRP Pre-Approval application approved by the State Incentive Manager
- Must sign a written agreement to serve not fewer than three years as a Chaplain in the ARNG

What Do I Get?

The maximum amount of the ARNG CLRP is up to \$80,000.00 (\$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?

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

6.3 ARNG Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)

Overview. The ARNG Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) is offered as an enlistment incentive for **Prior Service (PS) and Non-Prior Service (NPS) enlistees** and as a retention tool for current Guard Soldiers who have eligible student loans

How Do I Qualify?

- Must possess one or more qualifying and disbursed Title IV Federal loans that are not currently in default
 - Federal Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS loans) are eligible for repayment as long as the Soldier is the borrower and the loans(s) are in the Soldier's name
 - State and private loans are not eligible
- Disbursed loan(s) must have been disbursed prior to the date of affiliation, enlistment or reenlistment/extension
- Must be affiliating, enlisting or reenlisting/extending for a minimum period of 6-years in an active drilling status
- Loan(s) that are in default on the SLRP contract signature date are never eligible for repayment, regardless if default status is removed afterwards
- Must not be affiliating/enlisting as a Glossary Non-Prior Service (GNPS), 09R Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) Cadet, 09S Officer Candidate School (OCS) Candidate
- Must not be affiliating/enlisting into the Recruit Force Pool (RFP), Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program or have or will receive a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) scholarship
- Must not have previously received SLRP
- Must have a GIMS SLRP Pre-Approval application approved by the State Incentive Manager
- The maximum annual payment is 15 percent of the eligible principle(s) or \$500.00, whichever is greater
- Payments are capped at \$7,500.00 annually
- The annual payment will include interest as long as the combined principal and interest payment does not exceed the maximum amount authorized by law
- Entitlement is for the contracted period only
- Enlisted Soldiers receiving SLRP will remain eligible while attending OCS or WOCS or after contracting into the ROTC/ SMP programs

- Soldiers may also remain eligible upon commissioning or appointment, subject to the original restriction that their loan will be paid within the same period established in their original enlistment documents.

ARNG Recruiters/Reserve Component Career Counselors (RCCC)/Incentive Managers determine loan eligibility using NSLDS and/or applicable promissory notes/disbursement sheet(s) for enlistees who meet the following criteria:

- NPS & PS SLRP recipients must enlist/affiliate into a Critical Skill (CS) and UIC vacancy that matches the authorized skill level position within Tier Levels 1-6. Note: NPS must be in grade E-4 and below and PS must be in grade E-7 or below
- Must enlist/affiliate into a valid, authorized UIC vacancy as per current ARNG SRIP policy
- NPS applicant must have an Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) score of 50 or higher
- PS applicant must be Duty Military Occupational Specialty Qualified (DMOSQ) in the contracted SLRP MOS at time of enlistment/affiliation
- PS applicant must have less than 16-years' Time-in-Service (TIS) on contract start date
- PS Soldier affiliating off of AD must meet the Re-Entry and Separation Program Designator (SPD) codes
- 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 eligibility of **current members** determine loan eligibility using NSLDS and/or applicable promissory notes/disbursement sheet(s) who want to reenlist/extend for SLRP and meet the following criteria:

- Must be in Pay Grade E-7 or below
- Must be DMOSQ and assigned as the primary position holder not coded "9993" in GIMS
- Must reenlist/extend in an authorized UIC as per current ARNG SRIP policy
- Must have less than 13-years TIS at time of current ETS date
- Must reenlist/extend within 365-91 days of his or her ETS date
- Must not be in an AGR or Full-Time Mil-Tech status on contract signature and start dates
- Must not be assigned in a Medical Management Agency (MMA) and coded "999M" in GIMS
- Must not be currently under any type of Suspension of Favorable Personnel Action (SFPA)
- Must not have declined to participate in the Deployment Extension Stabilization Pay (DESP) program
- 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

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

What Do I Get?

- The maximum amount 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 as per the current ARNG SRIP policy

How Do I Apply?

- The Applicant/Soldier must provide the Recruiter, RCCC or Unit Readiness NCO 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 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 (RE-QUEST)/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 an SLRP contract executed after 1 March 2009, must not complete a new SLRP addendum

6.4 ARNG 09S SLRP

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

How Do I Qualify?

- Must possess one or more qualifying and disbursed Title IV Federal loans that are not currently in default
- PLUS loans are eligible for repayment as long as the Soldier is the borrower and the loans(s) are in the Soldier's name; State and private loans are not eligible
- Disbursed loan(s) must have been disbursed prior to the date of enlistment
- 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 manually created 09S vacancy and receive a 09S SLRP override in REQUEST into an authorized UIC as per current SRIP policy
- 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 a minimum of 90 semester hours listed on official transcripts or have a bachelor's degree or higher

- Must not be enlisting into the RFP, ROTC program or have or will receive a GRFD scholarship
- Must not have previously received SLRP
- Must have a GIMS SLRP Pre-Approval application approved by the State Incentive Manager
- The maximum annual payment is 15 percent of the eligible principle(s) or \$500.00, whichever is greater
- Payments are capped at \$7,500.00 annually
- The annual payment will include interest as long as the combined principal and interest payment does not exceed the maximum amount authorized by law
- Must complete BOLC within 2-years from date of graduation from OCS
- Must be commissioned with 3-years from date of enlistment
- Is eligible to retain 09S SLRP upon being commissioned; Disbursements after the date of enlistment are not eligible for repayment
- 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 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?

- The Applicant/Soldier must provide his/her Recruiter copies of the 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 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
- Once the Applicant/Soldier is determined to meet the eligibility requirements to enlist as an 09S OCS candidate, the MEPS GC will print out the GCRC 09S SLRP addendum and sign it with the Applicant/Soldier
- The contract signature date on the 09S SLRP addendum establishes the 6-year service obligation period for all NPS/PS 09S SLRP Applicants/Soldiers

Chapter 7

COMMISSIONING PROGRAMS



7.0 Overview

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

7.1 Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)

Overview. Many colleges and universities have a Senior ROTC program as part of their curriculum. Army ROTC is a 2- to 4-year program in which there is no commitment for the first two years of classes. Prior to the third year, students will sign a service commitment (ROTC contract) and be formally enrolled in the "advanced" program. Thus, almost any student may enroll in the first levels (first two years) of the program. Veterans and current military members who are MOS-qualified may be eligible for an accelerated two-year ROTC program in lieu of the four-year program.

**The ARNG now offers a 4YR Dedicated Scholarship. 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 their respective component and will serve in enlisted status.*

7.2 ROTC Scholarships

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

How Do I Qualify?

- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must have and maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA
- Incoming freshman must have a minimum 19 ACT or 920 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 (not to exceed \$10,000 per year) at either Private or Public Universities
- Room & board payment is for on campus (pays actual cost, not to exceed \$10,000) or off-campus (pays the average R&B plan for the university, not to exceed \$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
- Cadets are also paid a monthly stipend for 10 months in the following amounts: \$300 for freshman year, \$350 for the sophomore year, \$450 for the junior year, and \$500 for the senior 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 \$290 per month, unless already in the ARNG and holds a rank higher than E-5.

For additional information and details, contact your local ROTC battalion or the Army National Guard Program Manager.

7.3 Early Commissioning Program (ECP)

Overview. The ECP allows graduates of one of the country's five military junior colleges to become commissioned officers in the armed forces reserves in two years, instead of the usual four. Once commissioned, the Officer is required to complete a Bachelor's degree per ARNG contract entry requirements (normally this is a three-year contract). The program is a major financial incentive for students to receive their commissions early and serve as Officers while still attending college and gaining service 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 in the Reserves or National Guard if enrolled in the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP)
- 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
- Uniform allowance and book allowance

(Consult your ESO for current rates and benefits)

Military Junior College Participants in the Early Commissioning Program:

- **Wentworth Military Academy**, Lexington, Missouri. Wentworth Military Academy and College, founded in 1880, is a Military Junior College and private four-year college preparatory high school in Lexington, Missouri. Wentworth is the oldest military school west of the Mississippi River, and the campus is on the National Register of Historic Places.
- **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 College**, Milledgeville, Georgia. Georgia Military College, founded in 1879, includes a liberal arts junior college, a high school, and a middle school.

7.4 Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP)

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

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

How Do I Qualify?

- Army National Guard Soldiers attending colleges sponsoring ROTC units are eligible to apply for scholarships under the SMP option
- Contracted advanced course cadets may participate in SMP

Basic course Cadets are now required to contract and SMP with a RC unit.

How Do I Apply?

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

7.5 Federal Officer Candidate School (Active Component)

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

How Do I Qualify?

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

7.6 State Officer Candidate School (OCS)

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

How Do I Qualify?

- In-Service Applicants must have successfully completed BCT and AIT
 - Soldiers enlisting under the OCS Option must successfully complete BCT
- Candidates must have a minimum of 90 semester hours from an accredited college or university annotated on an official transcript **prior to enrollment into the program, along with an approved plan for degree completion**
- Applicants with a 4-year degree must submit an official transcript (from the Institution's Registrar's Office through the State Education Office) confirming graduation
- Achieve a General Technical Aptitude Test (GT) score of 110 or higher on the ASVAB
- Commissioning must occur before 42 years of age (this is not waivable)
 - Soldiers enlisting under the OCS option must be under the age of 35 at the time of enlistment

- Candidates must sign an Officer Service Agreement
- Candidates must provide proof of citizenship (naturalized or by birth). US citizenship is required for commissioning
- For information on testing procedures, contact your State ESO
- For information on application procedures, contact your chain of command or local recruiter

7.7 Accelerated Officer Candidate School (OCS)

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

How Do I Qualify? (Eligibility Criteria)

- Candidates must complete 90 semester hours towards a Bachelor's degree on an official transcript, and provide a copy of their approved Bachelor's degree plan **prior to enrollment**
- Applicants with a 4-year degree must submit an official transcript (from the Institution's Registrar's Office through the State Education Office) confirming graduation
- Achieve a GT score of 110 or higher on the ASVAB
- Candidates must be no more than 41 years, 364 days of age at the time of commissioning; Minimum age requirement to enroll is 18
- In-service applicants must have successfully completed BCT and AIT
 - Soldiers enlisting under the OCS Option must successfully complete BCT
- Candidates must sign an Officer Service Agreement
- For information on testing procedures, contact your State ESO
- Candidates must be a US citizen to enroll
- For application information, contact your chain of command, or local recruiter

7.8 Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS)

Overview. The Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate School (RC-WOCS) is conducted at Fort Rucker, AL, over a four-week period and must be completed in order for the Soldier to be appointed. State Regional Training Institutes also offer a five-month WOCS program on IADT weekends.

How Do I Qualify? (Eligibility Criteria)

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

- US Citizenship (No Waivers)
- GT score of 110 or higher (No Waivers)
- High school graduate or have a GED (No Waivers)
- FINAL Secret or Top Secret Security Clearance - **Interim clearances will 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 (WOC) flight physical for Aviators

- All applicants must have 12 months remaining on their enlistment contract
- Age Requirements: For 153A, 33rd birthday or less prior to their packet being boarded. For all other WO MOS', 46th birthday or less prior to their packet being boarded

7.9 Direct Commission

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

Appendix A

STATE/TERRITORY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

State-funded education programs vary from state to state. To learn about the most current description of programs, consult your State ARNG Education Office.

STATE	CURRENTLY FUNDED? (Yes/No)	TYPE OF PROGRAM (Up Front, Waiver, Grant, Scholarship, Loan, Reimbursement)	SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED (Public, Private or Both) *Private schools must be based in the State	AMOUNT or CREDITS AUTHORIZED	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA/STIPULATIONS (All require being a member in good standing)	STATE RESIDENCY REQUIRED? (Yes/No)
AK	Yes	Up Front	Public Only	Up to 12 Credits per Semester	Applied after FTA limit has been reached.	No
AL	Yes	Up Front	Both	up to \$2,000/yr	AIT/Tech school completion. 10 year eligibility period once started. FAFSA completion required. Only instate rates apply.	No
AR	Yes	Up Front	Both	up to \$2,500/Semester	15 years or less TIS/No PT or HT/WT flagging actions/Must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0/Cannot exceed a 130 semester hours/8 semester limit.	No
AZ	No	Waiver	Both	100% Tuition for open seats only after registration has closed	After Federal Benefits have been exhausted and completion of IADT. This waiver is not currently funded and has been deferred until 2017.	No
CA	Yes	Grant	College Cal Grant eligible	Depending on type of school, the maximum 9-month award amount for an undergraduate is \$12,240.	2yrs minimum in the CA ARNG or SMR and remain active member, be California resident. Enroll in at least 3 units per term; maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0.	Yes
CO	Yes	Up Front	Colorado State Schools - Colorado State University-Global online school included and some vocational schools in CO. website- https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dmva/tuition-assistance-cong	Up to \$475 per credit hour. Up to \$4,250 paid per semester/trimester/quarter. Cap-132 semester hours or 8 calendar years whichever is reached first.	Title 10: Deployment, Call up only and Title 32: Traditional, AGR, Fed Tech, M-Day. 6 month service in CONG required (IST Transfers may get waived). Must be degree seeking. Pell Grant applied first. STA must be applied first. Any remaining tuition, up to 100%. In law that combined payments cannot exceed 100% of actual tuition costs. No fees paid. 2.0 cumulative grade point average required for continued eligibility. Air Guard eligible also.	No

CT	Yes	Waiver	Public Only	100% Tuition	Guard Members- member of the CTNG in good standing submit application thru their unit. Veterans- Honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces, 90 days active Military duty during war. Public Colleges and Universities require proof of service with a DD 214.	No
DC	Yes	Up Front	Both	Up to \$2,000/yr for tuition and \$500.00 for fees (\$6,000 for Air)	Must successfully complete course or suffer recoupment, maintain 2.0 GPA, No PT failure or Ht/Wt failure, must have NLT 1 yr remaining before ETS, Used only up to Master's.	No
DE	Yes	Reimbursement	Both	Up to the in-state tuition rate	6-yr obligation and must apply all other applicable benefits first	No
FL	Yes	Up Front. Limited reimbursement for previous two years.	Both	Up to 100% of tuition/fees/books for FL Public Schools. Private Schools-up to highest cost of public school tuition rate.	Can use in conjunction with FTA, MUST PASS, must provide official grades, FLARNG member in good standing.	YES
GA	Yes	Scholarship	Both (but from approved list of schools)	Up to \$2,000/yr for up to 4 yrs	Guardsman/Reservist (or the spouse/child of one) who is a combat veteran deployed o/a 1 Feb 2003.	Yes
GU	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
HI	Yes	Stipend	Public (Univ. of Hawaii or Community College)	Maximum of \$2,000 for university, \$1,000 for community college/semester	Must be a STEM Course and receive C or better.	Yes
IA	Yes	Grant	Both	Not less than 50% of Cost of Attendance not to exceed State Regents Average Tuition Rate	Complete IADT, Be an Iowa Resident, Attend an Iowa School.	No
ID	Yes	Reimbursement	Both	Up to \$2,500/Year	Available to active drilling, eligible, non-technician Idaho national guard students. Must achieve C or better. Must have 2 years.	No
IL	Yes	Grant	Public Only	100% tuition	Must have minimum of 1 yr service to use.	No
IN	Yes	Grant	Public Only	Up to 100% Tuition (15 SH) and certain fees	IN national guard member. IN State residency is not required.	No

KS	Yes	Waiver	Public Only	Each eligible individual may qualify for tuition and fee waiver only for a total of ten (10) semesters of undergraduate instruction or the equivalent thereof.	Dependents and spouse of deceased Military Personnel may be eligible for this tuition waiver if the following criteria are met: (1) the person was a Kansas resident; (2) the person was serving in active military service, which means active service in any armed service of the United States and any active state or federal service in the Kansas army or air national guard, at the time of his or her death; and (3) the person died on or after September 11, 2001, while, and as a result of serving in military service.	Yes
KY	Yes	Up Front	Both	Tuition only, up to 12 hours per term, at the in-state tuition rate.	Must have completed Basic Training or contracted SMP. Is applied before FTA and cannot exceed 100% of actual cost of tuition. School must be physically located within the state.	No
LA	Yes	Waiver	Public Only	100% tuition	LA residents	Yes
MA	Yes	Waiver	Public Only	100% tuition/fees	Must be in good standing with the Guard, No Suspension of Favorable Personnel Actions (Flag)	No
MD	Yes	Waiver/ Reimbursement	Certain Partner Schools	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.	No
ME	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MI	Yes	Reimbursement	Both (Must have campus or HQ in MI)	\$600 per SH Up to \$6,000/year	Required to use FTA if eligible/C or better UG B or better G, all ranks, no service obligation, up to Master's or first professional degree.	No
MN	Yes	Reimbursement	Both	up to 100% of tuition only based on the University of MN undergrad SEM rate or graduate SEM rate.	C grade or better for undergrad; B grade or better for graduate. In combination with FTA/CH33, cannot exceed 100% of actual tuition. *Membership is required in MN ARNG/MN ANG.	No
MO	Yes	Up Front	Both	\$276.20/SH up to 100% of in-State rate	Must maintain 2.5 GPA and must use FTA first and pays only tuition. Caps at 15 Credit hours for Fall and Spring, and 9 credit hours for Summer.	No

MS	Yes	Up Front	Public Only	\$4,500 / Not to exceed \$2,250 per semester	Undergraduate only. Must have completed Basic Training (BCT). LIMITED to Soldiers/Airmen in the MSNG who are NOT ELIGIBLE for Federal Tuition Assistance (Soldiers who have completed Basic Training, but have not served one (1) year of service past AIT / BOLC completion).	Yes
MT	Yes	Reimbursement	Public Only (and DVA certified programs)	\$100 a credit/up to \$1200 a semester	E1-E7, WO1-CW3, O1-O2, 6 year contract with National Guard (Army or Air), must have completed AIT, working on an undergraduate degree, and be attending a State School - paid only for passing credits.	No
NC	Yes	Reimbursement	Both (must be approved by the NC State Approving Agency)	Varies: amount set by the NC State Education Assistance Authority each fiscal year.	Making SAP at the school, active drilling member of NCNG prior to start of classes, have 2 years remaining on contract with the Guard at the end of the academic period for which tuition assistance is provided, based on availability of funds, first come, first serve basis.	No
ND	Yes	Up Front waiver of 25% tuition, capped at highest state school rate/Reimbursement capped at either 100% tuition or the highest state school rate.	Both (Private schools must agree to waive 25% of tuition)	Capped at the highest state school rate for like amount of credits, lifetime limit of 130 undergraduate credits and 39 graduate credits.	Must utilize FTA when not in conflict with GI Bill. C or better to receive reimbursement for undergraduate, B or better for graduate. Can be used for tuition and Fees. Combined cannot exceed 100% of actual costs. Subject to availability of funding. Must be a member in good standing. Is available to both ARNG and ANG. Must be able to complete course prior to ETS. Written into state statute. Up Front by state legislature. Is a reimbursement program, combined with a waiver program. Schools must be physically located in state. Available for public and private schools who agree to waive part of their tuition. Has a lifetime limit. Must obtain a minimum grade or better. Can be used to pay all tuition and fees during 1 year wait period for FTA.	No
NE	Yes	Reimbursement	Both	75% of Tuition up to in-state rate	Must exhaust FTA first. Enlisted personnel only, only to the Bachelor's level, Must agree to serve an additional 3 yr with NEARNG. Payment directly to school upon successful completion of course.	No

NH	Yes	Waiver	Public Only	Up to 100%	Must use all federal benefits first including available Post 9-11 GI Bill Benefits and exhaust all GoArmyEd benefits first.	No
NJ	Yes	Waiver	Public Only	100% tuition only, up to 16 credits per semester	Only covers tuition not fees. Must use all state and federal financial aid (FAFSA), including available Post 9-11 GI Bill Benefits, first. Soldier must be enrolled as undergraduate or graduate student in good academic standing with the public school they are attending.	No
NM	Yes	Up Front	Public Only	Up to but not to exceed 100% 150 SH Credits or Bachelors degree; whichever comes first. No Masters or professional programs.	In combination with other programs, cannot exceed 100% of actual costs.	No
NV	Yes	Waiver Fall/Spring Reimbursement Summer	Public Only	100% tuition only	Tuition only, no fees. 2.0 GPA at the end of the semester is required or the Soldier will owe the school the tuition cost.	No
NY	Yes	Up Front	Both	100% of SUNY Tuition Rate	Up to Bachelors (no certificates).	Yes
OH	Yes	Up Front	Both	100% for Ohio Public Institutions / Max for Private is avg cost of public schools	Up to Bachelors Degree Level / Tuition includes general and instructional fees.	No
OK	Yes	Waiver	Public Only	Up to 18 credits tuition only per semester	2.0 GPA. Up to Bachelors Degree only. Tuition only/ Associate or Bachelor degree program for in-state 2 or 4 year colleges only.	Yes
OR	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PA	Yes	Up Front	Both	\$3,410/semester	6-yr obligation to PANG and must apply all other applicable benefits first (FTA, GI Bill, etc). In combination with other programs, cannot exceed 100% of actual costs. Can be used for ALL costs associated with attending an institution of higher learning (tuition, fees, books, room and board, etc) but cannot exceed 100% of costs.	Yes
PR	Yes	Up Front	Both	Up to 18 credits/year, up to \$75/credit (Masters or PHD) up to \$1,350/yr or \$50/credit (Certificate or Bachelors)	Member of the PRNG contribute \$5.00 per month. Benefits applies to either Soldier or dependent (one at a time).	No

				up to \$900/yr. Studies to obtain a Medical Specialty, up to \$1,000 per year (max 2 years)		
RI	Yes	Waiver	Public Only	5 Classes per semester	Waiver program	No
SC	Yes	Up Front	Both	Up to \$9,000/yr (ANG only) ARNG Soldiers are capped at \$4,500.00 not to exceed \$18,000 total. State TA is applied after FTA.	In combination with other programs, cannot exceed 100% of actual costs.	No
SD	Yes	Up Front	Public Only	50% of tuition only	Available to SDNG members at completion of basic training. Soldier must be in good academic standing with the applicable school they are attending. Program covers 128 hour cap for BS and 32 hour cap for Masters.	No
TN	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TX	Yes	Reimbursement	Both	Public school: up to \$4,500 per semester in tuition & mandatory fees. Private school: \$173/per credit hr-undergraduate; \$200/per credit hr-graduate; \$100/per credit hr for fees both undergrad and graduate level.	Must complete Basic Training. Any enlisted Soldier-O5. FTA and GI Bill CH 33 payments are applied first. In combination with other programs, cannot exceed 100% of actual costs. 12 hrs limit per semester. Fall & Spring only. Transcripts must be submitted at the end of each semester to verify passing grades. Will not cover failed, dropped or incomplete classes. Subject to availability of funds; first come, first served.	No
UT	Yes	Up Front	Both	Up to \$5,000 yr	Used only if FTA is exhausted	No
VA	YES	Up Front	Public and non-profit Private Virginia Schools	\$2,500 for tuition and \$350 for books	Incur a 2-yr service obligation to VANG. When combined with FTA cannot exceed 100% of tuition. Residency not required only if: VA Guard Soldier is going to a Virginia supported school.	No
VI	Yes	Waiver	Univ of the Virgin Islands Only	Up to 32 credits lifetime	Cannot be combined with FTA. Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (CELL) program offers free tuition at the UVI for Veterans who entered the Armed Forces while residing in the Virgin Islands.	Yes
VT	Yes	Loan	Both	As needed	Interest-free loan	No
WA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

WI	Yes	Reimbursement	Both (and some reciprocity with MN)	Up to UW Madison rate (\$4,636)	Enlisted or warrant officer without a bachelors degree; payment only for out of pocket tuition cost (no fees). Cannot be flagged, must achieve a 2.0 GPA for the semester. Cannot exceed 8 full time semesters or equivalent. Must be a member of the WING on end date of course to be reimbursed.	<u>No</u>
WV	Yes	Up Front	Both	Up to \$7,000/yr	Application must be in 60 days before the start date of courses. Must maintain a 2.0 average. Must be pursuing a degree higher than one currently held. Must be attending an in State IHL.	No
WY	YES	Up Front	Both	State schools - 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 Co-operative (AU to ABC) \$1400/semester full time.	Agree to serve an additional 2 yrs in WYARNG and maintain 2.0 GPA. Cannot exceed 100% of actual cost when combined with other programs.	No

Appendix B

CONTACTS AND LINKS

Contacts

ARNG Education Support Center (ESC)

Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Box 46

North Little Rock, AR 72199-9600

Toll Free: 1-866-628-5999

Commercial: 501-212-4940

Fax: 501-212-4928

Email: arnq.esc@mail.mil

ARNG GI Bill Support Team (GIBST)

Camp Joseph T. Robinson

North Little Rock, AR 72199-9600

Toll Free: 1-866-628-5999

Email: arnq.esc.qibill@mail.mil

Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES)

6420 Saufley Field Road

Pensacola, FL 32509-5243

Commercial: 850-452-1111

Internet: <http://www.dantes.doded.mil/>

Service Members Opportunity Colleges

1307 New York Avenue, NW

5th Floor

Washington, DC 20005

Toll free: 1-800-368-5622

Commercial: 202-667-0079

Fax: 202-667-0622

Email: socmail@aascu.org

Internet: <http://www.soc.aascu.org/>

Links

The following related links are listed to provide reference information:

National Guard Education Programs	http://www.nationalguard.com/education
GoArmyEd	https://www.goarmyed.com/
Montgomery GI Bill	http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/
DVA Online Application for Benefits	https://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp
DoD Transferability GIBILL Web site	https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect
DANTES, Testing, Certification, Licensing	http://www.dantes.doded.mil
Free Study Materials	http://www.nelnetsolutions.com/dod/
National Test Centers	https://clep.collegeboard.org/search/test-centers
Certification and Licensures	https://www.cool.army.mil/index.htm
Free Military Transcripts	https://jst.doded.mil/
Verification of Military Exp and Trng (VMET)	http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/vmet/owa/vmet_web_display.showpage?p_PageID=FURTHER%20INFO
Registered Apprenticeship	http://www.doleta.gov/oa/
DoD MOU	http://www.dodmou.com/
Department of Education	http://www.ed.gov/
Department of Education Accreditation	http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/
Student Financial Assistance	http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/index.jsp
College Net	http://www.collegenet.com/elect/app/app
Fast Web	http://www.fastweb.com/
Financial Aide Tips	http://www.financialaidtips.org/
Smart Guide to Financial Aide	http://www.finaid.org/
EStudent Loan	https://www.estudentloan.com/
Student Scholarship Search	http://www.studentscholarshipsearch.com/
Adventures in Education	http://www.aie.org/
College Board	https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college?affiliateId=rdr&bannerId=paying

Appendix C

ACRONYMS

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

IVR	Interactive Voice Response
MEPS	Military Enlistment Processing Station
MEPS GC	MEPS Guidance Counselor
MGIB-AD	Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty
MGIB-SR	Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve
MILPO	Military Personnel Office
Mil-Tech	Military Technician
MMA	Medical Management Agency
MTOE	Modified Table Of Organization & Equipment
NGB	National Guard Bureau
NOBE	Notice of Basic Eligibility
NPS	Non-Prior Service
NSLDS	National Student Loan Data System
OAB	Officer Accession Bonus
OAFB	Officer Affiliation Bonus
OCS	Officer Candidate School
OSA	Officer Service Agreement
OWD	Officers Without a Degree
PLUS loans	Federal Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students
PMS	Professor of Military Science
PS	Prior Service
RA	Registered Apprenticeship
RCCC	Recruiters/Reserve Component Career Counselors
RC-WOCS	Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate School
RDSO	Reserve Duty Service Obligation
RE	Re-Enlistment
REAP	Reserve Educational Assistance Program
RFP	Recruit Force Pool
ROTC	Reserve Officer Training Corps
RPO	Regional Processing Office
SCO	School Certifying Official
SELRES	Select Reserve
SFPA	Suspension of Favorable Personnel Action
SIDPERS	Standard Installation/Division Personnel System
SLRP	Student Loan Repayment
SMILPO	State Military Personnel Officer
SMP	Simultaneous Membership Program
SOK	Standard Officer Kicker
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