

JAN 2025 • VOL. 2

MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATION NEWSLETTER



Don't think of the opportunities that you have missed in the last year. The New Year is an unwritten book, so choose your actions and words wisely and fill it up with pages that are worth reading by the

Happy
New
Year



FY25 FTA & CA Policy Changes

Effective 11 December 2024, the Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) and Credentialing Assistance (CA) programs will implement the following policy changes:

Federal Tuition Assistance Policy Changes:

Semester hours increased to 18 and up to \$4,500 per FY

The annual Semester Hour (SH) limit is increased from 16 to 18 for a maximum of \$4,500 per fiscal year. The \$250 SH cap still applies.

Career Path Decide (CPD) now required for First Time Users

In addition to completing ArmyIgnitED 101 training, Soldiers must also complete CPD prior to creating their education goal.

Credentialing Assistance Policy Changes:

Annual limit reduced to \$2,000 per FY

Soldiers are now limited to \$2,000 per fiscal year for CA. The \$2,000 still comes from the total \$4,500 TA limit.

MilGears now required for First Time Users

In addition to completing CA 101 training (provided by the CA Virtual Counseling Cell), Soldiers must now complete MilGears prior to creating their education goal.

One (1) Credential per FY

Soldiers are now limited to 1 credential per fiscal year. Recertifications of previously earned credentials do not count towards the 1 credential maximum.

Exams now required

Soldiers are now required to take the exam associated with the credential they are pursuing. If the Soldier does not take the exam within 180 days after completion of the training or fails the exam, they will be recouped.

Maximum of 3 credentials for 10 years of service

Soldiers are now limited to 3 credentials for their first 10 years of service. After completion of 10 years of service, Soldiers are eligible for another 3 credentials. Recertifications do not count towards the 3 credential maximum.

\$1,000 Limit for Aviation Credentials

All Army components are now limited to \$1,000 per FY for select Aviation Credentials

For More Information:

Contact your MD State Education Services Office:
mdngeducation@army.mil



Join us on social media:
[@ARNGEducation](#)

Contact the Education Support Center:
667-296-4139 or 667-296-4164

Visit us Online:

<https://military.maryland.gov/hro/Pages/Education.aspx>

TA/CA Policy Change FAQs

(As of: 11 Dec 2024)

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Q: When will the new policy changes become effective?

A: *The new policy is effective 0001 hrs ET, 11 December 2024.*

TUITION ASSISTANCE:

Q1. What is the Tuition Assistance program?

A: *The Army's Tuition Assistance (TA) Program provides financial assistance for voluntary off-duty civilian education programs in support of a Soldier's professional and personal self-development goals.*

Q2. Who is eligible for Tuition Assistance?

A: *Active duty, National Guard, and Reserve Soldiers who meet qualifying standards. Commissioned officers incur a service obligation if they use TA.*

Q3. Why did the Army make these changes to TA?

A: *We looked at the Voluntary Education (VOLED) program holistically – TA and CA are both part of VOLED. We wanted to bring the Army into closer alignment with the other Services and this policy change does that. These changes also help ensure the long-term stability of VOLED programs and maximize benefits for Soldiers based on available funding.*

Q4. Will Tuition Assistance always be available?

A: *TA will be available if there is funding for voluntary education programs. The TA program depends on approved budgets and/or continuing resolutions. If either the Army, ARNG, or USAR reaches their budget limit for the FY, the program will be temporarily suspended for that component.*

Q5. What happens when a Soldier fails to meet course standards with an acceptable grade?

A: *The Army recoups the cost of the course if a Soldier receives an unsuccessful grade.*

Q6. How much does Tuition Assistance pay towards semester hours?

A: *With this policy change, the Army will pay for up to 18 semester hours a fiscal year. The semester hour cap remains at \$250 per semester hour.*

Q7. Do Soldiers get \$4500 for TA and \$4500 for CA each year?

A: *The Fiscal Year (FY) annual cap per Soldier is \$4500 TOTAL for TA and CA combined. (CA limit is \$2000 per FY). This is an increase from \$4000 and 16 semester hours per year.*

Q8. What if the Academic Institution is only \$175 per semester hour, can a Soldier exceed the 18 semester hours since there will be money remaining in annual allotment?

A: *No. The semester hour cap is 18 per fiscal year.*

Q9. What if an Academic Institution charges \$300 per semester hour?

A: *Tuition Assistance will cover \$250 per semester hour and the remaining \$50 per semester hour would be the responsibility of the Soldier.*

Q10. Must a Soldier complete ArmyIgnitED 101 Training if they have already utilized TA or CA?

A: *No, this training is only for first time users of TA and CA.*

Q11. Must a Soldier complete Career Path Decide (CPD) prior to using TA if they have already utilized TA previously?

A. No, CPD is only required for first time users of TA; however, Soldiers are highly encouraged to complete the tool and meet with an education counselor in their education office to help plan their education journey.

Q12. Where do I find Career Path Decide?

A. Though there are links to Career Path Decide within ArmyIgnitED when a Soldier attempts to utilize TA for the first time, Soldiers can also go to <https://careerpathdecide.org/>.

Q13. I am a Soldier who has an approved 3 SH TA request (TAR) for a January 2025 course where I previously used 15 SH. That approved request has 1 SH covered by TA and I am student funding the remaining 2 SHs. Once the policy changes take effect and the 2 additional SHs become available can my Ed Center edit my TAR or create an HTAR to get the remaining 2 SHs covered by TA?

A. No. Ed Centers should not modify TARs that have already been requested and approved and HTARs will not be approved for this situation. A Soldier who wishes to have the full three SHs described in this situation for a course that starts in January should cancel the approved TAR and create a new TAR for the same class and it will now be fully funded.

CREDENTIALING ASSISTANCE: Q1. What is the Credentialing Assistance program?

A. The Army Credentialing Assistance Program provides funds to support Soldiers in pursuing voluntary credentials. CA is a voluntary, off-duty program that directly contributes to improving Total Army readiness, supporting Soldiers' professional development, retaining quality Soldiers, and preparing Soldiers for meaningful employment upon transition from military service.

Q2. Who is eligible for Credentialing Assistance?

A. Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve Soldiers who meet qualifying standards. There is no service obligation incurred when using CA.

Q3. Why did the Army make these changes to CA?

A. The Credentialing Assistance program is a very successful program, but the cost of the program was exceeding the FY authorization. The Army determined it was necessary to implement changes to ensure long term sustainability of the program.

Q4. If I submitted a CAR for FY25 prior to the policy change that does not start until after the policy change and exceeds the new policy change funding limits will it be approved?

A. Yes. CARs submitted for FY25 prior to policy change will be approved under the terms and conditions of CA that existed at the time of submission and will be subject to the prior policy funding limit of \$4000.

Q5. Will CA always be available?

A. As with TA, CA will be available if there is funding for voluntary education programs. The CA program depends on approved budgets and/or continuing resolutions. If either the Army, ARNG, or USAR reach their budget limit for the FY, the program will be temporarily suspended for that component.

Q6. How many credentials can I get?

A. Soldiers may receive funding for 3 credentials for every 10 years of service. This new limit is a change from the previous policy that did not limit the number of credentials based on years of service.

Q7. How much does credentialing assistance pay for attainment of a credential?

A. With this policy change, the Army will pay up to \$2000 for one credential per year. In addition, there is a \$1000 FY funding limit for private pilot related aviation credentials for all Soldiers, regardless of component. This is a decrease from the previous policy of \$4000 per year for unlimited credentials; to include private pilot related aviation credentials for the ARNG and USAR but is aligned with how the other Services execute their programs.

Q8. Must a Soldier complete MilGears prior to using CA if they have already utilized CA previously?

A. No. MilGears is only required for first time users of CA, however, Soldiers are highly encouraged to complete the tool and meet with an education counselor in their education office or have a discussion with a CA Virtual Counselor found in Army COOL to help plan their education journey.

Q9. Where do I find MilGears?

A. Though there are links to MilGears within ArmyIgnitED when a Soldier attempts to submit a Goal for the first time, Soldiers can also go to <https://milgears.osd.mil/>.

Q10. Why is the Army now requiring me to take the exam for the credential?

A. The intent of the program is to earn the credential which requires taking the exam. This is a change from the previous policy that allowed Soldiers to receive funding for the training but were not required to take the exam.

Q11. I am a Soldier with less than 10 years of service and have 3 active education goals that I am pursuing. These are counting against my lifetime limits and now an exam is required, but there is no exam available-what do I do?

A. Unfortunately, you will have to wait until the exam is added or pay out of pocket.

Q12. Do recertifications count towards the lifetime limit?

A. No. recertifications do not count toward the lifetime limits but do subtract from the FY funding limit.

Q13. Can I recertify two credentials in the same FY?

A. Yes, if you do not exceed your FY funding limit.

Q14. If a Soldier fails training for a credential but passes the exam, will they be recouped?

A. If a Soldier fails the training for a credential, they will be recouped the government cost of the training regardless of if they take the exam and pass or not.

Q15. If a Soldier passes the training for a credential but fails the exam, what will the Soldier be recouped?

A. If a Soldier passes the training for a credential but fails the exam, they will only be recouped the government cost of the exam.

Q16. What if a Soldier completes the training for a Credential and decides they do not want to pursue the exam?

A. Soldiers must complete the exam if they complete training. A Soldier has 180 days from a passing grade being posted for training to request the associated exam. If Soldiers do not request exam, they will be recouped for the costs of the training and associated materials.

Q17. If a Soldier fails training for a credentialing goal and is recouped, does that count in their 3 per 10 year limit?

A. No. it will revert to the original number of credentials per 10 years.

Q18. If a Soldier successfully completes training towards a goal but fails the exam, does that count towards their 3 per 10 year limit?

A. Yes. Once a Soldier is recouped the funds for the exam, the number of credentials will remain the same since the goal is still being pursued and has a completed training against it. If the Soldier has remaining FY funding available, they may submit another CAR to attempt to pass the failed exam after the recoupment is processed.

Q19. I have 18 years of service and have completed 5 credentials already; does it mean I am not allowed to use CA funds anymore?

A. Soldiers receive 3 credentials per every 10 years. A Soldier with 18 years of service and 5 credentials is still eligible for 1 additional credential if the Soldier completes the CA request for training and exam within 31 days of their ETS date.

Q20. How long is a CA Education Goal good in ArmyIgnitED?

A. CA created Ed Goals remain active as long as there is training and or exam funds requested/obligated with a CA Request (CAR) towards the goal. If a CA Request (CAR) has not been made associated with the Ed Goal within 90 days of creation, the Ed Goal will be deleted.

Q21: If I requested and completed 6 CA requests (CARs) for training, and I have 18 years in service, am I still eligible for CA funds?

A. This question is dependent upon the 6 CA requests. If these are 6 completed goals (meaning, the Soldier completed all 6 exams and earned those credentials within 18 years), the Soldier will have to wait until 20 years to receive 3 more goals. If a Soldier completed 6 CA training requests towards a single ed goal, they would still have 5 goals remaining. A CA request does not mean a goal has been completed, so it's important to understand the difference. With 18 years in service, the Soldier may still request funding for a credential they are working towards until the credential is earned.

Q22. If a Soldier has an ed goal from a previous FY and completed training but did not take the exam, are they eligible to take the exam in current FY and still use CA for a new goal in current FY?

A. Yes. Prior years' ed goals with funding against them remain in ArmyIgnitED. Soldiers can pursue the exams related to those goals. Those previous goals will count towards the 3 in 10 years with or without the exams. They can still create 1 current year ed goal if total amount spent towards both CA goals does not exceed annual limit of \$2000.

Q23. How can I take the exam for an Aviation license when it requires multiple lengthy trainings/years to complete?

A. In this situation, contact the Army Credentialing Assistance Program Office (ACAPO) within ArmyIgnitED (using the Credentialing Assistance (CA) Office category), so they can adjust your account to allow for multiple training requests before the exam.

Q24. I have completed multiple trainings for my aviation credential and am ready to take my exam to meet the new requirement, but none are available for funding- Do I pay out of pocket to take the exam?

A. Yes. You will have to pay out of pocket unless there is an approved CA vendor that offers the exam.

Q25. The training and exam for my Ed Goal total \$1,200, what can I use my remaining annual limit on?

A. Soldiers have \$2000 per FY to pursue one credential, which includes training, books/materials, fees, and exam. CA cannot split costs on exams, books, or materials. In this scenario, the Soldier will still have \$800 to use for recertification if applicable, or to utilize to take the exam for a previous year Ed Goal that already has funding against it but nothing else can be pursued after this for a different credential.

Q26: If I am not applying for funding for an aviation credential, does the \$1000 limit does this apply to me?

A: No, the \$1000 FY funding limit only applies to aviation credentials. All other credentials fall under the \$2000 FY funding limit.

Q27. I entered service in 2020 and I haven't used CA. I want to pursue a credential. Am I still eligible for 3 credentials?

A. Yes. Soldiers can pursue 3 credentials per 10 years of service retroactive to a Soldiers BASD. After 10 years, the limit will change to 6, allowing the Soldier to pursue 3 more.

Q28. I have 15 yrs of service and never used CA, how many credentials am I allowed?

A. Six. Soldiers can pursue 3 credentials per 10 years of service retroactive to a Soldiers BASD. Soldiers may only request 1 Ed Goal per FY and not exceed annual limit of \$2000 for non-private pilot related credentials and a maximum of \$1000 for private pilot related credentials.

Q29. Where can I find the list of aviation related credentials that are limited to \$1000?

A. When you begin to submit your CA Request, each aviation credential that is limited to \$1000 will have a note indicating this when you select it.

Q30. What if I submitted an FY25 CAR prior to the policy change that exceeds the new reduced policy funding limit of \$2000?

A. CARs submitted prior to the policy change will be approved up to the previous funding limit of \$4000. In this scenario, the Soldier would then be done using CA for the FY.

Q31. What if the exam associated with my desired CA Ed Goal cost more than \$2000?

A. If an exam exceeds the annual CA funding limit of \$2000, please reach out to a Credentialing Counselor at <https://coolcontactus.com/ContactUs?service=R&subject=R> to discuss available options such as alternate vendors and/or goals.

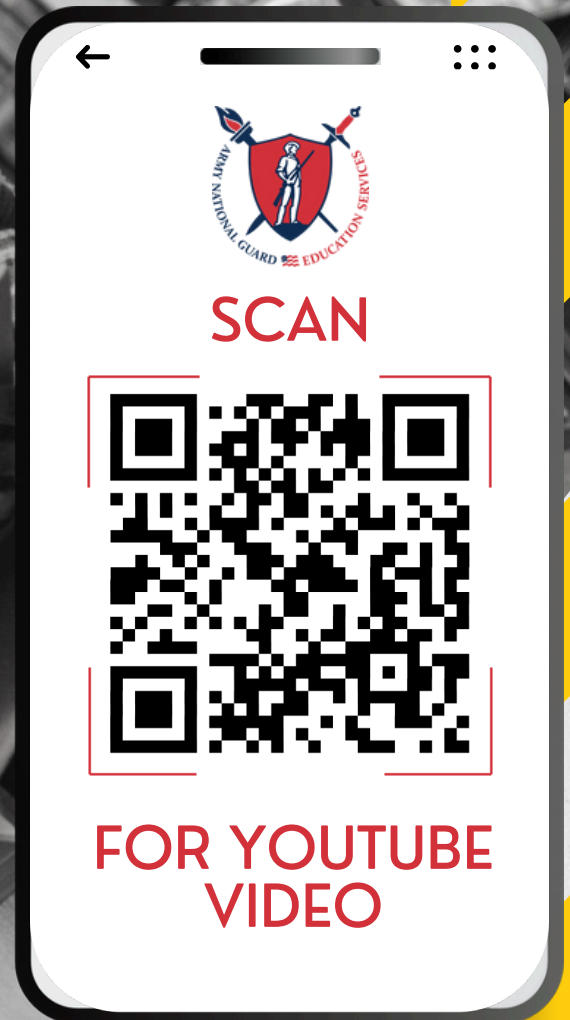
Q32. If I have already obtained 3 credentials with CA but have only been in the service for 8 years, when am I able to use CA again?

A. You are eligible for 3 credentials for every 10 years of service (based on your BASD). You are eligible for three additional credentials at 10 years and one day of service.

Q33. If I submitted a CAR prior to Dec 11th for a training or exam that starts after policy changes and it has not been approved yet, is it subject to new policy limits/restrictions or previous policy?

A. Training and Exam CARs submitted prior to Dec 11th with start dates after policy change will be grandfathered (subject to annual funding limit in place on day of submittal). However, if the cost of that CAR meets or exceeds the new annual funding limit in place on or after 11 Dec, no other FY25 CARs will be approved and paid.

ARMYIGNITED 101 TRAINING REQUIRED



Effective 11 December 2024, ArmyIgnitED 101 training and Career Path Decide is required before Soldiers can get a new education goal approved.

After reviewing the brief, Soldiers must send a message to their education counselor via ArmyIgnitED stating that they completed the training. Soldiers who have previously used ArmyIgnitED to receive FTA are exempt from this requirement.



Watch the training on YouTube



Training slides are pinned to the top and available for easy download on our LinkedIn Page



Download the brief from the the ARNG- Public Education Services Team in the general channel files tab.



Contact your MD State Education Office for more information.

Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA)

Receive
money
towards
your
college
tuition!

What Is It?

Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) is financial assistance provided for voluntary off-duty education programs in support of a Soldier's professional and personal self-development goals.

How Do I Qualify?

- Be currently serving in good standing in the ARNG and have a

Common Access Card (CAC)

- Not be flagged
- Not have a hold on your ArmyIgnitED account (once created)
- Maintain a 2.0 or higher GPA for undergraduate courses or a 3.0 or higher GPA for graduate courses

Service Requirement/Obligation:

- Enlisted: Have an ETS or MRD 60+ days remaining in service after completion of FTA-funded course(s)
- Officers and Warrant Officers: Subject to a two-year active duty service obligation (ADSO) or four-year reserve duty obligation (RDSO)

What Do I Get?

- Up to \$250 per semester hour, up to 18 SHs for a total of \$4,500 per fiscal year (Max TA and CA)
- One degree at each of the following levels, Associates, Bachelor's and Master's
- Lifetime limit of 130 undergraduate semester hours and 39 graduate semester hours
- CAN be used simultaneously with Chapter 1606/ MGIB-SR for the same course, when attending half-time or more
- One academic certificate (undergraduate or graduate) up to 21 semester hours per lifetime/career

How Do I Apply?

- Go to <https://www.armyignited.army.mil> and establish an account by clicking "Get Started" (CAC ID required)
- Complete the AIED 101 Training & Career Path Decide (CPD) support tool (copy link from CPD and paste link in your AIED account)
- Request an Education Goal (select your school and degree program)
- Enroll in courses at your School
- Return to ArmyIgnitED and request TA for the courses you want to use TA for
 - Courses can be requested up to 60 days prior to the course start date, but **MUST** be requested at least **7 days prior** to the start date of the course
 - Once courses are approved, 'go back to ArmyIgnitED, print the authorization form and provide it to the school
- An evaluated degree plan/audit will be required after registration of two courses using FTA funding.

For More Information:

- Contact your State Education Services Office: mdneducation@army.mil
 - Contact the Education Support Center: 667-296-4139 or 667-296-4164
 - Visit us Online: <https://military.maryland.gov/hro/Pages/Education.aspx>
- GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.



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Maryland State Tuition Waiver Program

Popular Partner Schools

- University of Maryland College Park: 50% Undergraduate
- MOST Community Colleges: 50%
- Towson University: 50% up to 6 credits
- Morgan State University: 50% Undergraduate
- University of Maryland Global Campus: 50% Undergraduate
- Notre Dame University of Maryland: 50% Undergraduate/25% Graduate
- Johns Hopkins: 50% off 1st 6 credit hours per term
- Undergraduate
- McDaniel College: 25% Undergraduate
- Stevenson University (Both Campuses): 50% up to 6 credit hours Undergraduate/20% up to 6 credit hours Graduate
- Bowie State University: 50% Undergraduate
- Coppin State University: 50% Undergraduate
- Frostburg State University: 50% Undergraduate
- Loyola University: 50% Undergraduate
- St. Mary's College of Maryland: 50% Undergraduate
- Washington College: 50% Undergraduate
-

And Many More

What Is It?

- Maryland state tuition waiver program is financial assistance provided for voluntary off-duty education programs in support of a Soldier's professional and personal self-development goals.

Eligibility Requirements

- Be a member in good standing of the Maryland National Guard, including, without limitation, a recruit, at the beginning of and throughout the entire semester for which the waiver is granted
- Attend an in state college that the MDNG is partnered with
- Be currently attending drill/AT unless otherwise excused
- Number of degrees is unlimited
- Not be in default on any federal Title IV loan or owe a refund on federal Title IV funds previously disbursed
- Passing APFT/ACFT
- No FLAGS
- Maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA

What Do I Get?

- Up to 50% off tuition at Maryland partner schools. Percentage and degree type vary from school to school. Please reach out MDNGEducation@army.mil to verify the percentage for the school you wish to attend.

How do I apply?

Contact your MD State Education Services Office:
mdngeducation@army.mil

Contact the MD Education Support Center:
667-296- 4139 or 667-296-4164

Visit us Online:

<https://military.maryland.gov/hro/Pages/Education.aspx>



Montgomery GI Bill®

Selected Reserve Chapter 1606 (MGIB-SR)

Start pursuing
your degree
today!



What Is It?

The MGIB-SR is a benefit administered by the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) that provides basic educational assistance for traditional/M-day Soldiers actively serving in the Selected Reserve.

How Do I Qualify?

- Sign a six-year enlistment contract, extension, or Officer Service Agreement
- Have a High school diploma or equivalent
- Complete Initial Active Duty for Training (IADT) or Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC)

What Do I Get?

- \$481 per month for full-time enrollment (effective 1 Oct 2024)
- Payment is tax free and is made directly to the Soldier each month from the DVA
- CAN be combined with Federal Tuition Assistance for the same course, when attending half-time or more.
- Can be combined with most State Tuition Assistance programs. Check with your state education office to confirm eligibility. www.nationalguard.com/select-your-state

How Do I Apply?

- Contact your State Education Office to verify eligibility.
- Submit the Veterans Online Application at:
<https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits>
- Notify the VA Certifying Official at your school so they can certify your enrollment
- Continue to verify your enrollment each month via text message, email, or calling 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551)

For More Information:

Contact your MD State Education Services Office:
mdngeducation@army.mil

Contact the Education Support Center:
667-296-4139 or 667-296-4164

Visit us Online:
<https://military.maryland.gov/hro/Pages/Education.aspx>

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



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Credentialing Assistance

Become a
Certified
Professional!

ARMY
NATIONAL
GUARD



What Is It?

The Credentialing Assistance (CA) Program provides Soldiers with funding for more than 2,100 credentials listed on <https://www.cool.osd.mil/army>

How Do I Qualify?

- Be currently serving in good standing in the ARNG and have a Common Access Card (CAC)
- Not be flagged
- Officers no longer incur a Military Service Obligation (MSO)
- Have an ETS or MRD 31+ days remaining in service after completion of CA- funded course(s)/exam(s)

What Do I Get?

- One credential up to \$2,000/fiscal year (three credentials over 10 years of service)
- Maximum of \$1,000/year to pay for select aviation related credentials
- Pays expenses for course training, materials, supplies, textbooks, and exam (exams must be taken for all CA funded training)
- Can be used for any credential listed on www.cool.osd.mil/army and does not have to be related to the Soldier's MOS
- All expenses are paid prior to course/exam start date (Soldiers who pay out of pocket will not be reimbursed)
- Soldiers must take the associated exam for the credential listed in the CA education goal
 - Soldiers have up to 180 days to submit a CA request for the associated exam
 - Soldiers will be recouped for the training, books and supplies if they do not pass the exam or fail to submit an exam request within 180 days of the completion of the training

How Do I Apply?

- Contact your State ESO/ESS to discuss the CA application process and verify eligibility
- Ensure your credential is listed on Army COOL at: <https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/search/CredSearchAlpha.htm>
- Apply online at: <https://www.armyignited.army.mil> 45+ days prior to course/exam start date
- Soldiers requesting CA for the first time are required to complete:
 - MilGears decision support tool: <https://milgears.osd.mil/> the Explore Careers, Quick Explorer tool, download their report and upload it to ArmyIgnited
 - CA 101 training provided by the CA Virtual Counseling Cell

For More Information:

Contact your MD State Education Services Office:

mdngeducation@army.mil

Contact the Education Support Center:

667-296-4139 or 667-296-4164

Visit us Online:

<https://military.maryland.gov/hro/Pages/Education.aspx>



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Post-9/11 GI Bill® Chapter 33

What Is It?

An education program for Service Members who serve on active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

How Do I Qualify?

Serve at least 90 days in a period of qualifying active duty on or after September 11, 2001:

- Service in any active component
- Title 10 USC Sections 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12301(h), 12302, 12304, 12304a, or 12304b
- Title 10 AGR or Title 32 AGR
- Title 32 USC, Section 502(f) as follows:
 - Operation Noble Eagle: September 11, 2001 – May 31, 2002
 - Southwest Border (Operation Guardian Shield): February 15, 2019 – January 20, 2021
 - COVID-19 Pandemic Response: March 22, 2020 – July 1, 2022
 - Capitol Police (59th Inauguration): January 11, 2021– May 23, 2021
- Serve for 30 continuous days and separate due to a service-connected disability or injury

What Do I Get?

- Tuition and Fees:
 - Up to 100% of in-state tuition at public schools
 - Effective 1 Aug 24, up to \$28,937.09/year at private or foreign schools
- Books and Supply Stipend:
 - Up to \$1,000/academic year (\$41.67/ credit hour)
- Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA):
 - Equal to BAH rate—E5 with dependents
 - \$1,177.50 if attending only online classes
- Payments pro-rated based on your qualifying service:
 - 36 Months = 100% (Includes Purple Heart Recipients)
 - 30 Months = 90% •24 Months = 80% •18 Months = 70% •6 Months = 60% •90 Days = 50%

How Do I Apply?

- Apply online at: www.va.gov
- Notify the School Certifying Official at your school so they can certify your enrollment.
- Continue to verify your enrollment each month via text message, email, or calling 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551)

For More Information:

Contact your MD State Education Services Office:
mdngeducation@army.mil

Contact the Education Support Center:
667-296-4139 or 667-296-4164

Visit us Online: <https://military.maryland.gov/hro/Pages/Education.aspx>

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

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your
degree
today!



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Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB)

Post- 9/11 GI Bill®

Transfer
your
benefits today!

What Is It?

An incentive for continued service offered to Service Members who qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

How Do I Qualify?

- Be currently serving in the Uniformed Services, with at least six years completed
- Qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill at any payment tier
 - NOT be flagged for adverse action, ACFT/ABCP failure, or as an Unsatisfactory Participant
- Agree to a four-year service obligation from the date of your transfer request

NOTE: IF YOU VOLUNTARILY SEPARATE FROM THE ARNG PRIOR TO COMPLETING YOUR SERVICE OBLIGATION, YOUR TEB WILL BE TERMINATED AND ANY FUNDS PAID TO YOUR DEPENDENTS WILL BE RECOUPED!

What Do I Get?

- Dependents receive same payment tier as the Soldier
- Spouses may use transferred benefits immediately
- Child/Children:
 - Cannot use the benefit until transferring Soldier has completed 10 years in the Armed Forces
 - Can begin using the benefit on their 18th birthday or upon high school graduation, whichever comes first
 - Eligibility ends on their 26th birthday or benefits are exhausted
 - Natural, step children, adopted children and wards and foster children who have lived with the SM for 12 months are eligible
- You can modify and/or revoke months for any dependents you originally transferred month of benefits to – even after you separate from service
- IMPORTANT!
You must be currently serving to add a "new" dependent

How Do I Apply?

- Step 1: Contact the VA at 1-888-GIBILL-1 to determine the number of months of benefits you have remaining
- Step 2: If you have less than four years of service remaining, complete extension
- Step 3: Go to Milconnect and complete your TEB application at: <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>
- Step 4: Access your Military email and follow email instructions
- Step 5: Apply for benefits
- When ready to attend school, your approved dependent(s) apply at: www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/
- Notify the VA Certifying Official at your school to certify your enrollment
- Verify enrollment each month via text message, email or calling, 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551)

For More Information:

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667-296- 4139 or 667-296-4164

Contact your State Education Services Office:
www.nationalguard.com/select-your-state

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TUTOR.COM for
U.S. MILITARY FAMILIES
www.tutor.com/military

Get on track for college admissions success

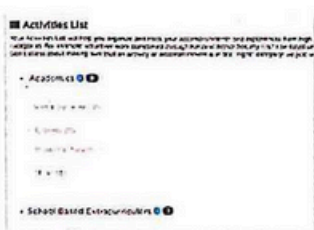
New! No-cost **College Admissions Self-Paced** support via Tutor.com/military

College-bound students in DoD civilian and military families can now get comprehensive admissions support built by The Princeton Review®.



Checklists by Grade Level

Step-by-step plan with videos from college admissions experts, activities, and readings to support a productive college process.



Activities List Tool

Tracker for admissions-related deadlines as well as study and standardized test dates.



Research and Application Tracker

Extracurricular tracking, management, and output capabilities for students to chart their accomplishments throughout high school.



Calendar and Planning Features

Tools for generating college-specific data to help determine target schools and manage the complete application process for each.

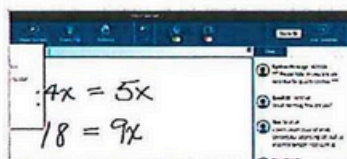
In tandem with their new College Admissions Self-Paced access, students can benefit from other resources through **Tutor.com/military**, including...



Writing Review

Dropoff review: Upload college and scholarship essay drafts, resumes and cover letters, and other written work—and get expert feedback within 12 hours.

Live writing review: Connect on demand 24/7 with an expert tutor to review writing in real time.



1-to-1 Expert Tutoring

Whether you're prepping for the SAT® or ACT®, studying for AP® exams, or working on assignments, get real-time help 24/7 from a subject-matter expert. Connect quickly via voice or text and work with a tutor safely and anonymously in our secure online classroom.



SAT®/ACT® Essentials from The Princeton Review

Maximize test scores and earn admission- and merit-based financial aid at your dream schools with self-paced test-prep modules that include 20 full-length practice tests, detailed score reports with key areas of focus, video lessons, and practice drills.

Feature availability varies by program. SAT® and AP® are trademarks registered by the College Board, which is not affiliated with, and does not endorse, this product. All tests are registered trademarks of their respective owners. None of the trademark holders is affiliated with The Princeton Review or this product. The Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University. The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement. To comply with the Child Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), certain features are unavailable to program users under age 13. Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families is funded by the Department of Defense (DoD) MWR Library Program and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA). Those who fund the program determine eligibility for its use. Long-term availability of the program is not guaranteed. Check student eligibility requirements at tutor.com/military.

Joint Services Transcript (JST)

Save time and
money with JST!



What Is It?

A document approved by the American Council on Education (ACE) to validate a service member's military occupational experience and training along with the corresponding ACE college credit recommendations.

How Do I Qualify?

All Military Members, current or former, are eligible to receive a JST.

What Do I Get?

- The JST helps college registrars award college credit for learning gained in the military
- The JST provides a description of military schooling and work history in civilian language and serves as a counseling tool for academic and career counselors in advising Service members and veterans
- The JST saves time and money by recommending the award of college credits, which means less tuition to pay and less time spent in the classroom
- The acceptance of ACE credit recommendations varies depending on an institution's policies, procedures, and degree requirements

How Do I Apply?

- Request your JST at: <https://jst.doded.mil/jst/>
- Submit your official JST to any institution located on the "Official Transcript Request" page
 - If you are missing an ACE-accredited course that you completed more than two months ago, upload a copy of the training certificate (DA Form 1059) or other course completion document through the JST website

For More Information:

- Contact the Education Support Center: 866-ARNGEDU (276-4338) or arng.esc@army.mil
- Visit us Online: www.nationalguard.com/education
- Contact your State Education Services Office: www.nationalguard.com/select-your-state



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THE BETTER FAFSA

What Students and Their Families Need to Know

Higher Education Opens Doors to Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Education is making transformational changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form. The FAFSA form is an application that students and families need to complete to apply for federal student aid, such as federal grants, work-study funds, and loans. Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free, and it gives students access to the largest source of financial aid to help pay for higher education.



The Better FAFSA is:

- » Simple and streamlined.
- » Easier to fill out—many people complete it in under 15 minutes.

7.1 MILLION

total students expected to be eligible for Pell Grants

665,000 more students
will receive Federal Pell Grants.

Over **1.7 million more students**
will receive the maximum Pell Grant.

All students will be able to
access the maximum financial aid
for which they are eligible.

Better FAFSA Timeline for the 2024-25 Award Year

NOW

- Students and families should complete and submit the 2024-25 FAFSA form

MARCH

- The Department begins transmitting FAFSA information to schools and state agencies for processing

STARTING IN APRIL

- Colleges review FAFSA information for students who applied for admission
- Colleges start sending aid packages to students

JULY 1

- FAFSA award year starts

Note: Students and families should check critical deadlines for their institutions and states regarding scholarships and enrollment commitments.

College Scholarships

Save Money!



.ORG Websites Hosting Scholarships

.ORG websites are typically nonprofits, foundations, philanthropic and cultural institutions, religious, civic, arts, social and fraternal organizations, health and legal services, clubs and community volunteer groups. Use all scholarship search engines only after reviewing their terms of use agreement.

- Fisher House
- Enlisted Associated of the National Guard (EANGUS)
- National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS)
- 25 Great Scholarships for Members of the Military and Their Families
- The American Legion
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Student Veterans of America
- DoD stem opportunities
- Science, Mathematics and research for transformation (smart) scholarship program
- Strokes Educational Scholarship program
- Collegeboard
- Finaid
- Careeronestop
- Scholarshipamerica

.COM Websites Hosting Scholarships

.COM websites are typically for-profit organizations. Use .com search engines cautiously and be aware you may receive numerous unsolicited emails if you submit an inquiry.

- u.s. veterans magazine
- Scholarships.com
- fastweb.com
- CollegeRecon.com
- Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP)–Science, Technology, Engineering and Math(STEM)
- Petersons.com
- DANTES Financial Aid & Scholarships
- edvisors.com

For More Information:

- Contact the Education Support Center: 866-ARNGEDU (276-4338) or arng.esc@army.mil
- Visit us Online: www.nationalguard.com/education
- Contact your State Education Services Office: www.nationalguard.com/select-your-state



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CHARLES W. RILEY FIREFIGHTER AND AMBULANCE AND
RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Conditions of Award
Academic Year 2024-2025



Eligibility Requirements:

- o You may not falsify or conceal a material fact in connection with your application. If you do, you may be subject to criminal prosecution;
- o You must be a Maryland resident. If you are a dependent student, your parent must also be a Maryland resident.
- o Actively engaged as a career firefighter or ambulance or rescue squad member in an organized fire department or ambulance or rescue squad in the State; or
- o Actively engaged as a volunteer firefighter or ambulance rescue squad member in an organized fire department or ambulance or rescue squad in the State
- o You must either be accepted for admission or enroll at an institution in Maryland each semester as a:
 - o Full-time (12+ credits per semester) or part-time (6-11 credits per semester) undergraduate
 - o Audited courses cannot be used to reach the minimum credit hours required for full-time or part-time status.
- o You must enroll as a degree-seeking student in an eligible major leading to employment in an eligible field as indicated below.
 - o Eligible undergraduate majors: Fire service technology, emergency medical technology, fire service management, or public safety administration with a minor or concentration in fire service technology or fire service management
- o You must maintain the satisfactory academic progress standards of your institution.
- o You may receive other State scholarship awards with this award. However, the total dollar amount of all State awards may not exceed your cost of attendance, as determined by your school's financial aid office, or \$28,000, whichever is less.

If you fail to meet any of these eligibility requirements, your award will be canceled.

As a condition of receiving a Maryland State scholarship or grant, you pledge to remain drug free for the full term of the award. Unlawful use of drugs and alcohol may endanger your enrollment in a Maryland college, as well as your Maryland financial aid award.

NOTE: If you fail to remain eligible for the award, you must still fulfill the obligation of the promissory note.

The Office of Student Financial Assistance must be notified in writing of any address and/or telephone number changes

~~There is an award~~ The award shall be at least 50% of the student's actual annual tuition and mandatory fees at an eligible institution, but may not exceed the annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate student at the four-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University College and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate for courses credited toward a degree in fire service technology, emergency medical technology, fire service management, or public safety administration with a minor or concentration in fire service technology or fire service management. You are required to inform our office if your award is for the incorrect number of credits/incorrect institution type.

Overawards: Please be aware that if the institution you are attending notifies OSFA that you are receiving other financial assistance that causes you to exceed your financial need for the award or exceed the cost of attendance at the institution (e.g.: private scholarships; Veteran's Benefits; athletic scholarships), your State financial aid may be reduced or cancelled.

(Over, please)

Grow a career in green energy

WOR-WIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CONTINUING EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

To apply for these programs,
visit easternshorejobs.com or
call Quality Staffing Services
at 410-742-2600.

For more information about
these programs, email
non-credit@worwic.edu,
visit worwic.edu/trades or
scan the QR code.



Full scholarships are available through the Maryland Works for Wind grant for the following skilled trades trainings.



Advanced Welding: 6G Pipe

Become proficient in pipe welding with this 80-hour evening course and pass the 6G ASME Section IX Stick and TIG welder qualification exams. At least two years of welding experience is required. This course meets four hours per night, two nights per week.



Construction Academy

Become a proficient carpenter through this 13-week course. First Aid/CPR/AED, OSHA 10, Rigging, Fall Safe and Confined Space certifications may be earned. This course meets four hours per day, five days per week.



Powerline Worker Pre-Apprenticeship (PWPA) with CDL

Prepare to work in the powerline worker industry with 13 weeks of hands-on training followed by eight weeks of commercial driver training. OSHA 10, First Aid/CPR/AED, ATSSA traffic controller certifications and MD CDL may be earned. The PWPA program meets eight hours per day, five days per week and the CDL program runs 10 hours per day, four days per week.

There is an application and selection process for the above trainings. Students have an opportunity to meet with local businesses at the end of the course.



Air Conditioning & Refrigeration - Introduction II

Focus is on the proper handling of refrigerants, how to solder, flare and swag, and troubleshooting procedures. Students passing the EPA Types I, II and III exam on the last night of class will earn their universal license. Prerequisite: "Air Conditioning and Refrigeration-Introduction I." This course meets three hours per night once a week for 12 weeks.

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting disability services at kmohler@worwic.edu, 410-334-2899 or TTY 410-767-6960. Wor-Wic Community College is an equal opportunity educator and employer. Visit www.worwic.edu/Services-Support/Disability-Services to learn more.