

NATIONAL GUARD

EDUCATION, INCENTIVES AND EMPLOYMENT



EDUCATION BENEFITS HANDBOOK

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Education Benefits Handbook

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION AND REFERENCES

Introduction

This guide provides information on the application procedures and benefits for all Army National Guard (ARNG) education programs.

Contact your State Education Services Office for the most current information on ARNG and federal education programs, as well as specific State programs. For more details and information, visit <https://www.education.ng.mil/> and select the links listed in the menus for the various programs described throughout this guide.



Photos courtesy National Guard Bureau

Please note: Application procedures for the programs described in this brochure may vary from State to State. Contact your unit full-time personnel, your Recruiting and Retention NCO, or your State Education Office for further information. For contact information visit <https://www.education.ng.mil/> and select the US map icon for Points of Contact.

REFERENCES

Title 10, USC, Chapter 1606, Section 16131, 31 December 2003.

National Defense Authorization Act FY 2009, Title V, Subtitle E, Section 546 – Education and Training PL 110-417 Requires members of the Reserve component to serve under ‘honorable conditions’ for eligibility to received educational benefits).

National Defense Authorization FY 2008, Title V, Subtitle C, Section 528 and Section 530 -Education and Training (PL 110-181 authorizes enhancement of education benefits for certain members of reserve components, extension of period of entitlement to educational assistance for certain members of the Selected Reserve affected by force shaping initiatives, and time limit for use of educational assistance benefit for certain members of reserve components and resumption of benefit).

The Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization FY 2005, Title V, Subtitle C, Section 527 - Reserve Component Personnel Matters (PL 108-375 authorizes the Reserve Educational Assistance Program Chapter 1607 of Title 10).

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ARNG Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Kicker Program (NGB-ARM Policy #07-12), 20 August 2007.

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AR 621-5 Army Continuing Education System (ACES), Revised 6 September 2009.

AR 11-6 Army Foreign Language Program, 13 August 2009.

AR 15-6 Procedures for Investigating Officers and Boards of Officers, 2 October 2006.

AR 220-1 Unit Status Reporting, 19 December 2006.

AR 340-21 The Army Privacy Program, 5 July 1985.

AR 350-20 Management of the Defense Language Program, 15 March 1987.

AR 350-10 Management of Army Individual Training Requirements and Resources, 3 September 2009.

AR 600-8-4 Line of Duty Policy, Procedures, and Investigations, 4 September 2008.

AR 601-222 Armed Services Military Personnel Accession Testing Programs, 17 October 2005.

AR 611-5 Army Personnel Selection and Classification Testing, 5 February 2008.

AR 612-201 Initial Entry/Prior Service Trainee Support, 1 May 2003.

Army Personnel Testing (APT), Test Control Officer (TCO) Handbook (Online version)

<https://dantes.doded.mil> (Select Academic Examination Programs >Education Staff Information >TCO Portal).

DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH) (Online version) <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>

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

Title 10, USC, Chapter 1606, Section 16131, 31 December 2003

DoDI 1322.17, 29 November 1999

AR 1335-7, ARNG and United States Army Reserve (USAR) Incentives Programs, 15 April 1996

NGB-ARM Policy #07-15

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP), Chapter 1607

Title 10, USC, Chapter 1607, Section 16161, 1 February 2010

Title 10, USC, Chapter 103, Section 2107

AR 600-8-104, Military Personnel Information Management/Records, 22 June 2004

MGIB-AD (Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty), Chapter 30

Title 38, USC, Chapter 30, Section 3001, 15 May 2002

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Title 10, USC, Section 2005, Advanced education assistance: Active Duty agreement; reimbursement requirements, 24 September 1980

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AR 600-8-2, Suspension of Favorable Personnel Actions (Flags), 23 December 2004

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AR 612-5, Army Continuing Education System, 6 September 2009

AR 11-6, Army Foreign Language Program, 13 August 2009

AR 350-20, Management of the Defense Language Program, 15 March 1987

AR 601-222, Armed Services Military Personnel Accession Testing Programs, 17 October 2005

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Marketing Awareness and Outreach

NGR 601-1, Army National Guard Strength Maintenance Program, 4 August 2006

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SECTION 2

RESPONSIBILITIES

Chief, National Guard Bureau (NGB)

- Exercise responsibility for policy governing various education programs.
- Determine priorities, resources, and the extent to which specific education programs or services will be delivered to the ARNG.
- Provide fiscal and personnel resources for education programs and services.

Chief of Education, Incentives, and Employment Division, Army National Guard

- 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).

The Adjutant General (TAG)

- Direct, monitor and review the federal education program.
- Maintain and report data pertaining to education from the respective State to the Chief of NGB.

State Education Services Officer (ESO)

- Supervise implementation of NGB guidance for all education, incentives and other programs.
- Be knowledgeable in all education programs and resources available to Soldiers.
- Coordinate with the recruiting force on implementing the federal education programs.
- Act as liaison between the Soldiers and NGB, 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, AF-COS, DMDC, iPERMS, and Information Management and Reporting Center [iMARC]).
- Develop, implement and monitor a quality assurance plan for the services and program provided by the Education Office.
- Provide counseling and testing services.
- Coordinate with units for unit education briefings.

Commanders

- Maintain a rapport with the assigned education service officer in order to keep current on education programs, benefits, and policies.
- Recommend appropriate education requirements in order to ensure Soldiers are qualified for their assigned duty position.
- Conduct annual audits of personal qualification records to ensure current data is recorded.
- Use education and incentives as a retention tool.

Unit Administrator

- Perform personnel and finance actions as required to support Soldiers, to include ensuring that education records are inputted in iPERMS system in a timely manner.

SECTION 3

GI BILL PROGRAMS

The GI Bill is a federally funded program administered by the military services and the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Each GI Bill program offers 36 months of educational assistance for full-time study; students attending half-time receive a maximum of 72 months of benefits. Payments are pro-rated for part-time study. For current GI Bill information visit the Department of Veterans Affairs Web site at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>. For current rates, select “Resources” then “Benefits Resources” from the menu, then “Rates Tables” or visit <https://www.education.ng.mil/>.

Soldiers may receive up to 36 months in any one DVA educational assistance program and a maximum of 48 months of combined benefits. DVA educational assistance programs include but are not limited to the following:

1. Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606). See description in this section.
2. Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607). See description in this section.
3. Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (Chapter 30). See description in this section.
4. Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP - Chapter 32). Visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>
5. Vietnam Era GI Bill (Chapter 34). Visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>
6. Survivors’ & Dependents’ Education Assistance Program (DEA - Chapter 35). Visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>
7. Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33). See description in this section.

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

The MGIB-SR program may be available to you if you are a member of the Selected Reserve (i.e. a traditional drilling Soldier and not Active Guard Reserve (AGR)). The Selected Reserve (SR) includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard.

You may use the MGIB-SR for any degree program (Associate through Doctoral), certificate or correspondence courses, cooperative training, independent study programs, apprenticeship or on-the-job training, trade or vocational school, and flight training programs. Remedial, refresher, and deficiency training are available under certain circumstances.

Eligibility for this program may be established only one time in a Servicemember’s career. DVA makes the payments directly to the Servicemember receiving benefits.

Benefits last as long as the Soldier remains in a drilling status in the Selected Reserve, (i.e. ARNG, USAR, ANG, USMCR, etc.). **Soldiers mobilized on federal Active Duty (Title 10) receive an extension of their period of eligibility for the period of the mobilization plus four months.** Soldiers who were mobilized may be eligible to collect MGIB-SR benefits for the period of mobilization plus four months, after they separate, for each period of mobilized service. Affected members must consult the Department of Veterans Affairs to verify eligibility. For current rates visit the DVA Web site at http://www.gibill.va.gov and select “Resources” then “Benefits Resources” from the menu, then “Rates Tables” or visit <https://www.education.ng.mil/>.

MGIB-SR Eligibility Criteria

- Be a member of the Army National Guard (ARNG) or other Reserve Component (RC).
- Enlist, reenlist, or extend in any Reserve Component for a period of not less than 6 years. If you are an officer, you must agree to serve six years in addition to any current obligation.
- Complete Initial Active Duty Training (IADT). Officers who have not previously completed IADT must complete Officer Basic Course (OBC) to be eligible for the GI Bill benefit.
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent.

To Apply for the MGIB-SR Program

Enlisted

- A Soldier can obtain a copy of the Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE) by going to <https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits> or from the State Education Services Office. The State GI Bill Manager will provide a copy of the NOBE to the Soldier and to the Soldier's unit, Official Military Personnel Records (201 file), and iPERMS. NGB-ARM G-1 is the only authorized agent to sign a NOBE. Upon printing the NOBE from <https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits> or receiving the NOBE from the Education Services Office, the Soldier submits a copy to the certifying official at the school in which they are enrolled.

Enlisted Non-Prior Service

- iMARC will automatically generate a NOBE after the Soldier meets the three criteria.

Enlisted Prior Service

- A NOBE from another RC may transfer to the ARNG. Soldiers must work with their State GI Bill Manager and/or unit to ensure the three criteria are obtained (i.e. high school graduate or equivalent; IADT completion date; 6-year initial contract with any Reserve Component).

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 Officer Basic Course. If not, eligibility is established on completion of Officer Basic Course (OBC).

Please note: Non-Prior Service applicants enlisting under the Officer Candidate School (OCS) and Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) enlistment option will not be entitled to the benefit until the day following completion of OBC. Officers should contact their GI Bill Manager to verify their eligibility.

To Obtain Benefits

- **Go to <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>** and complete an online Application for Education Benefits (VA Form 22-1990). It is also advisable that you take a printed copy of this application and coordinate with the VA representative at the college (or your place of employment if you are in a job training program).
- The VA Rep will complete an Enrollment Certificate (VA Form 22-1999) and submit it, along with the VA Form 22-1990 and a copy of your NOBE to the VA Regional Processing Office (RPO) for processing.
- In order to continue receiving benefits, you must verify your enrollment each month by completing a Student Verification of Enrollment (VA Form 22-8979). You may submit VA Form 22-8979 through the VA Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) online at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/> or by telephone at 1-877-823-2378. When the system tells you that you're certified, the verification is complete and you do not have to return the form.

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) (Chapter 1607)

REAP is an education assistance program established on 28 October 2004 in recognition of Reserve Component (RC) members' sacrifices in answering the call to duty. Soldiers who served on or after 11 September 2001 for 90 consecutive days or more in support of a contingency operation may be eligible to receive an increased GI Bill benefit. The program is similar to the MGIB-SR in that the military services determine initial eligibility, notify Soldiers, and fund the program while the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) administers payments to the Soldier. This program had an amendment to the time limitation/portability requirements as a result of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2008 and is retroactive to September 11, 2001. Soldiers must remain in an active drilling status in the Reserve Component to be entitled to this benefit. Soldiers who are terminated or go Active Duty or Expired Term of Service (ETS)

may qualify to retain their benefits for ten years from date of separation as long as they completed their service contract and separate from the Selected Reserve under other than dishonorable conditions (Prior to 28 January 2008 and honorable conditions thereafter). Soldiers who transfer to Inactive National Guard (ING) or Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) status will have their benefits suspended but may regain eligibility upon returning to an active Selected Reserve status but will be required to extend for the time lost in the ING or IRR. Visit the Department of Veterans Affairs Web site at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>. For current rates, select “Resources” then “Benefits Resources” from the menu, then “Rates Tables” or visit <https://www.education.ng.mil/>. Qualified Soldiers may also elect to participate in the “\$600 Buy Up Program,” which enables them to contribute up to \$600.00 in order to receive additional payments of up to \$150.00 per month for full-time attendance (based on contribution).

REAP (Chapter 1607) Eligibility Criteria

On or after 11 September 2001, RC members may receive educational assistance under REAP provided:

- Servicemember mobilized for 90 days or more in support of a contingency operation defined in section 10 US Code (USC) 101 (a)(13).
- Servicemember may be eligible for full-time National Guard duty under 32 USC 502(f) performed between 11 September 2001 - 31 May 2002 for 90 consecutive days or more in response to a Presidential or Secretary of Defense declaration of a national emergency supported by federal funds. Servicemembers should contact their GI Bill Manager to verify their eligibility.
- Servicemember ordered to active service in either of the first two categories above and released before completing 90 consecutive days because of an injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

To Apply for REAP (Chapter 1607)

- Obtain a copy of your EMS (Eligibility for Mobilized Soldier) notification by going to <https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits> or from the State Education Services Office.
- This document is verified and signed by the Army National Guard’s (ARNG) Education/Incentives Branch Chief. Maintain this document in your personal records.
- Go to <http://www.gibill.va.gov/> and complete an online Application for Education Benefits (VA Form 22-1990). It is also advisable that you take a printed copy of this application and coordinate with the VA representative at the college (or your place of employment if you are in a job training program). If you previously used GI Bill benefits complete VA Form 22-1995.
- Provide a copy of your mobilized DD Form 214 to the VA or VA school official.
- If you have ARNG GI Bill questions or problems, please contact your State GI Bill Manager.

To Enroll (1607 Buy Up)

Contact the GI Bill Support Team at 1-866-628-5999 or email gibill.ch30@ng.army.mil. Complete enrollment instructions will be provided at that time.

To Obtain Benefits

See procedure for MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606) at the beginning of Section 3.

Army National Guard (ARNG) Kicker Program

Some Soldiers may also be eligible to receive additional benefits through the ARNG Kicker program. This program applies **only** to specific critical Military Occupational Specialty (MOSs), Modification Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) units, and deployable Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) units. The Kicker program is not an entitlement and Soldiers must meet the eligibility requirements and sign a valid Kicker contract in order to qualify. Reserve Component members may establish eligibility for the Kicker one time only. The Department of Veterans Affairs administers monthly payments for the GI Bill Basic and Kicker Programs. All Kicker contract amounts are valid for the entire term of the contract regardless of future increases or decreases (EXCEPTION: Soldiers entering a commissioning program may increase the amount of their original contract to the amount of the com-

missioning Kicker). Consult your State GI Bill Manager for current rates, in-processing and facilitating eligibility/status changes. For specific Kicker policy questions, contact your State GI Bill Manager.

Eligibility Criteria

- In order to receive the Kicker, Soldiers must be eligible to receive a basic GI Bill benefit (Chapter 1606, Chapter 1607, or Chapter 30).
- Soldiers are not eligible to receive Kicker benefits until completion of IADT. Soldiers may not receive the Kicker while they are on Active Duty.
- OCS option Soldiers must complete Officer Basic Course (OBC) in lieu of Advanced Individual Training (AIT).
- Soldiers must be eligible for MGIB-SR or MGIB-AD to be eligible to contract for the Kicker.

Categories

In addition to the basic criteria, applicants/Soldiers must also meet the specific criteria for their ARNG Kicker category as specified below:

Non-Prior Service (NPS) Applicants

- Enlist and remain in the ARNG for 6 years, in a valid position vacancy; Officers complete an Officer Service Agreement (OSA) DA Form 5447-R for their 6-year obligation; and
- Enlist in either a critical MOS or Critical Unit ID Code (CUIC) (whichever is authorized by policy at time of enlistment) listed in the ARNG Selected Reserves Incentive (SRIP) Policy; and
- Enlist/access into any MTOE unit or deployable Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) unit; and
- Score 50 or higher (test score category I-IIIB) on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Test.
- **Note:** Glossary NPS applicants **may be** eligible to receive the ARNG Kicker.

Prior Service (PS) Applicants

- Enlist and remain in the ARNG for 6 years, in a valid position vacancy; Officers complete an OSA for their 6-year obligation; and
- Be qualified in the MOS for which you enlist and be skill level 1 or 2 (Sergeant or below); and
- Enlist into any MTOE unit or deployable TDA unit approved by NGB.

Current ARNG Soldiers

- Reenlist/extend in any MOS in any MTOE unit or deployable TDA unit approved by NGB. Must be qualified in the MOS for which they enlist and be skill level 1 or 2 (Sergeant or below).
- Current ARNG Officers in the rank of 1st or 2nd Lieutenant who have not yet obtained a baccalaureate degree are also eligible under this category. These Soldiers are not required to have served three consecutive years in the ARNG.
- **Note:** Current ARNG Soldiers who meet the criteria listed on the previous page may reenlist/extend for the ARNG Kicker at 'anytime' after serving the past three consecutive years in an active drilling status; they do not have to wait until they are within one year of their current ETS.

Officer Candidates and Simultaneous Members (SMP)

ARNG Officer Candidate programs include, State Officer Candidate School (OCS), Accelerated OCS, Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) and the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP). All officer candidates, warrant officer candidates and simultaneous members in any MTOE unit or deployable TDA unit who hold an MOS and meet the following criteria may reenlist/extend for the ARNG Kicker.

- **Officer Candidate School (OCS).** State OCS candidates are eligible to extend their enlistment and sign an ARNG Kicker contract after completing Phase I (the first 2 week training period) of the State OCS Program. Newly commissioned Second Lieutenants are eligible to sign an ARNG Kicker contract up to 90 days after accepting their commission in the ARNG. OCS graduates without a baccalaureate

degree who apply for the ARNG Kicker after 90 days from course completion will be categorized as an 'Officer without a degree.'

- **Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS).** Warrant Officer Candidates are eligible to extend their enlistment and sign an ARNG Kicker contract after they have been appointed on orders as a Warrant Officer Candidate. Newly appointed Warrant Officers are eligible to sign an ARNG Kicker contract up to 90 days after accepting their appointment in the ARNG. Warrant Officers who apply for the ARNG Kicker after 90 days from their appointment date are not eligible for the ARNG Kicker program.
- **Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP).** SMP participants who are enrolled in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Advanced Course (MS II, III or IV), are eligible to sign an ARNG Kicker contract effective the date of the SMP Agreement (NGB Form 594-1) **and** the ROTC Advanced Course Contract (Non-Scholarship DA Form 597 or Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) Scholarship DA Form 597-3) have been signed, whichever is later.

Please note: ARNG Soldiers who complete the required six-year obligation, stipulated in the ARNG Kicker contract, may transfer to any skill, unit, or RC (other than IRR or ING) and retain eligibility for the ARNG Kicker.

Duplication Of Benefits For Use With ARNG Kicker

State GI Bill Managers are, in essence, fiscal agents of the US government and responsible to ensure applicants are not receiving duplication of federal funds, in contradiction of US Code Title 10 and per NGB guidance. Servicemembers may use ARNG Kicker in addition to other funding sources (i.e. TA, GI Bill programs, Loan programs, State-funded programs, etc.) to fund their education expenses based on the following limitations:

- Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP), Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP), and Chaplain Loan Repayment Program (CLRP) are education incentives, which have no relevance on receiving funds from the ARNG Kicker or other GI Bill programs. Service members are eligible to receive this incentive, providing they meet the criteria in the current fiscal year Selected Reserve Incentive Program Policy Guidance.
- Federal Military Technicians are not eligible to receive ARNG Kicker benefits.
- Active Guard Reserve (AGR) service members are not eligible to receive ARNG Kicker benefits.
- Mobilized ARNG service members are not eligible to receive ARNG Kicker benefits.
- Traditional ARNG service members (non-AGR) may combine programs if they qualify.

The following combinations are acceptable to use with ARNG Kicker:

1. Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) ROTC Scholarship and ARNG Kicker and either the MGIB-SR or REAP Chapter 1607 or MGIB-AD or the Post 9/11 GI Bill.
2. Dedicated ARNG ROTC Scholarship and MGIB-AD and ARNG Kicker (if they previously obtained this GI Bill benefit while on prior service Active Duty).
3. Dedicated ARNG ROTC Scholarship and the Post 9/11 GI Bill and ARNG Kicker.
4. Tuition Assistance and ARNG Kicker and either the MGIB-SR or REAP Chapter 1607 or MGIB-AD or the Post 9/11 GI Bill, providing the servicemember is attending school half-time or more.
5. MGIB-SR or REAP Chapter 1607 or MGIB-AD or the Post 9/11 GI Bill and ARNG Kicker.

Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty (MGIB-AD) (Chapter 30)

The MGIB-AD program may be available to you if you were a member of an Active Component, if you are or have been AGR, or if you were a member of the ARNG who was mobilized for 24 or more consecutive months. The MGIB-AD program provides up to 36 months of education benefits. Soldiers who are eligible for more than one GI Bill program may be eligible to receive up to 48 months of benefits. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate/licensing programs, flight training, apprenticeship

or on-the-job training and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances. Visit the Department of Veterans Affairs Web site at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>. For current rates, select “Resources” then “Benefits Resources” from the menu, then “Rates Tables” or visit <https://www.education.ng.mil/>.

Soldiers **must** pay \$1,200.00 to receive this benefit. Qualified Soldiers may also elect to participate in the “\$600 Plus Up Program,” which enables them to contribute up to an additional \$600.00 (over and above the initial \$1,200.00) in order to receive additional payments of up to \$150.00 per month for full-time attendance (based on contribution).

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 send a copy of their mobilization DD Form 214 to their VA Regional Processing Office (RPO) office.

MGIB-AD Eligibility Criteria

- There are several eligibility categories for the MGIB-AD. To determine your eligibility status, consult your State GI Bill Manager, the ARNG GI Bill Support Team at gibill.ch30@ng.army.mil, or visit the DVA Web site at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>.

You ARE NOT eligible if any one of the statements below is true:

- You have ever declined the MGIB-AD
- You are a Service Academy Graduate
- Your Initial Active Duty period under Title 10 began prior to 1 July 1985
- Your Initial Active Duty period under Title 32 began prior to 29 Nov 1989
- You are an ROTC scholarship recipient who completed ROTC prior to 1 Oct 1996
- You are an ROTC scholarship recipient after 30 Sep 1996 who received at least \$3,400 of ROTC scholarship benefits in every year of ROTC participation

You MAY be eligible if all the following are true:

- You were on Title 10 Active Duty for the first time on or after 1 July 1985
- You were on Title 32 Active Duty for the first time on or after 29 Nov 1989
- You have never declined the MGIB-AD
- You are not a Service Academy graduate
- You are an ROTC scholarship recipient after 30 Sep 1996 who received less than \$3,400 during any one year of the scholarship period

Note: Soldiers must serve three consecutive years in an Active Duty (AGR) status or a minimum of 24 months of Active Duty service is required if enlistment is for less than 36 months.

Note: You must obtain a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate before applying for MGIB-AD. Completing 12 hours toward a college degree meets the requirement.

To Enroll (AGRs)

Contact the GI Bill Support Team at 1-866-628-5999 or email gibill.ch30@ng.army.mil. Complete a DD Form 2366. The GI Bill Support Team representative will distribute copies of the DD Form 2366 as follows:

- Defense Finance and Accounting Service. This will reduce your military pay by \$100.00 per month for 12 months.
- NGB iPERMS Team. (For inclusion in ARNG personnel systems iPERMS.)
- Education Office. (For inclusion in your education record.)
- Soldier. (For proof of enrollment.)

DD Form 2366-1 Increased Benefit Contribution Program (Up to \$600.00).

- Available for those who already have the MGIB-AD. Soldiers may pay up to \$600.00 in the “Additional Contributions Program” to receive up to \$150.00 in additional monthly payments. Benefits are prorated based on the amount of the additional contribution. Soldiers must make contribution(s) while on Active Duty.

To Enroll (Mobilized)

Soldiers mobilized for 24 consecutive months who wish to enroll in the MGIB-AD program are to contact the GI Bill Support Team at **1-866-628-5999** or email **gibill.ch30@ng.army.mil** for in-processing information. Soldiers who are released from Active Duty prior to completing the 24-month period must have been released due to convenience of government and must have served a minimum of 20 consecutive months in order to be eligible to enroll in the MGIB-AD program.

To Obtain Benefits

- Go to **<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>** and complete an online Application for Education Benefits (VA Form 22-1990). It is also advisable that you take a printed copy of this application and coordinate with the VA representative at the college (or your place of employment if you are in a job training program). If you previously used GI Bill benefits complete VA Form 22-1995.
- 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.
- In order to continue receiving benefits, you must verify your enrollment each month by completing a Student Verification of Enrollment (VA Form 22-8979). You may submit VA Form 22-8979 through the VA Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) online at **<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>** or by telephone at **1-877-823-2378**. When the system tells you that you’re certified, the verification is complete and you do not have to return the form.

Please note: Rates may be lower for those with less than 3 years of Active Duty. Check the VA Web site for current rates. For Soldiers who are currently serving on AD/AGR, MGIB-AD will only pay up to the cost of tuition and fees, not to exceed the current full-time rate. You have 10 years from your most recent discharge from Active Duty to use the MGIB-AD benefits.

Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty \$600 Plus Up Program

Increased Benefits

This additional contribution option allows ARNG Soldiers eligible for the MGIB-AD and currently serving on Active Duty to contribute an additional amount up to \$600.00. AGRs will have their pay reduced via payroll deduction; mobilized Soldiers must submit a certified bank check or money order. Soldiers who contribute the maximum \$600.00 will receive an additional \$150.00 per month in MGIB-AD benefits. VEAP participants converting to GI Bill are not eligible to participate. To apply, ARNG Soldiers must contact the ARNG GI Bill Support Team and notify the VA of their participation. The Soldier must provide a copy of their cash collection voucher and DD Form 2366-1 to the school’s VA Certifying Official and the VA Regional Processing Office (RPO). The ARNG GI Bill Support Team will distribute copies of the DD Form 2366-1 as follows:

- Defense Finance and Accounting Service. This will reduce your pay by \$60 per month for 10 months.
- NGB iPERMS Team (For inclusion in ARNG personnel systems iPERMS.)
- Education Office. (For inclusion in your education record.)
- Soldier. (For proof of enrollment.)

Top Up Program

AGR/Active Duty Soldiers may elect to pay any portion of the tuition and fees not covered by the Active Army's TA with their MGIB-AD. This applies only for those whose tuition and fees exceed the designated semester hour or annual caps.

Licensing and Certification

ARNG Soldiers may use their MGIB-AD benefits to pay for licensing and certification testing. The tests must be required to enter, maintain, or advance into employment in a civilian vocation or profession and must be approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). Soldiers will receive payment of the fee charged for the test or \$2,000.00, whichever is less. To apply, ARNG Soldiers must send a copy of the completed test results and a request for reimbursement to their VA Regional Processing Office. Soldiers who never submitted a claim for education benefits to the DVA must also complete a VA Form 22-1990.

Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is for individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate Title 10 Active Duty service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 continuous days. You must have received an honorable Active Duty discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The Post-9/11 GI Bill became effective for training on or after August 1, 2009.

Effective January 4, 2011:

- A fully Honorable discharge is now required for a service period to be qualifying, regardless of the reason for separation.

Effective March 5, 2011:

- Benefit levels are applied to payments for Active Duty students (and their spouses using transferred entitlement) based on length of service (40% - 100%).
 - Applies to individuals in a degree program training at **more than one-half time**
 - Applies to terms beginning on or after March 5, 2011
 - Benefit level is applied to **all** Active Duty (and spouse) enrollments **on August 1, 2011**, regardless of type of training or rate of pursuit

Effective August 1, 2011:

- Allows payment of all in-state tuition and fees at public institutions, including graduate and professional degrees (for terms beginning on/after that date).
- Caps private and foreign school tuition and fees at \$17,500/year (for terms beginning on/after that date).
- Yellow Ribbon Program can be applied to out-of-state charges, and charges above the \$17,500/year cap (**for veterans and children using transferred entitlement only**).
- Prorates housing allowance by rate of pursuit, rounded to the nearest multiple of ten (50% - 100%).
- Adjusts housing allowance rates for new BAH rates in August instead of January.
- Authorizes reimbursement for more than one Licensing and Certification test (Charges one month of entitlement for every \$1,460 received).
- Adds National Exam reimbursement (e.g. SAT, ACT, GMAT, LSAT). (Charges one whole month for every exam taken).
- Requires VA to pay MGIB and MGIB-SR kickers on a monthly basis (previously paid as a lump sum payment for the term).
- Prevents double payment of benefits under more than one program.

- Prohibits using the same period of service to establish eligibility for Chapter 33, Chapter 32, Chapter 30, Chapter 1607, or Chapter 1606 (each qualifying period of “deployment” counts for one program).
- Ends interval pay between enrollment periods **for all VA education programs**.

Effective October 1, 2011:

- Allows VA to begin paying benefits based on National Guard (Title 32) service:
- Full time service (T32 AGRs) in the National Guard for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training.
 - Activations in support of a national emergency under Section 502(f)
 - Benefits can be paid retroactively back to August 1, 2009
- Authorized VA to pay for Non-College Degree programs not offered by colleges or universities (tuition and fees capped at \$17,500/year).
- Authorizes VA to pay for On-the-Job and Apprenticeship Training programs.
- Authorizes VA to pay for Commercial Flight Training programs (tuition and fees capped at \$10,000/year).
- Authorizes VA to pay for Correspondence courses (tuition and fees capped at \$8,500/year).
- Allows students on Active Duty (and their spouses using transferred entitlement) to receive a books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000/year.
- Allows individuals training **solely** through distance learning to receive a monthly housing allowance (1/2 of the prevailing national BAH rate average – check the VA Web site at <http://www.gibill.va.gov> for current rates).

To Obtain Benefits

- **Go to <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>** and complete an online Application for Education Benefits (VA Form 22-1990). It is also advisable that you take a printed copy of this application and coordinate with the VA representative at the college (or your place of employment if you are in a job training program). If you previously used GI Bill benefits complete VA Form 22-1995.
- 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.

Transferability

Individuals who are eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill and are currently still serving in the Armed Forces (Active Duty/ drilling Reservist) and have over six years in service **may** qualify to transfer unused entitlement to their DEERS eligible dependants. All transfer requests must be submitted online at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/>.

Further restrictions apply. For more information on Post 9/11 GI Bill eligibility and benefits visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>.

SECTION 4

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Soldiers may be eligible for an array of education assistance programs available through the ARNG, as described in this section.



GoArmyEd is the virtual gateway for Soldiers to request Tuition Assistance (TA) online, anytime for classroom and distance learning college courses. GoArmyEd is a dynamic online portal that automates many of the paper-based processes Soldiers historically conducted with your Army Education Counselor.



GoArmyEd is the Soldiers' one-stop location for managing your college education and using TA benefits. GoArmyEd gives Soldiers access to many regionally accredited colleges and universities and over 1,000 available degree plans.

GoArmyEd is used by Active Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve Soldiers to set up a GoArmyEd account and request Army Tuition Assistance (TA).

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

1. High school diploma or its equivalency
2. Certificate (undergraduate, graduate, or vocational)
3. Associates degree
4. Baccalaureate degree
5. Master's or first professional degree

TA cannot be used for courses or programs leading to a lower or lateral postsecondary credential that is validated in the Soldiers official military personnel record except in the case for certificates.

TA Requirements

- Your current fiscal year TA ceiling is \$4,500 and your per-semester-hour cap is \$250
- Maintain an Army GPA of 2.0 or higher when using TA
- Must pass class
- Must be moving forward in your degree

Service Commitment

Enlisted Soldiers and junior warrant officers (WO1) must serve in an active drilling status through the end date of the course unless involuntarily separated with an honorable discharge or be subject to full recoupment.

Commissioned officers and commissioned warrant officers (CW2 - CW5) must serve at least 4 years of their remaining selected Reserve Duty Service Obligation (RDSO) from the date of completion of the course in which they received GoArmyEd TA; per US Code, otherwise recoupment will begin on a pro-rated basis. DA Form 5447-R (Officer Service Agreement) documents this military service obligation.

New GoArmyEd Users

Go to <https://www.goarmyed.com/login.aspx> and select “New User.” Complete the required information for a base role GoArmyEd account, which results in the creation of your GoArmyEd user name and password. The base role access will allow you access to training, helpdesk, on-duty classes, and testing.

To request TA level access to register for college classes, the following steps must be completed:

1. Log in to <https://www.goarmyed.com/login.aspx> using your user name and password.
2. Click the “Request TA Access” Smart Link, where you will be presented with the following steps:
 - a. Verification of TA Eligibility
 - b. Review of Training
 - c. Submission of your Statement of Understanding (SOU)
 - d. Selection of home school and degree plan
 - e. Completion of the Common Application

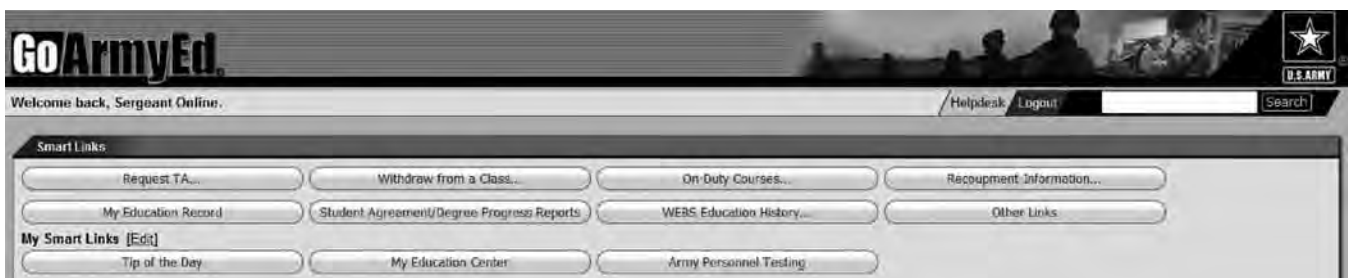
After completing the steps listed above, your Army Education Counselor/ESS/ESO will review your application and pending approval, activate your GoArmyEd account. You will receive an email when your application has been approved and you have access to request TA.

How to Request TA and Enroll in a Class

TA Requests MUST be submitted before the class starts or no later than the final day of the school’s late registration period.

Depending on the school you attend, you will be presented with one of two enrollment paths.

GoArmyEd will determine your path automatically and all approved TA will be paid directly to your school by the Army upon successful class completion.



If your school uploads classes and tuition costs to GoArmyEd, you will be presented with the following process:

1. Log in to <https://www.goarmyed.com/login.aspx>.
2. Select the "Request TA" Smart Link.
3. Confirm your school name is pre-populated and the class start date range is correct then select "Next."
4. View Class Search Results. Select the "Class Details" button before enrolling to view more class information (e.g., class description, semester hour cost, prerequisites, required class materials, etc.).
5. Select "Request Class" for your desired class. The Confirm Classes screen displays class cost information. Be sure to review the cost covered by TA and any cost you must self-pay.
6. Select "Process Enrollment" or "I Agree To Pay."

Note: If TA does not cover the entire cost of the class, you are responsible for the remainder, which will be billed directly by the school. Do not X out of page. Select "Cancel Request" if class selection is in error.

7. Review and update your account information if necessary, then select "Account Information Verified."
8. The View Results screen displays the status of your enrollment request. If the Status column shows a green checkmark, you have successfully enrolled, pending final approval from the school. You will receive an email confirming enrollment.

If your school does not upload classes and tuition costs in the portal, you will need to supply class information in an online TA Request. You will be presented with the following process:

1. Log in to <https://www.goarmyed.com/login.aspx>.
2. Select the "Request TA" Smart Link.
3. Confirm your school is pre-populated, enter the class Subject, Catalog and the Class Start Date and select "Next."
4. The TA Request displays. Complete each required field in the Class Information and Class Cost sections. Select "Calculate Cost" to populate the Invoice section so you can see the final Army and Soldier cost.
5. Review your TA Request for accuracy and then select "Submit."

IMPORTANT: You must upload cost verification for the class to your GoArmyEd eFile (See "How to use eFile"). Verify that all information provided in the TA Request matches the information in your school's class schedule. Valid cost verification may include one or more of the following: statement of tuition of fees from school's catalog or Web site; screenshot from an online account with the school; an itemized receipt or current invoice from the school.

Failure to provide cost verification will result in your TA Request being denied.

6. When the TA Request is approved by the Army, you will receive a confirmation email.
7. You must print and submit a copy of the approved TA Request to your school when registering for classes.

Note: If TA does not cover the entire cost of the class, you are responsible for the remainder, which will be billed directly by the school.

How to Check Your TA Balance

Log in to <https://www.goarmyed.com/login.aspx> and look in the My Education section to see your TA balance.

How to Drop a Class

Soldiers MUST drop ALL classes through GoArmyEd before the class end date (Eastern Time).

1. Log in to <https://www.goarmyed.com/login.aspx> and select the “Withdrawal from a Class” Smart Link.
2. Select a checkbox to choose the class.
3. View Confirmation page and choose the appropriate withdrawal reason using the dropdown options of “Withdrawal – Military Reasons (WM)” or “Withdrawal – Personal Reasons.”
 - **Personal drops** – Soldiers MUST repay the TA amount.
 - **Military Drops** (includes emergencies) – Soldiers MUST have the WM approved by the ESO within 60 days of the initiation of the withdrawal, to prevent recoupment. Complete the Request for TA recoupment Waiver – Withdrawal for (WM) Military Reasons Form and upload the signed waiver from the Battalion Commander or first LTC in chain of command, or if in the Reserve Component, by the Unit Commander for the class.

Note: Soldiers who provide false information with a request to waive reimbursement of Army TA are subject to penalty under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

4. Select the “Finish Dropping” button.

How to Resolve a Hold

A hold is applied to enforce Army TA regulations. Holds are removed automatically when the issue is resolved. For more information on holds and how they are resolved, go to the My Education section of your GoArmyEd homepage.

TA Recoupment

Class costs will be recouped from a Soldier for:

- Failing a class
- An incomplete grade not resolved within 120 days
- A course drop for personal reasons
- A class that is not included in the Soldier’s degree plan

An email notification is sent 30 days before repayment begins, except in the case of separation from the Army. See your signed SOU for recoupment rules.

How to Use Your eFile

Scan a document and save it to your computer (e.g., Student Agreements, TA request cost verification, SOU, or Military Withdrawal documents).

1. Log in to <https://www.goarmyed.com/login.aspx>.
2. Select “My Education Record” Smart Link.
3. Select the “eFile” tab.
4. Complete required fields and select “Browse” to find your file.
5. Select “Upload File.”

How to Get Help

Reference documents:

1. Log in to <https://www.goarmyed.com/login.aspx>.
2. Select “Soldier Reference Documents” in the Helpdesk.

Resources section:

- Contact the GoArmyEd Helpdesk:
 - CONUS toll-free: 1-800-817-9990
 - OCONUS toll-free: go to <https://www.goarmyed.com/login.aspx> and select the “Helpdesk” link; select the “View OCONUS Helpdesk Numbers” link
- Create a case from your GoArmyEd homepage:
 1. Log in to <https://www.goarmyed.com/login.aspx>.
 2. Select “Create a Helpdesk Case.”
 3. Provide a description of your concern.
 4. An email confirmation of your request and the resolution will be sent to your preferred email account.
- Contact an Army Education Counselor, Education Services Specialist (ESS) or Education Services Officer (ESO):
 1. Log in to <https://www.goarmyed.com/login.aspx>.
 2. Select “My Education Centers” Smart Link.
 3. Find your Education Office (all education offices and education centers are listed alphabetically).

Forgot your Username or Password?

1. Click on “Forgot your username and/or password?”
2. Enter the last 5 digits of your Social Security Number and your Date of Birth, then click “Submit.”
3. Create your new password and click “Submit.”
4. A confirmation email will be sent to your preferred email account with your username and new password.

Duplication of Benefits for Use with Army Tuition Assistance (TA)

State TA managers are fiscal agents of the US government and responsible to ensure applicants are not receiving duplication of federal funds in contradiction to US law and NGB guidance. Service members may use TA in addition to other funding sources (i.e. ARNG Kicker, GI Bill programs, Loan programs, State-funded programs, etc.) to fund their educational expenses based on the following limitations:

- State-funded programs have no impact on TA programs and should not be a factor in determining Federal TA, subject to any State laws or directives. TA may be used concurrently with State TA but, combined, **may not exceed** 100% of tuition costs (can include approved fees as per policy).
- 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 TA program.
- Tuition Assistance and ARNG Kicker and either the MGIB-SR or the REAP (Chapter 1607) may be combined providing the service member is attending school half-time or more. Tuition Assistance, MGIB-AD and ARNG Kicker may also be combined.
- Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) ROTC Scholarship and ARNG Kicker, and either REAP (Chapter 1607) or the MGIB-AD (Chapter 30) may be combined.
- In the case where an applicant is eligible for both TA and a Pell Grant, TA should be applied first to allow maximum use of Pell Grant funds.
- Eligible Soldiers may combine the Dedicated ARNG ROTC Scholarship and MGIB-AD (if they previously obtained this benefit while prior Active Duty).

- Applicants receiving ROTC scholarship funding (Tuition Option) under US Code 2107 or US Code 2107a **are not** entitled to TA. Those electing the Room & Board option **are** entitled to use TA.

State-Funded Education Programs

State-funded programs vary from state to state. To see the most current description of state benefits by state visit ARNG's education Web site at <https://www.education.ng.mil/> and click on the US map icon or consult your State ARNG Education Office for details on the State's program.

ARNG Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP)

For Army Medical Department (AMEDD) officers who have an existing student loan obligation upon joining the ARNG or acquired during their time as a member in the Army National Guard, this program may pay up to \$240,000.00 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 recruiter or your State Education Office personnel can provide more details. Visit <https://www.education.ng.mil/> and select the US map icon for the State Incentives Manager contact information.

ARNG Chaplain Loan Repayment Program (CLRP)

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

Individuals enrolled in the Chaplain Candidate Program are **not** eligible to participate in the ARNG CLRP.

Eligibility Criteria:

Must meet all the requirements for accessioning and commissioning as a Chaplain in the ARNG to include:

- Must possess a current endorsement from a religious organization listed as an endorser with the Armed Forces Chaplains Board.
- Must sign a written agreement to serve not fewer than three years as a Chaplain in the ARNG.
- Currently hold an appointment or commission as a Chaplain in the ARNG.
- Must possess outstanding educational loans secured on or after October 1 1975; loans must have been applied towards a graduate education or professional qualifying degree courses.

ARNG Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP)

The ARNG Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) is offered as an enlistment incentive for *prior- and non-prior service enlistees* and a retention tool for current Guard Soldiers who have student loans. ARNG Recruiters/Incentive Managers determine loan eligibility using the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) and applicable promissory notes for enlistees who meet the following conditions:

- Qualify as a Category I, II, or IIIA enlistment (for non- prior service applicants only) (Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) score of 50 or higher)
- Applicant must contract for a period that is ≥ 6 -years.
- Applicant must enlist into a valid vacancy.
- Non-prior service applicants must be MOS qualified in their duty position prior to payment.
- Prior service applicants must enlist DMOSQ to be eligible.

ARNG Retention NCOs/Incentive Managers determine eligibility of *current members* with existing loans who want to reenlist or extend for SLRP and meet the following criteria:

- Soldier must immediately reenlist or extend for a term of service that will provide a contractual obligation that is *greater than or equal to* 6 years from the date of the SLRP agreement.
- Prior service Soldiers and currently serving Soldiers may be eligible for the SLRP if they have not previously received the SLRP as an enlistment, reenlistment, or extension option in the Selected Reserve, and they have existing disbursed loans at the time the reenlistment or extension is signed.
- Soldiers must be MOS-qualified for the position for which they are reenlisting or extending.
- Soldiers may re-enlist/extend in order to gain initial entry into the program and must be within 12 months of their ETS.
- Soldiers who enter the program and extend beyond their initial 6-year SLRP may continue to extend in this manner until they reach the maximum dollar amount that was authorized on the date of their initial SLRP contract.

General Eligibility Criteria:

- Qualifying loans established and disbursed after the date of enlistment can be eligible.
- The maximum annual payment is 15 percent of the eligible principle(s) or \$500.00, whichever is greater.
- Payments are capped at \$7500.00 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.
- Glossary Non-prior service applicants are not eligible for an incentive.
- The Soldier must have one or more qualifying, disbursed loans in his/her own name at the time of enlistment/re-enlistment/extension.
- Entitlement is for the contracted period only.
- Enlisted Soldiers receiving SLRP will remain eligible while attending Officer Candidate School (OCS) or Warrant Officer Candidate School (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.
- There is no maximum time in service requirement to be eligible for SLRP.

Visit <https://www.education.ng.mil/> and click on the US map icon for the State Incentives Manager contact information.

COMMISSIONING PROGRAMS

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 <http://www.rotc.monroe.army.mil/> for details.

Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)

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 (Military Occupational Specialty) may be eligible for an accelerated two-year ROTC program in lieu of the four-year program.

Early Commissioning Program (ECP)

The Early Commissioning Program 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.

Program Benefits (Consult your ESO for current rates and benefits)

- 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).
- Uniform allowance.
- Book allowance.

Five Military Junior Colleges participate in the Early Commissioning Program in the United States:

- **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.

Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP)

Students attending college and enrolled in the ROTC program may be eligible for the SMP option. SMP is a two-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-Year Dedicated Army National Guard Scholarship. Scholarships in ROTC programs pay for most tuition, 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. SMP cadets are non-deployable and cannot be called to Active Duty. 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.

Eligibility Criteria

- 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 not eligible.

To Apply

- In addition to the necessary contracting forms from Cadet Command and USAR/ARNG, participants must complete DA Form 4824 (SMP Agreement between Cadet Command and the USAR Unit) or NGB Form 594-1 (SMP Agreement between Cadet Command and the ARNG Unit).
- To ensure service in the ARNG/USAR upon commissioning, the SMP cadet must obtain a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) control number from Cadet Command and complete Cadet Command Form 202-R (Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Non-Scholarship Endorsement) or Cadet Command Form 203-R (Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship Endorsement).

Federal Officer Candidate School (Active Component)

A fourteen-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 Reserves. 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.

Eligibility Criteria

- Candidates must have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and must furnish a copy of their official transcripts or an approved waiver from The Deputy Chief of Staff (per Memorandum date 2 September 2009 from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army [Manpower and Reserve Affairs]).
- Achieve a General Technical Aptitude Test (GT) score of 110 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).
- Candidates must be no more than 42 years, 364 days of age at the time of commissioning. Minimum age requirement to enroll is 18. Beyond age 30, exceptions must be accompanied by a waiver.
- Candidates 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 and sign an Officer Service Agreement.
- For information on testing procedures, contact your State ESO.
- For information on application procedures, contact your chain of command.
- For assistance with degree planning, contact the ARNG Guard Support Center at 1-866-628-5999 or email GSC@ng.army.mil.

State Officer Candidate School (OCS)

The State OCS option is a 16-month course of instruction conducted in four phases. Upon commissioning, each officer will attend an Officer Basic Course (OBC) within 12 months in the branch to which they are assigned.

Eligibility Criteria

- Candidates must have successfully completed Basic Combat Training (BCT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Soldiers enlisting under the OCS Option must successfully complete BCT.

- Candidates must have a minimum of 60 semester hours from an accredited college or university annotated on an official transcript *at the time of entry into the program*. 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. (Per NG memo dated 15 March 2006).
- Achieve a General Technical Aptitude Test (GT) score of 110 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).
- Candidates must complete 90 semester hours towards a Bachelor's degree or 90 hours on an official transcript, and provide a copy of their approved Bachelor's degree plan *prior to commissioning*. (Per NG memo dated 15 March 2006).
- Candidates must be no more than 39 years, 364 days of age at the time of commissioning. Minimum age requirement to enroll is 18. Beyond age 30, exceptions must be accompanied by a waiver.
- 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.
- For assistance with degree planning, contact the ARNG Guard Support Center at 1-866-628-5999 or email GSC@ng.army.mil.

Accelerated Officer Candidate School (OCS)

National Guard Bureau (NGB) conducts an eight-week accelerated OCS program for qualified personnel, in both winter and summer months. Qualified personnel will be identified by OPM (Office of Personnel Management) or OSM (Officer Strength Manager) and enrolled in the course. The candidates will report for screening and indoctrination sessions during OCS IDT (Inactive Duty for Training) drills in the March-May period each year. The course is conducted over eight weeks, from June to August each year. (The three phases of training are conducted at region-specific locations throughout the continental United States, with Phase 3 at Ft. Lewis, VA and Ft. McClellan, AL.) Candidates are eligible for commissioning upon course completion pending federal recognition.

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 commissioning*. (Per NG memo dated 15 March 2006). 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 Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).
- Candidates must be no more than 39 years, 364 days of age at the time of commissioning. Minimum age requirement to enroll is 18. Beyond age 30, exceptions must be accompanied by a waiver.
- Candidates 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 your State ESO.
- For assistance with degree planning, contact the ARNG Guard Support Center at 1-866-628-5999 or email GSC@ng.army.mil.

Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS)

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. Soldiers may also be appointed following successful completion of OCS.

Basic Eligibility Criteria

Basic eligibility requirements vary among military occupation specialties (MOS). You may find this information at <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant/index.shtml> and choose prerequisites which will list each MOS. The items listed below are universal for all applicants or applicable as indicated.

- Applicant must be a high school graduate or pass the General Education Development (GED) test at the high school level.
- Achieve a General Technical (GT) score of 110 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).
- Applicant must be a United States citizen either by birth or naturalization.
- Applicant must hold a Secret Clearance; have completed Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course (BNCOC); be E-5 or above; have 3-5 credit hours in English and meet identified age requirements.
- Applicant for technical specialties (non-rated aviation) must be at least 18 and not more than 46 years of age on effective date of initial appointment. Applicants eligible for appointment to the grade of chief warrant officer, W-2, must not have reached 48 years of age.
- Applicant for rated aviation specialties must be at least 18 years of age and have the application/selection process completed no later than 27 years and 6 months of age, which will enable entrance into Initial Entry Rotary Wing training no later than 29 years of age.
- Applicant for aviation flight training must have a Flight Aptitude Selection Test (FAST) score of 90 or higher.
- For information on testing procedures, contact your State ESO.
- For information on application procedures, contact your chain of command or the command chief warrant officer located at your State headquarters.

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 on Active Duty and twelve months in the National Guard. The nominated soldier must have completed their baccalaureate degree and achieve an ASVAB GT score of 110 or higher. The program does not replace or otherwise affect any commissioning programs. Each respective State Military Personnel Officer (MILPO) is the POC for direct commissioning.

ROTC SCHOLARSHIPS

Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) Scholarship and Dedicated ARNG (DEDNG) Scholarship

Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) and Dedicated Army National Guard (DEDNG) scholarships are available through the Army Reserve Officers' Training Course (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 Select Reserve Montgomery GI Bill (aka "Guard" GI Bill, Chapter 1606 or 1607). The DEDNG scholarship is available for up to three years but does not allow simultaneous use with the Guard GI Bill.

Major scholarship qualifications include: US citizenship, 2.5 cumulative GPA, under 31 years of age for the entire year of commissioning, pass the Army Physical Fitness Test, meet Army height/weight stan-

dards, full-time student, and be of good moral character. Most cadets will serve an eight-year obligation (MSO) as a drilling Officer upon commissioning. Contact the Professor of Military Science (PMS) at your school's Army ROTC department to determine eligibility.

These scholarships pay full time tuition and mandatory fees, **or** can pay room & board (not to exceed \$10,000 per year). 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 for room & board can be use with federal and /or State tuition assistance to cover all major college expenses (tuition & fees, room & board, books). Cadets are also paid a monthly stipend for 10 months in the following amounts: \$350 for the sophomore year, \$400 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 that all ARNG 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 \$250 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.



SECTION 5

EXAMINATION PROGRAMS

Testing opportunities are offered at National Test Centers and the Education Services Office in each State. 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 and supervised at the State Education Services Office.

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. The Army Personnel Testing Program Test Control Officer Handbook, August, 2009, provide information regarding all tests found under this category, and also contains ordering instructions. For the most current listing of APT tests visit

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/protect/Active/Education/Extranet/>. An AKO user name and password are needed to access this site.

The APT Test titles are:

1. Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT)
2. Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB)
3. Oral Proficiency Interview (OPT)
4. Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT)
5. Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test (AFAST)
6. Enlistment and Student Armed Forces Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)
7. Auditory Perception

To apply for APT testing:

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.
- ESO personnel verify that the Soldier is eligible for testing using record data from iPERMS, DA 2-1, TAPDB-G or J1/MILPO. ESO forwards test request to TCO to establish a test date. **Please note that the ESO and TCO could be the same person.**
- The TCO sets a test date, place and time for testing and notifies the Soldier.
- Upon completion of testing, the TCO inputs test results into iMARC, 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 the Testing, Licensing, and Certification Program Manager at National Guard Bureau.

Credit by Examination

ARNG Soldiers, their spouses, and civilian employees may benefit from free testing opportunities sponsored by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (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 Examina-

tion 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 ARNG funds. For detailed information on DANTEs testing programs visit <http://www.dantes.doded.mil/>, call 850-452-1111, x3118, or e-mail exams@navy.mil.

Most commonly available tests include:

- **College Level Examination Program (CLEP).** CLEP subject examinations measure knowledge of basic concepts, principles, relationships, and applications involved in various subject areas. Currently these tests are available either in paper-based or computer-based versions, however, the College Board will discontinue its CLEP paper and pencil testing program of the 14 test titles for CONUS effective December 31, 2011, after which Servicemembers will have *only* the option of taking computer-based CLEP exams at base-sponsored National Test Centers (NTC) and local academic institutions offering these tests.
- **DSST.** DSST is 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.
- **General Education Development (GED).** The General Educational Development Exam (GED) was developed for adults who have not completed a formal high school education.
- **Assessment Test (ACT).** The ACT test assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work
- **Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT).** SAT is a standardized test for college admissions. SAT can determine whether or not a person is ready for college.
- **Graduate Record Examination (GRE).** GRE is 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).** Graduate Management Admission Test is 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.
- **Law School Admission Test (LSAT).** Law School Admission Test is an examination administered by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) that attempts to measure logical and verbal reasoning skills. **Note: There is a testing fee for LSAT examinations.**
- **The PRAXIS Series (tests for teacher licensing certification).** Praxis test is 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 credit and inform you of acceptable passing scores for the test(s) you plan to take.

Test Center Options

National testing sites offer the following advantages:

- All 34 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.

National On-Campus Testing

For the nearest “Open” on-campus test center, visit http://apps.collegeboard.com/cbsearch_clep/searchCLEPTestCenter.jsp 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 On-Base Testing

A growing number of military installations are contracting with National Test Centers (NTC) to provide CLEP computer-based eCBT testing through their on-base education centers. Currently, this option is available at some installations in the continental US (CONUS). Testing is free to eligible military members and for a select group of civilian personnel. DANTES funds both the test fee and, through our contract with the College Board, pays for the administration of the test by the National Test Center.

Army Education Centers (Paper-Based CLEP eCBT Testing)

Fourteen (14) high-volume CLEP eCBT paper-based tests are available at Army Education Centers. These tests are developed from the computer-based CLEP tests available at National Test Centers. Testing is free for eligible military personnel and for some civilians. For information on these tests and the testing fee involved, visit the DANTES Web site at http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub%20Pages/Exams/Exams_Main.html.

Please note: Check with your local State ESO to see which testing options are available.

Funding For Testing

Army Education Centers

Most tests sponsored by DANTES offered at Army Education Centers are at no cost for eligible military personnel and on a limited funded basis to eligible civilians. CLEP and DSST are offered free to the ARNG Soldier and the ARNG spouse. DANTES authorizes up-front funding of the CLEP eCBT test fee for eligible military and civilian examinees 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.

MGIB-AD

Department of Veterans Affairs will reimburse for national tests for admission to institutions of higher learning. These tests include but are not limited to the Law School Admission Test (LSAT), Graduate Record Exam (GRE) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Tests such as College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) are included as well. This benefit does not apply to the MGIB-SR or REAP. Currently this program is only available for MGIB-AD, VEAP, and DEA.

Credentialing Examinations

The ARNG, via DANTES, provides several Certification/Licensing programs. The program provides support and information to give Soldiers an opportunity to test on an assortment of credentialing examinations in such fields as Information Technology, Federal Communications, Human Resources Management, Automotive Services, and Emergency Medical Technology. The ARNG provides a reimbursement benefit for Soldiers that pays for one certification or licensure examination sponsored by DANTES. Credentialing examinations are offered at your base Education Center and at National Test Centers (NTC). For more additional information, please send inquiries to certprog@navy.mil or call 850-452-1111 x3194 or x3213.

SECTION 6

ARNG GUARD SUPPORT CENTER (GSC)

Operations Branch NGB

ARNG GSC was conceived to centralize Subject Matter Experts who provide support to the State Education Offices and provide support services to ARNG Soldiers, their families, and civilian employees of the Guard. The Center is located at the Professional Education Center (PEC) in North Little Rock, Arkansas. Services are available Monday through Friday, 0800-1800 CST and may expand to Saturday in the next FY. Education, Incentives and Employment Counselors may be reached at **1-866-628-5999**, through email at **GSC@ng.army.mil**, or through a new CHAT service located on their Web site **<https://www.education.ng.mil/>**.

Counseling Team

Counselors are available to work in conjunction with your State Education Services Office to meet your counseling needs. Services available through the GSC include: Career Guidance, Military and Civilian Credit Assessment, Distance Learning and Degree Planning, and Employment and Apprenticeship Support.

Career Guidance

The Counselors will work with you to assess your needs in determining your career objective and then assist you in finding a pathway that works. Goals may include enhancing current skills sets for promotion or commissioning purposes; pursuing a college/university degree program; or seeking employment opportunities. One of the tools available to assist you in assessing career fields or educational opportunities is DISCOVER (see next paragraph).

DISCOVER

This online data base system provides guidance information to help Soldiers, civilian employees, and their family members make important career decisions. Through research-based assessments and a developmental guidance process, DISCOVER matches your interests, abilities, and job values to help you explore career and educational options. All ARNG members, civilian employees, and their family members are eligible. To request free access to this data base call **1-866-628-5999** or go online at **<https://www.education.ng.mil/>**.

Promotion Program

Promotion in the enlisted rank involves several components:

1. The awarding of promotion points for possessing college credits recorded on an official transcript. If you are considering remaining in the enlisted rank, consider enrolling in a college or university that will maximize potential college credits that are available for review on your Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS).
2. Commissioning Program (see all commissioning programs in Section 5). This career option will also require that you enroll in a college or university program. The Counselors at the GSC are available to provide guidance to assist **you** in planning your future.

Military and Civilian Credit Assessment

Once an application is received, the ARNG Soldier or former military member's Military Occupational Specialty (MOS, AFSC, or Rate) and military training courses is reviewed. The Counselor will review the application and advise the applicant what additional documentation is necessary to complete an overall evaluation of all previous learning. The documents used include but are not limited to: Academy training records; Advanced Placement courses transcripts; College Level Examinations transcripts; college transcripts; and professional certifications. Once the documents are provided to the GSC, the Counseling Team will build a comprehensive evaluation for you to use at a local institution for counseling purposes, or toward a degree program using the degree planning services provided at the GSC. Currently the GSC has 117 partnership colleges in their database.

College Degree Planning

Counselors are available to balance the student's needs, military and civilian evaluation, and previously earned college credit against various colleges or universities' degree requirements. Counselors are available to advise and support applicants throughout the degree completion process.

Undergraduate (Associates/Bachelor degrees). The degree planning process involves the evaluation outlined in the *Military and Civilian Credit Assessment* paragraph. Once the military/civilian credit assessment is complete, credits are merged into college degree plans that are tailored to meet the applicant's educational goals. The applicant will initially receive two degree plan options. To receive an assessment and degree plans, you should submit an application. The process takes approximately 30 days to complete, after which you will receive your degree plans.

Graduate (Master and Doctorate). The GSC has several options for Master's and Doctoral degree programs. To pursue a graduate degree, the applicant should have completed all requirements towards their Bachelor's degree. The applicant will submit a Graduate application request form for degree planning services. Two degree plans will be built based on the information on the application.

To submit an application for these services go to <https://www.education.ng.mil> and select "Apply Online."

Tracking Officer Candidates and the Officers Without Degrees Program

All ARNG Officers are required to complete their Bachelor's degree prior to their mandatory promotion board to Captain. Counselors will provide assistance to Officer Candidates and Officers as they progress towards a Bachelor's degree completion. The Officer Candidate will be automatically enrolled in this program upon entry into OCS or the Officer upon Commissioning. Once commissioned, the Officer should provide an update to the Counseling Team on his/her progress towards a degree. If the Officer fails to advise the team, the Officer will be contacted to update information on his/her progression. If the Officer is called to active service for deployment, the Counseling Team will continue to work with the Officer to provide support. This program was established to aid the Officer when faced with barriers that often cause them to fall behind and not complete their Bachelor's degree in a timely manner. If the Officer fails to complete his/her degree prior to mandatory promotion board for Captain (twice), the Officer will lose his/her commission. The Counseling Team is working with State Officer Strength Managers (OSMs), Commanders, MILPOs, and State Education Services Officers (ESOs) to assist Officer Candidates/Officers in meeting their civilian education requirement. Emails may be sent to the Counselors at: officers@ng.army.mil.

Guard Apprenticeships (GAPI) and On-The-Job-Training (OJT) Programs

This is an opportunity to gain civilian employment while in the ARNG. Several states have programs that equate to civilian jobs. ARNG members may be eligible to receive GI Bill benefits while working in a civilian job. Military skills that are registered apprenticeship occupations are jobs in fields such as mechanics, installers and repairers, medical technicians, therapists, computer network engineers, Web site developers, and many, many others. Programs vary from state to state. For details on your State program, contact your ESO.

Job Connection Education Program (JCEP)

The Job Connection Education Program (JCEP) helps Guard and Reserve Servicemembers and their spouses who are unemployed or under-employed to find careers. The program's objective is to help participants identify aptitudes and abilities honed in the military, arrive at a plan for transferring them to a civilian job setting, and assist program participants in understanding and mastering key job-search resources and services for optimal job placement. For additional information visit <http://www.jcep.info/Employers.html>.

The program provides:

- Program training and career counseling services at National Guard Armories and select community facilities.
- Thorough assessment of skills, knowledge, abilities and relevant experience.
- Resume review, application assistance, mock interviews, special workshops and encouragement.
- Assistance connecting participants to available jobs.

Employer Partnership Initiative (EPI)

The ARNG has partnered with the Army Reserve in the Employer Partnership Initiative, an online database that functions similar to a job fair and helps to match Soldiers with employers who have openings for specific jobs. Currently, the program partners with more than 700 businesses that have listings throughout the country. This Web-based program, allows Soldiers to access it from anywhere and at any time, including during deployments. For additional information, and to access the Employer Partnership Initiative Web site, visit <http://www.employerpartnership.org/>. While searching for jobs at this site, a page will ask you to verify your membership in the Army Reserve and complete a referral form. To continue on and see the job listing, simply fill out the form as a Guardmember.

Army/American Council on Education (ACE) Registry Transcript System (AARTS)

An AARTS transcript contains a record of all of the Soldier's 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 résumé and provides employers with a good understanding of the scope of responsibilities and skills acquired while serving in the military. Acceptance of ACE credit recommendations varies depending on an institution's policies, procedures, and degree requirements. To request a transcript visit the AARTS Web site at <http://aarts.army.mil/> and select "Ordering a Transcript."

Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET)

The VMET document is an "all-services" integrated form which displays demographic, training, and experience information that is retrieved from various automated sources. It lists your military experience and training which may have application to employment in the private sector. Use the document as a tool to prepare résumés and job applications, in concert with evaluation reports, training certificates, awards, transcripts, and other pertinent documents. It is *not an official transcript* for purposes of granting college credit, but it can be used to support training and/or course requirements to qualify for civilian occupations, certificates, licenses, or programs of study. Credit recommendations from the American Council on Education (ACE) for occupations and/or courses are listed when they are available; academic institutions determine which credits are applicable to a program of study. For additional information visit the VMET Web site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/vmet/>.

Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers provides referral financial aid, assistance, and placement service to eligible military personnel interested in beginning a second career as a teacher in K-12 public education. The No Child Left Behind Act allocates federal dollars from the Department of Education to continue the Troops to Teachers Program. The Program is managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES). The DANTES Troops to Teachers office helps registrants identify teacher certification requirements, programs leading to certification, employment opportunities, and financial aid for eligible participants.

The goal of Troops to Teachers 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 “high needs” 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.

The funding provided will maintain the network of Troops to Teachers State Support Offices to assist participants with certification requirements and employment leads. In addition, financial assistance may be available for eligible participants - a stipend to reimburse costs associated with becoming certified to teach. Recipients of these stipends must agree to teach for three years in a school located in a “high-need” district. A bonus is available to those who agree to teach for three years in a school that serves a high percentage of students from low-income families. Additional information on Troops to Teachers may be found at the DANTES Web site or at <http://www.proudtoserveagain.com/>. This site links with other sites providing employment opportunities, a Troops to Teachers network, and a database of participants.

Army e-Learning (Smart Force)

Smart Force 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/channels/eLearning/smartforce/> and log onto Army eLearning.

Rosetta Stone

Online access to all 31 Rosetta Stone language training courses is free to all Army Active, Guard, and Reserve soldiers as well as Army civilian employees and contracted ROTC and US Military Academy (USMA) cadets. You can access the training by logging onto Army e-Learning at <http://usarmy.skillport.com>. If it is the first time you have used Army e-Learning click the registration button in the middle of the page and after registering come back and log on to Army e-Learning to start your language training. The lessons are self-paced, self-directed and Active Duty soldiers earn one promotion point for each five hours of training credit they complete while reserve soldiers earn one retirement point for each three hours of training credit they complete.



SECTION 7

SERVICEMEMBERS OPPORTUNITY COLLEGES (SOC)

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

SOC member institutions are accredited, degree granting, and are listed in the Higher Education Directory (HEP). 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 VA Counselor to assist Servicemembers 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 SOC's Web site at <http://www.soc.aascu.org/>.

SOC can help you:

- Minimize loss of credit and duplication of coursework if you change schools;
- Work with designated SOC Counselors at the school to resolve education issues;
- Resolve mobilization issues such as tuition refunds, student loan, GI Bill status, re-enrollment upon redeployment, and other issues related to interrupting your education for a call to Active Duty.

APPENDIX A

CONTACTS AND LINKS

Contacts

The following points of contact are available for information and assistance:

Servicemembers 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/>

ARNG Guard Support Center (GSC)

Box 46

Camp Joseph T. Robinson

North Little Rock, AR 72199-9600

Toll Free: 1-866-628-5999

Commercial: 501-212-4940

Fax: 501-212-4928

Email: GSC@ng.army.mil

Internet: <http://www.education.ng.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/>

Army/ACE Registry Transcript System (AARTS)

415 McPherson Avenue

Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027-1373

Toll free: 1-866-297-4427

Commercial: 913-684-3269

Fax: 913-684-2011

Internet: <http://aarts.army.mil/>

Links

The following related links are listed to provide reference information:

ARNG Education Web Site

<https://www.education.ng.mil/>

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges

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

Montgomery GI Bill

<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

VA Online Application for Benefits

<https://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>

Army Tuition Assistance and ARNG Statement of Understanding (SOU)

<https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits>

DoD Transferability GIBILL Web site

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB>

Free Military Transcripts

<http://aarts.army.mil>

Free Testing, Certification, and Licensing

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

Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET)

https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/vmet/owa/vmet_Web_display.login

Solomon Amendment

<http://www.aacrao.org/federal-relations-and-public-policy/compliance/solomon-amendment.aspx>

Office of the Secretary of Defense-Reserve Affairs

<http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/>

US Department of Education - Student Financial Assistance

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALS-WebApp/students/english/index.jsp>

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