





# VETERANS AFFAIRS

## BENEFITS MANUAL

2023-2024

**A COMPREHENSIVE LIST**  
PREPARED BY

### CONTACT US

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Dear Student,

Welcome to Itawamba Community College!

On behalf of our college, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your dedicated service to our country. We are delighted that you have selected us to pursue your academic goals; we are committed to helping you to accomplish a “new mission” in your life.

This handbook is designed specifically for you, our military service member, veteran student and/or dependent, to assist you in navigating our community college, our programs and our services as well as the educational benefits requirements.

Note that there are many services available at ICC to ensure your academic success whether your goal is to complete an associate degree, certificate or transfer to a four-year institution.

The Financial Aid offices are located in the David C. Cole Student Services building on the Fulton Campus and the Academic and Student Center on the Tupelo Campus. We have an open-door policy, and you don't need an appointment to see us.

Sincerely,

Terry Bland  
Director of Financial Aid

Mandy Moore  
VA School Certifying Official



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# ADMISSIONS



The application for admission to Itawamba Community College is available online. Students access the online application at: <https://apply.iccms.edu>.

Based upon Mississippi Law, all veterans, service members and dependents will be charged in-state tuition. To verify your residency status, provide a copy of your certificate of eligibility (CoE) to the School Certifying Official (SCO) in the Financial Aid office who will coordinate your residency status with the Admissions office.

To receive VA education benefits, you must also select a major that leads to an associate degree, transfer program or non-college degree (NCD) program approved by the State Approving Agency (SAA).

Submit official transcripts from all:

- Previously attended colleges and universities
- Active-Duty training: Joint Services Transcript (formerly SMARTS, AARTS), College of the Air Force or Coast Guard

Submit transcripts to:  
Itawamba Community College  
ATTN Registrar's office  
602 West Hill Street  
Fulton, MS 38843  
[registrar@iccms.edu](mailto:registrar@iccms.edu)

Transcripts may be hand-delivered to the college Admissions office; however, it must be in a **SEALED** envelope issued by the institution within the last 12 months. Transcripts can also be sent through a secure third-party network such as Parchment, National Student Clearinghouse, Scribble, etc.

## JOINT SERVICES TRANSCRIPT (JST)



The JST is intended to contain a record of your military educational experiences, including those for which there are evaluated college credit recommendations. The acceptance of American Council on Education (ACE) credit recommendations varies depending on an institution's policies, procedures and degree requirements. To request a transcript, visit the JST website at <https://jst.doded.mil/jst/>.

# FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

## IMPORTANT NOTES FOR RETURNING STUDENTS OR TRANSFER STUDENTS APPLYING FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID:

Check to see if you are academically eligible to receive Federal Student Aid before registering for classes. You can check this on myTribe or visit the Financial Aid office on either the Fulton or Tupelo campus.

Eligibility for transfer students cannot be determined until ALL transcripts have been received and evaluated.

If you register first and are ineligible for Federal Student Aid, you will have to pay out-of-pocket unless you have other resources.

## STEPS FOR ALL STUDENTS

The website to apply for Federal Student Aid is <https://studentaid.gov>. If you have not already done so, you must create an FSA ID. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed if you are interested in applying for the Pell Grant, Federal Work-Study or Direct Loans (Student Loans). ICC's school code is 002409.

- Use the "Link to IRS" option, if possible.
- FOR FAFSA OR FSA ID HELP, CALL 1.800.4.FED.AID (1.800.433.3243).

After you complete the FAFSA, a link will take you to the State of Mississippi Financial aid application (EASIEST WAY TO APPLY) or go to [www.msfinancialaid.org](http://www.msfinancialaid.org). Complete this online application to apply for the Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG), the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG), the Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students (HELP) or the Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship.

- The deadline for state aid is September 15 (March 31 for HELP).
- Call 1.800.327.2980 for assistance.

Need a student loan? Student loans will be packaged upon receipt of your FAFSA results. You must log in to your myTribe and accept or decline your award.

- Detailed instructions can be found at [www.iccms.edu/FinancialAidForms](http://www.iccms.edu/FinancialAidForms) by clicking on **How to Accept or Decline your Student Loan Offer**.
- Remember...to receive student loans, you **MUST** complete the FAFSA and be enrolled in a MINIMUM of six hours.

You can check your status, award amounts and student loan history 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- Check your financial aid online. You can create your login and password on the ICC website at [www.iccms.edu](http://www.iccms.edu); Click on "myTribe." Once you have created your login, click on "School Services," then "Financial Aid."
- Check your financial aid on the ICC app. Using the same login and password you created for myTribe, access your financial aid using our ICC app. Just select "My Financial Aid" within the app.

To apply for ICC Scholarships and/or County Guaranteed Tuition Grants (CGTP), go to <https://apply.iccms.edu>.

- The deadline for ICC Scholarships and CGTP is September 15.

To apply for ICC Foundation Scholarships, go to <https://apply.iccms.edu>.

- The deadline for Foundation Scholarships is April 1.

# HOW TO APPLY FOR VA EDUCATION BENEFITS

Apply for your Certificate of Eligibility (CoE)

- Be sure you have all required information before you start. You must complete the form in one session. There is no option to save and come back later.
  - Required information:
    - Applicant's Social Security Number
    - Military history (Service Members only)
    - Sponsor's Social Security number (Dependents applying for PGIB only)
    - Information about the school you wish to attend.
    - Bank account and direct deposit information
    - Education history
  - Go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).
  - Click on "Education and training"
  - Click on "How to apply"
  - Click on "Find your education benefits form" and answer the questions. Click "Apply Now." Based on your answer, the system will select the correct form
  - Answer the questions in each section:
    - Step 1: Applicant Information
    - Step 2: Benefits Eligibility
      - Select the program you are eligible for and wish to use.
    - Step 3: Service History: Service Members and Veterans Only
      - If you are currently on Title 32 FTNGD (ADOS/ADSW), select 'No' for "Are you on active duty now."
      - ROTC Cadets: Confirm whether your scholarship is Section 2107 or Section 2107a. If 2107a, select no for both questions.
      - Student Loan: Do not check this box if your Student Loan Repayment contract was from the Guard/Reserves.
    - Step 4: Education History
    - Step 5: Employment History
    - Step 6: School Selection

- Step 7: Personal Information
- Step 8: Review information and click “Submit Application.”
- Normally, the VA will process your application within 30 days. You will receive a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) electronically.
- Call (888) GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551) to check the status of an application.

Bring the CoE to the School Certifying Official (SCO) in the Financial Aid office at Itawamba Community College. You may also email it to [va@iccms.edu](mailto:va@iccms.edu).

The VA Education Benefits Semester Request Form must be completed each semester and submitted to the SCO for processing. An academic adviser must complete the Semester Request Form certifying that the classes being taken are required for your degree and are not “retakes” (classes for which you have already received a passing grade). The VA will only pay for classes required for your degree that have not been previously passed. Once passed, the VA will not pay for you to take it again, even if it is to receive a higher grade.

Once the CoE and the Semester Request Form have been received by the Financial Aid office, the SCO will certify your enrollment and submit it to the VA Regional Processing Office (RPO) for processing. This tells the VA how many hours you are taking and the cost of tuition and fees and reports your rate of pursuit (1/2-time, 3/4-time, full-time).

- For Chapter 33 (Post 9/11) veterans, if a tuition payment is due before you receive your CoE from the VA, your SCO may be able to place your school account on hold to wait for payment from VA. Contact your SCO for more information.

Verify Your Attendance. Students receiving VA Education benefits must verify their attendance monthly by using one of the following methods:

- Text Message. The VA strongly recommends verifying enrollment via text message. Every student who has a current mobile number on file will receive an initial text message from the VA. Reply “Yes” to the text message to opt-in to verifying enrollment via text.
  - If you did not receive a message, call the VA Education Call Center (ECC) at 1.888.GIBILL.1 (1.888.442.4551) to opt-in.
  - Once you opt-in, you will receive a text message requesting enrollment verification on the last day of each month. You must submit your response within 6 days.
- Call the VA ECC at 1.888.GIBILL.1 (1.888.442.4551) every month and ask the representative to verify your enrollment. The VA ECC is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CT.
- International students will need to call the VA ECC at 001.918.781.5678.



## **NEXT SEMESTER**

- Do not resubmit your application for VA education benefits unless you are changing schools or degree plans.
- As soon as registration for the next term opens, register for classes early and make another appointment with your SCO.
- Your Semester Request Form can be submitted up to 120 days prior to your class begin date to avoid any break in your benefits.

# GI BILL® PROGRAMS

GI Bill Programs are statutory entitlements that are administered by the military services and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Soldiers may receive up to 36 months in any one VA educational assistance program and a maximum of 48 months of combined benefits if eligible for two or more VA educational assistance programs. For the most current GI Bill information visit the VA website located at: <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>. For ARNG specific GI Bill policy, consult the latest ARNG Voluntary Education (VoEd) Policy PPOM. The following are the most common GI Bill educational assistance programs available to ARNG Soldiers:

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

## **MONTGOMERY GI BILL – SELECTED RESERVE (MGIB-SR), CH 1606, TITLE 10 USC**

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

## **REFERENCES**

- Title 10 USC, Chapter 1606
- DoDI 1322.17, 15 January 2015
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017
- FY24 Army National Guard (ARNG) Voluntary Education (VoEd) Policy

## **HOW DO I QUALIFY?**

- Complete the requirements of a secondary school diploma or its equivalent.
- Agree to a six-year Selected Reserve obligation after June 30, 1985 (for enlisted this is accomplished using a DD Form 4 or DA Form 4836, officers use a DA Form 5447-R).

- Complete Initial Active-Duty Training (IADT) or Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC).
- Remain a member in good standing in the Selected Reserve.
- Soldiers mobilized on Title 10 Active-Duty may receive an extension of their period of eligibility for the length of the mobilization plus four months. This is a VA process that occurs after the Soldier separates from the Selective Reserve.

## WHAT DO I GET?

Rates Effective 1 October 2023

Institutional Training	
Training Time	Monthly Rate
Full time	\$466
<sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> time	\$349
<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> time	\$233
Less than <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> time	\$116.50

Rates change every year on October 1. Go to [www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/](http://www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/) for current rates.

## ARMY NATIONAL GUARD KICKER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

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

## REFERENCES

- Title 10 USC, Chapter 1606, Section 16131(i)
- Title 10 USC, Chapter 103, Sections 2107 and 2107a
- Title 38 USC, Chapter 30, Section 3021-3023
- DoDI 1322.17, 15 January 2015
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017
- NGR 600-7 SRIP, 12 August 2014
- FY24 Army National Guard (ARNG) Voluntary Education (VoEd) Policy

## HOW DO I QUALIFY?

Refer to the current ARNG Voluntary Education (VoEd) Policy for a detailed description of the qualification criteria, contracting requirements and standards for administration of this incentive. For FY23, the authorized Kickers are:

- \$350 Enlisted Accessions (EA)
  - Non-Prior Service
    - ASVAB score of 50 or above (Cat I-III A).
    - High school diploma or equivalent.
    - Critical Skill/Critical UIC Vacancy (Tier Level 1-7)
  - Prior Service
    - ASVAB 50 or above (Cat I-III A).
    - DMOSQ E7 or below.
    - Critical Skill/Critical UIC Vacancy (Tier Level 1-7)
    - Meet RE and SPD code requirements for if affiliating from active duty.
    - If affiliating from a service other than Army, meet the requirement to be awarded a MOS at time of affiliation/enlistment and be coded DMOSQ in SIDPERS/GIMS.
- \$350 Reenlistment/Extension (RE)
  - Reenlist or extend DMOSQ grade E7 or below.
  - May extend any time after completing three continuous years of service in the ARNG, but prior to completing 14 total years of service.
  - Deployed Soldiers with a 999K excess code are eligible.
  - Soldiers in the Medical Management Activity (MMA) are not eligible while medically unavailable.
- \$350 Officer Commissioning (OC)
  - Officer Candidate School (OCS). A Soldier enrolled in OCS may contract for the OC Kicker provided they:
    - Have previously completed IADT and have an enlisted MO.
    - Complete MGIB-SR Kicker Addendum (NGB Form 5435) after completion of OCS Phase 1 and prior to commissioning.
    - Have a concurrent six-year service obligation from the date of the Kicker contract.

- Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC). A ROTC Cadet may contract for the OC Kicker provided they:
  - Have previously completed IADT and have an enlisted MOS
  - Enrolled in the Simultaneous Member Program (SMP)
  - Have not received a ROTC Scholarship (Title 10, Section 2107).
  - Complete SMP Agreement (NGB Form 594-1) and ROTC Cadet Contract (DA Form 597 series) prior to contracting for the Kicker.
  - Complete Kicker Addendum (NGB Form 5435) prior to commissioning.
  - Have a concurrent six-year service obligation from the date of the Kicker contract.
- Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC). A Soldier on orders in the WOC program may contract for the OC Kicker provided they:
  - Have previously completed IADT and have an enlisted MO.
  - Complete Kicker Addendum after entry into commissioning program and prior to commissioning.
  - Have a concurrent six-year service obligation from the date of the Kicker contract.
- The Standard Officer Kicker (SOK). A Commissioned or Warrant Officer who is within one year after commissioning or recommissioning (as long as the recommissioning was in a different Area of Concentration/branch) may contract for the SOK provided they:
  - Complete the MGIB-SR Kicker Addendum and sign a DA 5447-R Officer Service Agreement for a period of six or more years on the same day.
  - Commissioned Officers without a bachelor's degree and Direct Commissioned Officers are eligible for this incentive.
- Supplemental (Bump-Up). An Officer Candidate or Commissioned or Warrant Officer who is within one year after commissioning may be eligible for an increase in their Kicker rate to \$350 provided they:
  - Have previously contracted and established eligibility for a \$100 or \$200 MGIB-SR kicker.
  - Have completed or agree to complete the original six-year service obligation.
  - Are enrolled into a commissioning program.
  - Complete the Supplemental MGIB-SR Kicker addendum (NGB Form 5435-1) after entry into the Commissioning program and within one year after commissioning.

- No additional service obligation is required for Soldiers who have completed the original MGIB-SR Kicker six-year obligation.

#### NOTES:

- Receiving a Dedicated Guard ROTC Scholarship (Title 10 USC Section 2107) will terminate a Soldier's MGIB-SR (Ch 1606) basic benefit and Kicker (if applicable). Receiving a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) Scholarship (Title 10 USC Section 2107a) has no effect on either MGIBSR or Kicker.
- Cadets who have not completed AIT and been awarded an enlisted MOS are not eligible for the OCS, ROTC or WOC Kickers.

#### WHAT DO I GET?

A Soldier may receive a maximum of 36 months of benefits under the Kicker program based on their contracted kicker rate (\$100, \$200 or \$350). Rates will not increase or decrease due to changes in policy. All payments are tax free.

- A Soldier or applicant may contract for the Kicker if they are eligible or are establishing eligibility for the MGIB-AD or MGIB-SR.
- The Kicker may be paid in conjunction with MGIB-AD, MGIB-SR or PGIB.
- When eligibility for the MGIB-SR/MGIB-AD benefit expires, so does eligibility for the Kicker.

#### **MONTGOMERY GI BILL - ACTIVE DUTY (MGIB-AD), CHAPTER 30, TITLE 38 U.S. CODE**

Chapter 30 is generally an education program that applies to veterans who began active-duty service for the first time after June 30, 1985 or AGR service after November 29, 1989, contributed \$1,200 and received an Honorable Discharge.

#### REFERENCES

- Title 38 USC, Chapter 30
- DoDD 1322.16, 18 June 2002
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017
- PPOM #22-038 FY23 Army National Guard (ARNG) Voluntary Education (VolEd) Policy, 23 September 2022

#### HOW DO I QUALIFY?

- Service Members are eligible to enroll in the MGIB-AD if they:
  - Served on Title 10 Active Duty after 30 June 1985.
  - Served on Title 32 AGR after 29 November 1989.
  - Complete a DD Form 2366.

- Contribute \$1,200.
- Receive an Honorable Discharge.
- Service Members meeting any of the below criteria are NOT eligible to enroll in the MGIB-AD:
  - Have ever declined the MGIB-AD.
  - Are a Service Academy Graduate.
  - Have an Initial active-duty period under Title 10 beginning on or before June 30, 1985
  - Have an Initial AGR period under Title 32 beginning on or before November 28, 1989
  - Are an ROTC scholarship recipient who completed ROTC on or before to Sep 30, 1996
  - Are an ROTC scholarship recipient on or after October 1, 1996, who received at least \$3,400 of ROTC scholarship benefits in any one year of ROTC participation.
- Soldiers should contact the VA to verify their eligibility based on their actual periods of service.

## WHAT DO I GET?

Rates Effective 1 October 2023

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

Training Time	Monthly Rate
Full-time	\$2,358
$\frac{3}{4}$ time	\$1,768.50
$\frac{1}{2}$ time	\$1,179
Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ time but More than $\frac{1}{4}$ time	\$1,179**
$\frac{1}{4}$ time or less	\$589.50**

\*\*Tuition and fees only. Payment cannot exceed the listed amount.

Rates change every year on October 1. Go to [www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/](http://www.va.gov/education/benefit-rates/) for current rates.

Payments are limited by several factors, including:

- Payment Tier
- Rate of Pursuit (enrollment full-time/half-time, etc.)
- Use of Federal Tuition Assistance

- Active Duty/Drilling Status

If on Active Duty, you may use the benefit as a Top-Up to your Federal Tuition Assistance

- Top-Up means FTA will pay first, then Chapter 30 will pay the cost of tuition and fees not covered by FTA, not to exceed the monthly Chapter 30 rate.
- You have 10 years from the last day of qualifying Active-Duty service to use this benefit.
- Soldiers eligible for the MGIB-AD who are mobilized on Title 10 Active Duty for 90 days or more will have their 10-year delimiting date reestablished if they have remaining benefit entitlement. To receive the additional time, Soldiers must send a copy of their DD Form 214 to their VA RPO.

### **MONTGOMERY GI BILL – ACTIVE-DUTY \$600 BUY-UP PROGRAM**

This option allows Service Members currently serving on a qualifying period of Active Duty to contribute an additional amount up to \$600. The maximum \$600 additional contribution will increase the basic full-time MGIB-AD benefit by \$150 per month for a total of up to \$5,400 in additional benefits. Contributions into the Buy-Up Program are not refundable for those who relinquish MGIB-AD to use the PGIB program. AGRs may contribute by payroll deduction; mobilized Soldiers must submit a certified bank check or money order. On completion of enrollment requirements, the Soldier must notify the VA of their eligibility for the Buy-Up program.

#### **HOW DO I QUALIFY?**

- Be eligible for the MGIB-AD.
- Contribute up to \$600 in \$20 increments.

#### **WHAT DO I GET?**

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

### **POST-9/11 GI BILL (PGIB), CHAPTER 33, TITLE 38 U.S. CODE**

The Post-9/11 GI Bill (PGIB) is an education program for veterans who serve a minimum of 90 cumulative days on active duty after September 10, 2001, and receive an honorable discharge. RC members can earn eligibility by serving on orders under certain Title 10 authorities, or Title 32 AGR, or on Title 32, Section 502(f) under limited circumstances.



## REFERENCES

- Title 38 USC, Chapter 33
- DoDI 1341.13, Post 9/11 GI Bill, Change 1, 12 July 2018
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017
- FY24 Army National Guard (ARNG) Voluntary Education (VoEd) Policy

## HOW DO I QUALIFY?

- Serve at least 90 cumulative days in a period of qualifying Active Duty on or after September 11, 2001. Qualifying Active-Duty service is:
  - Service in any Active Component.
  - Service under Title 10 USC Sections 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12301(h), 12302 12304, 12304a or 12304b.
  - AGR under Title 10 or Title 32. 14
  - Title 32 U.S.C., Section 502(f) under a Declaration of National Emergency as follows:
    - Between Sep 11, 2001–May 31, 2002, under Operation Noble Eagle
    - Between February 15, 2019–20 Jan 2021 in support of the Southwest Border Mission under Operation Guardian Shield
    - Effective March 22, 2020–July 1, 2022, in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic
    - Between 14 Jan 2021–23 May 2021 in support of the Capitol Police/59th Inauguration
  - If Soldier has eligibility for another GI Bill program(s), one of the programs must be relinquished when electing PGIB.
- Basic Training and AIT can be added to qualifying time if the Soldier:
  - Attended all or a portion of IADT on or after September 11, 2001; and
  - Completed 24 months of other qualifying service.
- The following periods of service are NOT qualifying time for PGIB:
  - Any qualifying service during the four-year ADSO after commissioning from a Title 10 U.S.C. 2107 (Dedicated Guard) ROTC scholarship.
  - Any qualifying service during the five-year ADSO after attendance at or commissioning from a Service academy.
  - Service terminated due to defective enlistment agreement.

- Any qualifying service during the three-year ADSO associated with accepting the Active-Duty Student Loan Repayment Program (Title 10 Section 109).
- Any service period with less than an Honorable Discharge.
- Period of Eligibility
  - For Soldiers whose last day of qualifying active duty was prior to January 1, 2013, eligibility to use Chapter 33 benefits expires 15 years from the date of the last Honorable discharge or release from active duty of at least 90 consecutive days.
  - For Soldiers whose last day of qualifying active duty was on or after January 1, 2013, eligibility never expires.
  - Soldiers who are subject to the 15-year limit can eliminate the limit by completing a new period of qualifying duty of at least 90 continuous days on or after 1 January 2013.

## WHAT DO I GET?

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

Qualifying Service	Payment Tier
36 months* or more, or Purple Heart recipients	100%
At least 30 continuous days on active duty and discharged due to service-connected disability	100%
30–36 months*	90%
24–30 months	80%
18–24 months	70%
6–18 months	60%
90 days–6 months	50%

\*Includes Basic Training and AIT

## BENEFIT PAYMENTS

There are three benefit payments for the PGIB: Tuition and Fees, a Monthly Housing Allowance and a Book and Supply Stipend. All three are prorated by the Service member's payment tier. The Monthly Housing Allowance and the Book and Supply stipend are further prorated by the Service member's rate of pursuit (number of credit hours).

- Tuition and Fees
  - Up to 100% of in-state tuition if you are attending a public school.
  - Max \$27,120.05 per year for private or foreign school (effective August 1, 2023).
- Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA): (MUST be attending more than half-time)
  - Equivalent to BAH of E-5 with dependents.
  - Based on zip code where attending classes.
  - If attending only online classes: \$1054.50 per month (effective August 1, 2023).
  - Subject to term start and end dates.
  - Soldiers serving on qualifying active duty for 30 consecutive days or more are NOT eligible for the MHA.
- Book and Supply Stipend
  - \$41.67/credit hour
  - Up to \$1,000 per academic year

## **TRANSFER OF EDUCATION BENEFITS (TEB)**

The Department of Defense allows service members to transfer their PGIB benefits to their spouse or dependent children. Unlike the basic Post-9/11 GI Bill, TEB is NOT an entitlement, it is an incentive for further service and is intended to promote retention in the ARNG. Not every Soldier will qualify for TEB. Soldiers unable to commit to the required service obligation will not be able to participate in this program.

### **REFERENCES**

- Title 38 USC, Chapter 33, Section 3319
- DoDI 1341.13, Post 9/11 GI Bill, Change 1, 12 July 2018
- AR 621-202, 26 September 2017
- FY24 Army National Guard (ARNG) Voluntary Education (VoEd) Policy 17

### **HOW DO I QUALIFY?**

- Be actively serving in the ARNG.
- Be entitled to the PGIB.
- Have completed six or more years of qualifying service in the Armed Forces (Active-Duty or Selected Reserve) at time of TEB request.

- Commit to serve at least four additional, continuous years in the Armed Forces (must have an ETS or MRD equal to or greater than four years from the TEB request date and not be in the IRR or ING); and
- Have no adverse action flags, including failure to maintain fitness or height/weight standards.

#### WHAT DO MY DEPENDENTS GET?

- Dependent(s) receive the same tier payment as the Soldier.
- Spouse is subject to the same rules as the transferring Soldier:
  - For Soldiers whose last day of active duty was before January 1, 2013, the spouse's eligibility ends 15 years from the Soldier's last day of qualifying time.
  - For Soldiers whose last day of active duty was on or after January 1, 2013, the spouse's eligibility never expires.
  - Spouses of Soldiers serving on qualifying active duty are not eligible for the Monthly Housing Allowance.
- Children:
  - Can use the benefit after the transferring Soldier has completed 10 years in the Armed Forces.
  - Always paid as if the Service Member was in a Non-Active-Duty Status.
  - Can begin using the benefit on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday or completion of requirements for high school diploma or equivalency certificate, whichever comes first.
  - A child's eligibility ends on their 26<sup>th</sup> birthday unless you specify an earlier end date.
- You can transfer to a spouse at any time while you are actively serving. You must transfer to a child before their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday (23<sup>rd</sup> birthday if they are a full-time student).
- You can modify and/or revoke months between any dependent you originally transferred months to – even after you separate from service.
- You cannot add dependents after you separate from service. Soldiers should consider transferring months to each dependent.

#### HOW DO I APPLY FOR TRANSFER OF EDUCATION BENEFITS (TEB)?

TEB requests are submitted on the DoD milConnect website at <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>.

Other TEB approval criteria may apply. Refer to Army Regulation (AR) 621-202 or the current ARNG VolEd Policy for the most up-to-date guidance on the ARNG TEB Program.

If you have questions about your eligibility for the TEB program, consult with your State or Territory Education Services Officer or GI Bill Manager.

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

## FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (FTA)

ArmyIgnitED [www.armyignited.army.mil](http://www.armyignited.army.mil) is the one-stop virtual gateway for Soldiers to request Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) online, anytime, for both classroom and distance learning college courses. It is a dynamic online portal which automates most of the enrollment and application process. ArmyIgnitED allows access to regionally and nationally accredited colleges and universities with thousands of degree plans. ArmyIgnitED is used by all three Army components, Active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers to request FTA.

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

- High school diploma or its equivalency
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's Degree
- One academic certificate (either undergraduate or graduate) during their career

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

### REFERENCES

- Title 10, USC, Section 2007, Payment of Tuition for Off-Duty Training or Education, 19 Jan 04.
- Title 10, USC, Section 2005, Advanced Education Assistance: Active-Duty agreement; reimbursement requirements, 24 September 1980.
- DODI 1325.25, Voluntary Education Programs (Incorp. Change 3, 7 July 2014), 15 July 2015.
- AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System (ACCESS ARMYU), 28 October 2019.
- AR 600-8-2, Suspension of Favorable Personnel Actions (Flags), 23 October 2012.
- Army TA Directive, dated 6 June 2018 22

## HOW DO I QUALIFY?

- Eligibility:
  - Be currently serving in the ARNG and have a common access card (CAC). Note, completion of IADT, BOLC and/or WOBC are no longer required.
- Service Requirement/Obligation:
  - Enlisted must have an ETS 31+ days after completion of FTA funded course(s).
  - Officers and Commissioned Warrant Officers are subject to a four-year Reserve Duty Service Obligation (RDSO) **OR** a two-year Active-Duty Service Obligation (ADSO).
- Additional Criteria:
  - The college is regionally or nationally accredited AND is a participant in ArmyIgnitED.
  - The funded course(s) meets a requirement listed in your personalized degree plan provided by the school (this can include prerequisite courses).
  - Maintain an undergraduate GPA of 2.0 or a graduate GPA of 3.0 for FTA-funded courses.
  - You must submit your FTA request at least 8 business days prior to course start date.

## WHAT DO I GET?

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

## HOW DO I APPLY?

- Go to [www.armyignited.army.mil](http://www.armyignited.army.mil) and sign in with your CAC card.
- Once the student account is established, select the education goal. Select education level, school and degree you want to pursue.
- Once your education goal has been approved by your ESO/ESS, click on the Virtual Benefits Training link, and after that is completed, click on TA Requests and issue funding.
- Your assigned education counselor will review your tuition assistance request (TAR) and approve or reject it. You will receive an email stating the status of the TAR and the steps to follow, if necessary.

- Register with your academic adviser at Itawamba Community College.
- If assistance is required, you can send a message directly to your assigned counselor in the system or reach out to your state education office outside of the system.

## RECOUPMENT

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

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

## DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS

Soldiers may not receive a duplication of federal funds in contradiction to law, regulation or policy. Service members may use FTA in addition to other funding sources (i.e., ARNG State-funded programs, loan programs, scholarships, etc.) to fund their educational expenses based on the following limitations:

- ARNG State-funded programs generally do not have an impact on FTA and should not be a factor in determining FTA, subject to any State laws or directives. FTA may be used concurrently with State TA subject to State laws or directives but may not exceed 100% of tuition costs.
- The ARNG's Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP), Health Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP) and Chaplain Loan Repayment Program (CLRP) are educational incentives and have no impact on receiving funds from the FTA program. See Chapter 6 of this handbook for further information about those programs.
- In the case where an applicant is eligible for both FTA and a Pell Grant, it is recommended that FTA be applied first to allow maximum use of Pell Grant funds.
- Soldiers receiving an ROTC scholarship under USC Sections 2107 or 2107a are not eligible to receive FTA.

## USE WITH GI BILL

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

**MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606) Recipients.** FTA may be used concurrently with MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606) for the same course when attending half-time or more.

**Chapter 33 Recipients.** Active duty, National Guard and Reserve Service Members may receive Chapter 33 benefits for the same courses for which they receive FTA from the military. Depending on their mobilization time, National Guard and Reserve Service Members may have varying percentages of Chapter 33 benefits ranging from 50% to 100%. Schools must deduct FTA benefits from the net tuition and fees submitted to VA and Chapter 33 is used to pay toward the remaining out-of-pocket costs.

**Chapter 30 Recipients.** Active-duty Service Members and National Guard and Reserve AGRs may not receive standard Chapter 30 benefits for the same courses for which they receive FTA from the military (except for Top-up). If a student takes several courses, the student cannot receive Chapter 30 benefits for the courses for which FTA is paid. The student may, however, receive Chapter 30 benefits up to the cost of tuition for courses for which FTA has not paid.

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

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



# STATE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SEAP)

SEAP is a general scholarship for Mississippi National Guard service members attending accredited institutions of higher learning within the State of Mississippi for undergraduate studies and career training. This program is up to an undergraduate degree. Once a service member achieves an undergraduate degree, utilizes \$45,000 or has reached ten (10) years from initial SEAP usage date, SEAP can no longer be utilized. All funds are subject to availability of the appropriations from the State Legislature.

## HOW DO I QUALIFY?

- Service member completed Basic Training or joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP)
- The following Warrant Officer and Officer Grades are eligible for SEAP:
  - Warrant Officers: WO1-CW4
  - Officers: O1-O4
- Legal registered voter in the State of Mississippi
- Actively serving in good standing (not flagged) and serving through the end of the semester.
- Service members must complete SEAP funded courses prior to Expiration Term of Service (ETS)/Mandatory Removal Date (MRD)
- Maintain a 2.0 GPA or satisfactorily complete a vocational course that does not produce a GPA for the previous semester.
- Enrolled at an accredited Mississippi College/University, Mississippi Community College or Mississippi Vocational/Credentialing program.
- Is up to an undergraduate degree and can only be used for up to \$45,000 or 10 years from a service member's SEAP start date, whichever comes first.

## WHAT DO I GET?

Eligible members of the MSNG who are attending accredited institutions of higher learning within the State of Mississippi to the following tuition benefits for Undergraduate Studies and Career Education training only.

- Mississippi community colleges: Pays up to \$4,000 per State fiscal year (01 JUL through 30 JUN).
  - \$1,500 per semester.
  - \$1,000 for summer classes, if funds available.

- Students attending part-time (less than 12 semester hours) will receive half of the full-time allotment.
  - \$750 per semester for Mississippi community colleges

May be combined with any GI Bill benefit and FTA.

- Service members utilizing their Post 9-11 GI Bill benefit are only authorized the part-time SEAP amount (\$1,500/\$750) for a semester.
- Pays up to half of the total cost for a Vocational/Credentialing program.

All funds are subject to availability of the appropriations from the State Legislature. Funds used as a general scholarship.

### HOW DO I APPLY?

- Go to <https://msgseap.education> and apply online.
- Click “I Agree to the Terms of the User Agreement.”
- Click “Register.”
- Click “Register as a Student” and enter all your information into the registration form.
- Click “Register” to submit.
- Once inside the portal, submit your online application.
- If the website is down, SEAP applications (AGO Form 5A-1-1 or AGO Form 5A-1-2) may be submitted to the Education Services office via email at [ng.ms.msarng.mbx.education-office@army.mil](mailto:ng.ms.msarng.mbx.education-office@army.mil).
- Application deadlines:
  - Fall: 01 SEP
  - Spring: 01 FEB
  - Summer: two (2) weeks after the semester start date.
- Service members can submit applications, for the following semester, beginning on:
  - Spring: 15 OCT
  - Fall/Summer: 15 MAR

## CHANGE OF PROGRAM/MAJOR



Veterans and dependents are required to notify the SCO when they make a change to their program or degree plan (change of major). A new degree plan must be developed by an academic adviser and submitted to the SCO in order for the change to be effective.

It is not advisable to change your education plan mid-semester/session because it may result in decertification or an overpayment.

## STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

A Statement of Understanding must be completed by each Veteran or Dependent acknowledging the following requirements:

- I understand that it takes 4-to-8 weeks for the VA Regional Office to process my educational benefits. Payment is paid retroactive to the beginning of the semester.
- I understand that I must meet the college standards of progress. If I am academically disqualified from the college, I am no longer eligible to receive VA benefits.
- I understand that all official transcripts of prior college work and military schools, including copies of form DD-214 or DD-295 must be on file and evaluated by the end of the first semester of attendance at my primary college. Failure to submit official transcripts will delay further VA enrollment certifications. If I already have a bachelor's degree, I understand that my enrollment certification will not be submitted until all transcripts are EVALUATED.
- I understand that each semester I will be required to complete a "Semester Request Form" in order to utilize and continue my educational benefits.
- I understand that I will be responsible for paying any outstanding fees not covered by my VA educational benefits. I will have a hold placed on my account and will not be able to register for classes in subsequent semesters until the balance is satisfied.
- I understand that all classes taken each semester must apply to my major according to my degree plan.
- I understand that failure to enroll in the proper classes may result in an overpayment and the reduction or termination of benefits. The veteran and/or dependent assume FULL responsibility for any overpayment of Veterans Benefits.
- I understand that I will get paid for the dates I actually attend class. During the fall term, August and December are pro-rated. During the spring term, January and May are pro-rated.
- I understand that I cannot count the units of SELF-PACED CLASSES or ONLINE REMEDIAL COURSES toward my education benefits.
- I understand if I am using the Post 9/11 GI Bill (CH33), I must verify my enrollment monthly in order to continue receiving my housing benefit. Failure to do so would mean I will not receive my housing benefit.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to report any changes (Adds/Drops/Withdrawals) to the college Veterans Affairs office immediately.
- I understand that if I fail to report enrollment changes (dropping a class, adding a class, stop attending a class), this could result in delays, overpayments or termination of my VA education benefits.

- I understand that overpayment is my responsibility, and I will owe money to the Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA may deduct the funds from ANY Federal payments (retirement, taxes, disability, etc.)