

# Programs for Military and Their Dependents

## Department of Defense Voluntary Education Program

Each of the four military services, the Coast Guard and the Selected Reserve Service Components operates its own voluntary education program.

**Eligibility:** Applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a member in good standing of the regular Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard or the Selected Reserve Component of any one of these services
- Have the signed permission of the base Education Services Officer or Reserve Training Officer
- Have served an established number of continuous days of active duty
- Meet other criteria that the individual service may have established

**Value:** Effective October 1, 2002, the services pay 100% of tuition and related instructional costs up to certain credit caps and determined annual ceilings.

For additional information, visit:  
<http://www.defense.gov/Resources>.

## Iraq/Afghanistan Service Grant (IASG)

This program provides assistance to undergraduate students whose parents or guardians died as a result of U.S. military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001, and do not have a Pell-eligible EFC.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must:

- Meet all federal Pell Grant eligibility requirements, except for having a Pell-eligible EFC
- Have a parent or guardian who was a member of the Armed Forces and died as a result of military service in Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001
- Have been less than 24 years of age when the parent or guardian died or, if 24 or older, enrolled at an institution of higher education at the time of the parent or guardian's death.

**Value:** The same amount as the maximum Pell Grant for the award year, adjusted for enrollment status and cost of attendance. All other Title IV aid must be awarded based on the student's calculated EFC.

**Application Procedure:** Eligible applicants must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

## North Carolina National Guard Tuition Assistance Program (NCTAP)

NCTAP is for NC Army and Air National Guard members ONLY. NCTAP is a reimbursement program based on availability of funds.

**Eligibility:** Applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be an active drilling member of the NC Army or Air National Guard PRIOR to the start of the semester, term and/or class(es)
- Must have a minimum of two years remaining as a member of the Guard from the end of the academic period for which the grant is provided.
- Must commit to extend membership in the Guard for at least two years from the END of the academic period for which the grant is provided. Extension forms must be effective, signed and submitted to the NCTAP Manager PRIOR to the end of the current semester, term, and/or class(es) for which the benefit is provided.
- Must be in good standing with Guard unit. Cannot be flagged for any reason.
- Must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in an Approved program of study at an Approved institution
- Must be certified by the Approved institution as eligible to receive the grant
- Meet the Approved Institution standards to measure a member's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward completion of a program of study for the purposes of determining eligibility for federal financial aid under the Higher Education Act.

**Value:** Assistance for tuition to qualified members of the Guard is awarded up to an amount set by the NC State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA). Subject to the availability of funds.

**Application Procedure:** To apply, register at <https://www2.ncseaa.edu//NCGuard> and upload the required coursework information in the NC National Guard Student Portal.

Please direct all questions to the NC National Guard Education Services Office: 984.664.6272.

**Contact:**

Stacy Steinmetz, NCTAP Manager  
(984) 664-6649  
[NCTAP@ncseaa.edu](mailto:NCTAP@ncseaa.edu)

### North Carolina Veterans' Scholarships

**Eligibility:** Applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be children (under age 25 at time of application) of certain deceased or disabled veterans or of veterans who were listed as POW/MIA
- Veteran's disabilities must have occurred during a period of war
- Veteran must have been a legal resident of North Carolina at time of entry into service, or child must have been born in North Carolina and resided there continuously

**Value:** Full scholarships provide for four academic years of free tuition, room and board allowances, and mandatory fees at state-supported institutions. Limited scholarships provide free tuition and mandatory fees at public universities. Awards may be used for either undergraduate or graduate study.

**Application Procedure:** For information concerning this scholarship program and applicable institutions, contact your local Veteran's Affairs Office or the North Carolina Division of Veterans Affairs, 1315 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1315, call 919-733-3851, or visit <https://www.milvets.nc.gov>. The Division of Veterans Affairs notifies applicants of approval of benefits. Applications are due by March 1.

### North Carolina Vietnam Veterans, Inc. Scholarship Program (NCVVI)

**Eligibility:** Applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a current resident of Wake, Durham, Harnett, Johnston, Franklin, Nash, Chatham, or Granville counties in North Carolina

- Have been awarded the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM) for service in the Vietnam War, or be a spouse, child, foster child, adopted child, grandchild, etc. of a Vietnam veteran (a recipient of the VSM)

Scholarships are awarded without regard to race, sex, age, religion, or national origin for study at an accredited institution that offers degrees, licenses or certificates. Some awards are reserved for study at junior colleges and trade schools and for senior students who participate in the Lessons of Vietnam War course.

**Value:** Scholarships are valued from \$500 to \$1,500 and may be used for any year of undergraduate study. Monies will be paid directly to the recipient for reimbursement of tuition, fees, housing, or books upon submission of receipts.

**Application Procedure:** Applications can be obtained through the website [www.ncvvi.org](http://www.ncvvi.org) (click on Scholarship Info) by sending an email request to [info@ncvvi.org](mailto:info@ncvvi.org), or by sending a request and a self-addressed stamped envelope to NCVVI, 7316 Ray Road, Raleigh, NC 27613. Applications must be received between January 1 and the last day of February.

The applicant must provide: a copy of the Department of Defense Form DD214 to document Vietnam service; a copy of the applicant's birth certificate and/or marriage license, as needed; a personal statement; a list of current activities and awards; and a short essay (600-900 words typed and double-spaced) on a topic relating to the Vietnam War. The essay topic will be posted to the organization's website [www.ncvvi.org](http://www.ncvvi.org) sometime after Thanksgiving.

### Reserve Officers' Training Corps Scholarships (ROTC) - includes Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Repetitive

Four-year scholarships are available on a competitive, merit basis to high school students who plan to enroll in the Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marine, Reserve Officers' Training Corps at a postsecondary institution. The length of the scholarship may vary for each branch of the service.

**Eligibility:** Applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be at least 17 (and no older than 23) for Naval ROTC scholarships
- Be at least 17 within the first semester of freshman year and under 27 years old on June 30 of the calendar year in which student will graduate from college and receive Army commission
- Be able to pass a commissioning physical
- Be a United States citizen

**Value:** ROTC Scholarships are offered at different monetary levels of up to \$180,000 annually that provide for college tuition and educational fees. All applicants are considered for each level. An additional scholarship benefit is a designated book allowance each semester. Scholarship recipients also receive a monthly tax-free allowance during the academic school year for each year the student is on a scholarship. The stipend amount varies by service, but starts at \$250 to \$300 per month in the freshman year and increases each year to between \$400 and \$500 per month in the senior year.

**Application Procedure:**

**For Army ROTC Scholarships:** High school seniors may apply for four-year and three-year advanced designation scholarships by January 10. Applications are found at <https://www.goarmy.com/rotc/high-school-students/four-year-scholarship.html>. For information about two and three-year on-campus scholarships, contact the recruiting operations officer at Army ROTC detachments. The Army also offers scholarships for students majoring in nursing and scholarships for dedicated Army Reserve or National Guard duty. There is no restriction on choice of majors. More information can be obtained at: <https://www.goarmy.com/rotc.html> or by contacting an advisor at 910-396-8408.

**Additional Information:** Army ROTC scholarships cover tuition and fees OR room and board, and they provide an allotment to pay for books as well as a monthly stipend of spending money that increases each year.

**For Air Force ROTC Scholarships:** For students still in high school (or who have never been full-time college students), the deadline for the High School Scholarship Program is December 1 of senior year. The application starts with an online process at the AFROTC website, <http://afrotc.com>. For students who have already been full-time college students, there are numerous in-college scholarships ranging from two-year awards to more than three years. For more information, contact professors of aerospace studies at your nearest campus Air Force ROTC detachments. Some in-college scholarships are tied to specific majors. Contact your recruiter or local detachment for more details. Deadlines for in-college scholarships vary. All scholarship recipients must pass the Air Force Officer Qualifying Test (AFOQT) prior to scholarship activation. More information can be obtained about the AFOQT from the website under the "Admissions" link; click on "Qualifying Test."

**For Navy & Marine Corps ROTC Scholarships:**

All Navy and Marine Corps Scholarships provide full tuition and fees to recipients. To receive more information on eligibility requirements and to begin the application process, visit [www.nrotc.navy.mil](http://www.nrotc.navy.mil) or contact your local Navy or Marine Corps ROTC recruiter. The Navy also offers scholarships for students majoring in nursing to become Nurse Corps Officers for the Navy. More information on this and other scholarship opportunities that are available, including scholarships for those already enrolled in college, is available on the Navy website. Deadline to complete the online application is January 31. For questions, contact your local recruiter, email [PNSC\\_NROTC\\_scholarship@navy.mil](mailto:PNSC_NROTC_scholarship@navy.mil) or call 1.800.NAV.ROTC.

**Coast Guard College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative Program (CSPI)**

**Eligibility:** Applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Score 1100 combined Critical Reading and Mathematics on the SAT, 23 on the ACT, or ASVAB GT of 109 or higher or ASTB: 4 AQR/ 4 PFAR
- Be between 21 and 27 at the time of your college graduation
- Be a sophomore or junior (with at least 60 college credits completed toward your degree)
- Enrolled in a four-year degree program at an approved institution:
  - Historically Black Colleges and Universities
  - Hispanic-Servicing Institutions
  - Tribal Colleges and Universities
  - Select colleges and universities located in Guam, Hawaii, or Alaska
- Meet all physical requirements for a Coast Guard Commission
- Maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Be a U.S. citizen

**Application Procedure:** For more information, contact your local U.S. Coast Guard Recruiter or call 877-NOWUSCG, or visit the website at <http://www.gocoastguard.com/active-duty-careers/officer-opportunities/programs/college-student-pre-commissioning-initiative>.

**Value:** The Coast Guard College Student Pre-commissioning Initiative (CSPI) provides up to two academic years of college tuition, required textbook costs, required fees, monthly salary of approximately \$2,200, medical and life insurance, 30 days paid vacation per year and leadership training.

## Selected Reserve/National Guard Student Loan Repayment Program

**Eligibility:** Applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Enlist in the Army or Air Force National Guard or Army or Air Force Reserve for a six-year period
- Complete all military training
- Be MOS-qualified
- Complete at least one year of Guard or Reserve Service
- Have borrowed from one of the following loan funds: Stafford, Perkins, or Consolidated
- Be enlisted personnel

This program is not available for officers. Loans must be at least one year old for students to qualify for repayment.

**Value:** The SLRP repays 15% or \$500, whichever is greater, on any outstanding balance on eligible loans. Payments are made once a year, on the anniversary of the enlistment, on loans at least one year old. Some limitations apply. Total repayment cannot exceed \$50,000. Only pre-existing loans can qualify. Value is subject to the availability of funds.

**Application Procedure:** The educational assistance grant may only be applied to those institutions approved by the NC State Approving Agency, and physically located in North Carolina. Please contact the State or Territory Education Office for the most accurate information.

Education Services Officer  
1LT Melonie Lamor Lewis  
(919) 664-6000 ext. 46935  
[melonie.l.lewis@us.army.mil](mailto:melonie.l.lewis@us.army.mil)

Federal Tuition Assistance Manager  
SSG Tre Caraway  
(919) 664-6194  
[tre.caraway@us.army.mil](mailto:tre.caraway@us.army.mil)

GI Bill Manager  
SGT Thomas Parker  
(919) 664-6488  
[thomas.parker9@us.army.mil](mailto:thomas.parker9@us.army.mil)

Incentives Manager  
SFC George Millsap  
(919) 664-6249  
[george.millsap@us.army.mil](mailto:george.millsap@us.army.mil)

Website for Army National Guard Education, Incentives and Employment: [www.nationalguard.com/education](http://www.nationalguard.com/education).

## Federal Benefits for Veterans & Dependents

Individuals who served on active duty with the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard may be entitled to educational assistance benefits as veterans.

Active duty members of the armed services may earn tuition assistance while on active duty. Members of the Army and Air National Guard, and members of the five service components of the Selected Reserve, may qualify for educational assistance under special programs. Spouses and children of veterans who are totally disabled from service-connected disabilities may qualify for educational assistance programs.

**Eligibility:** Individuals qualify based upon conditions and benefits in effect at the time of the member's service to the nation in a branch of the armed forces and the kind of discharge issued upon separation. Service in the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps and the Coast Guard, along with contributions, may establish eligibility.

Service in the National Guard and Reserve components of the five services on or after July 1, 1985, may also establish eligibility.

Applications to determine qualifications for educational benefits can be obtained from several sources:

- US Department of Veterans Affairs (US DVA) Regional Office, Veterans Services Office, 251 N. Main St., Winston-Salem, NC 27155
- County Veterans Services Office (96 such offices in North Carolina — consult the telephone directory)
- NC Department of Veterans Affairs District Office (15 such offices — consult the telephone directory)
- Information concerning the value and eligibility requirements for programs is available on the web at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>. You may also contact the Financial Aid Officer in the Veteran Affairs office of the college/university you plan to attend
- Call 888-GI-BILL-1 to speak with a Veterans Benefits Counselor

**Some of the various federal programs for veterans & dependents are as follows:**

**1) Montgomery G.I. Bill - Active Duty (MGIB-AD/Chapter 30)**

**Eligibility:** Applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Entered military on or after July 1, 1985
- Continuous active duty equal to or greater than initial enlistment period
- Contributed \$1,200
- Was honorably discharged

Kickers (additional contributions by the Department of Defense) up to \$400 per month are also available.

**Value:** Subject to change due to government appropriations, consult the following website for further information and current values:  
[https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib\\_ad.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_ad.asp)

**2) Montgomery G.I. Bill - Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR/Chapter 1606)**

**Eligibility:** Applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Available to service members who increase their current obligation of service for a six-year period
- Available for members of the Selected Reserve for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship, and correspondence courses
- Must have completed IADT, be an active drilling reservist, in good standing in your unit, and have a high school diploma or equivalent.

**Value:** Subject to change due to government appropriations; consult the following website for further information and current values:  
[https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib\\_sr.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_sr.asp)

**3) New Montgomery G.I. Bill - Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance (Chapter 33)**

**Eligibility:** Applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Must have served:
  - 30 days continuous active duty service after 9/1/2001, and be discharged due to a service-connected disability, or;
  - 90 days active duty service after 9/1/2001, and be honorably discharged from the service
- Includes:
  - National Guard and Reserves members serving pursuant to federal call to active duty
  - In some circumstances, spouses and children of active-duty service members
  - Be honorably released from the Armed Forces with certain specific conditions

**Value:** Visit the following website for updated information: <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911gibill.asp>.

**4) Forever G.I. Bill (Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act)**

This bill restores and adds education and training benefits for veterans. Below are a few of the enacted changes. For descriptions and a full list of benefits and to download the Forever GI Bill Fact Sheet: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/forevergibill.asp>

- Assistance for Students Affected by School Closures and Certain Program Disapprovals
- Elimination of 15-year Time Limit to Use the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill
- Independent Study at Technical Schools and Non- Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs)
- Priority Enrollment
- REAP Eligibility Credited Toward Post-9/11 GI Bill Program
- Work-Study Expansion

**5) Restored Entitlement Program for Survivors (REPS/Section 156)**

**Eligibility:** Armed Forces members who died while on active duty before August 13, 1981, or who died from disabilities incurred or aggravated by active duty before August 13, 1981. Paid to a surviving spouse for the youngest child in their care if the child is 16 but under 18 years of age; paid to an unmarried child who is 18 but not over 22 years of age and attending an approved post-secondary school; paid to a grandchild who is recognized as a child of a deceased person.

**Value:** Varies according to family income and Chapter 35 payable amounts. Contact your local Veteran's Affairs Office.

**6) Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA/Chapter 35)**

**Eligibility:** Applicant must meet **one** of the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be the spouse, surviving spouse, or child of a veteran who is:
  - Permanently disabled due to service-related condition
  - Deceased as the result of a service-related disability
  - Forcibly detained by a foreign power or government
  - A POW or MIA

**Value:** The value and application deadlines for this program are subject to change pending government action. Consult your local Veteran's Affairs Office or

visit the following website for updated information:  
[https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/survivor\\_dependent\\_assistance.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/survivor_dependent_assistance.asp)

### **7) Tuition Assistance "Top Up" Program**

On October 30, 2000, the President signed into law an amendment to the Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty education program that permits Veterans Affairs to pay a Tuition Assistance "Top Up" benefit.

**Value:** The amount of the benefit can be equal to the difference between the total cost of a college course and the amount of Tuition Assistance that is paid by the military for the course. For more information, consult your local Veteran's Affairs Office.

### **8) Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP/Chapter 32)**

**Eligibility:** Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Entered service for the first time between January 1, 1977, and June 30, 1985
- Opened a contribution account before April 1, 1987
- Voluntarily contributed from \$25 to \$2,700
- Completed your first period of service
- Were discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable

**Value:** The value and application deadlines for this program are subject to change pending government action. Consult your local Veteran's Affairs Office or visit the following website for updated information:  
<https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/veap.asp>

### **9) Vocational Rehabilitation for Veterans with Service Connected Disabilities (Chapter 31)**

**Eligibility:** Determined by a counselor located at the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office based upon application by the disabled veteran.

**Value:** Rates subject to change, contact the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office for further information.

### **10) Work-Study Program**

**Eligibility:** Available to any student receiving VA education benefits who is attending school three-quarter time or more. An individual working under this program may work at the school veteran's office, VA Regional Office, VA Medical Facilities, or at approved state employment offices.

**Value:** Work-study students are paid at either the state or federal minimum wage, whichever is greater. Contact your local Veteran's Affairs Office for further details.

### **11) Yellow Ribbon Program**

**Eligibility:** Applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Served an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001, of at least 36 months
- Was honorably discharged from active duty for a service connected disability and you served 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001
- A dependent eligible for Transfer of Entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on a veteran's service under Yellow Ribbon Info for Vets-(U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**Value:** The Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program) is a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows institutions of higher learning (degree-granting institutions) in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. The institution can waive up to 50% of those expenses, and VA will match the amount from the institution. Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009.

Program details are available at:

[https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow\\_ribbon/yellow\\_ribbon\\_info\\_schools.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon/yellow_ribbon_info_schools.asp)