

Military Tuition Assistance (TA) Program

ELIGIBILITY

The Department of Defense (DoD) [Tuition Assistance](#) (TA) program provides financial assistance to Service members for voluntary off-duty education programs in support of professional and personal self-development goals. TA is available for courses that are offered in the classroom or by distance learning and are part of an approved academic degree or certificate program. The courses must be offered by schools that are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and are signatories to the current DoD Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (DOD MOU).

All four service branches and the U.S. Coast Guard offer financial assistance for voluntary, off-duty education programs in support of service members' personal and professional goals. The program is open to officers, warrant officers and enlisted active-duty service personnel. In addition, members of the National Guard and Reserve Components may be eligible for TA based on their service eligibility. To be eligible for TA, an enlisted service member must have enough time remaining in service to complete the course for which he/she has applied. After the completion of a course, an officer using TA must fulfill a service obligation that runs parallel with, not in addition to, any existing service obligation.

COVERAGE AMOUNTS AND MONETARY LIMITS

The Tuition Assistance Program may fund up to 100% of your college tuition and certain fees with the following limits:

- Not to exceed \$250 per semester credit hour
- Not to exceed \$4,500 per fiscal year, October 1 through September 30

TUITION ASSISTANCE BENEFITS AND RESTRICTIONS

- Tuition assistance will cover the following expenses:
 - ➔ Tuition
 - ➔ Course-specific fees such as laboratory fee or online course fee

NOTE: all fees must directly relate to the specific course enrollment of the service member.

- Tuition Assistance will **not** cover the following expenses:
 - ➔ Books and course materials
 - ➔ Flight training fees
 - ➔ Taking the same course twice
 - ➔ Continuing Education Units or CEUs

Keep in mind that TA will **not** fund your college courses, and you will have to reimburse any funds already paid, if any of the following situations occur:

- ➔ Leaving the service before the course ends
- ➔ Quitting the course for reasons other than personal illness, military transfer or mission requirements
- ➔ Failing the course

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TA APPLICATION PROCESS

Each military branch has its own TA application form and procedures. To find out how to get started, visit your local installation education center, go online to a virtual education center or use the links below:

[Army](#)

[Army National Guard](#)

[Marine](#)

[Navy](#)

[Air Force](#)

Prior to course enrollment, you may be required to develop an education plan or complete TA orientation. Be sure to keep the following important information in mind when you apply:

Military tuition assistance may only be used to pursue degree programs at colleges and universities in the United States that are regionally or nationally accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. A quick way to check the accreditation of a school is by visiting the Department of Education.

Your service's education center must approve your military tuition assistance before you enroll in a course.

TUITION ASSISTANCE VS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

TA programs are offered by service branches while the Department of Veterans Affairs administers a variety of education benefit programs. Some of the VA programs, such as the Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008 (or Post 9/11 GI Bill®), can work well with the TA program, as it can supplement fees not covered by TA. In addition, the Post 9/11 GI Bill® funds are available to you after you leave the military. If your service ended before January 1, 2013, you have 15 years to use this benefit. If your service ended on or after January 1, 2013, the benefit won't expire. The TA program is a benefit that is available only while you're in the service.

TA/MGIB-SR for Guard/Reserve Members

The Department of Defense approved the use of concurrent receipt for Federal Tuition Assistance (TA) and the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve Education Benefit (MGIB-SR). Reserve Component service members are authorized to receive both TA and MGIB-SR benefits concurrently when enrolled in a program of education that is half-time or more. Concurrent use is not authorized when enrolled less than half-time.

Tuition Assistance (TA) Top Up

Using Top-Up benefits may be an option if you plan to use tuition assistance (TA) to complete a degree program while on active duty, and don't plan to continue your education after service. Top-up can also be helpful for just taking a few courses with TA while on active duty; then you can save most of your GI Bill benefits for after service to complete your education program. To learn more about TA Top Up, visit

https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/tuition_assistance.asp

Questions? Please Contact the Financial Aid Office at the Campus you attend, see below:

Gainesville, Bowie & Graham Campuses: Zoanna Lax finaid@nctc.edu

Corinth, Denton & Flower Mound Campuses: Colleen Jacobs finaid@nctc.edu