Military Tuition Assistance

Military Tuition Assistance is a benefit paid to eligible members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Congress has given each service the ability to pay up to 100% for the tuition expenses of its members.

Each service has its own criteria for eligibility, obligated service, application process' and restrictions. This money is usually paid directly to the institution by the individual services.

Additionally active duty members may elect to use the GI Bill® "top-up" in addition to their service provided TA to cover high cost courses.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Tuition Assistance 'Top-Up' Program

- Top-Up is a program that allows GI Bill® participants to use the GI Bill® to supplement the tuition and fees not covered by tuition assistance. 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.

- Top-up is not available for anyone using the Montgomery GI Bill®-Selected Reserve program..

Top-Up Eligibility

To be eligible for the Top-Up benefit, you must be approved for federal Tuition Assistance by a military department and be eligible for GI Bill® benefits. To be eligible you must be a GI Bill® participant, still on active duty, and must have served at least two full years. The amount of the benefit is limited to the amount that the person would receive for the same course if regular GI Bill® benefits were being paid. In no case can the amount paid by the military combined with the amount paid by VA be more than the total cost of the course.

If you receive the Top-Up benefit, your regular GI Bill® benefits will be reduced. The amount of entitlement charged for Top-Up payments as follows:

- If you are using the Post-9/11 GI Bill® your entitlement is charged based on the training time you are enrolled in. If you are going to classes at the 1/2 time training level you will be charged 1/2 month of Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits for each month you are enrolled and receiving GI Bill® benefits - (it does not matter how much money you are reimbursed)
- If you are using the Montgomery GI Bill® your entitlement is charged based on the dollar amount of benefits VA pays you. You will be charged one month of entitlement for each payment you receive that is equal to the full time monthly rate for the GI Bill®.

A copy of the Tuition Assistance Authorization form for the course that has been signed by an authorized military official will be required by the school and the VA. You must apply for GI Bill® using the VA.GOV website before using the Top-up benefit.

TA is not a loan; it should be viewed as money you have earned just like your base pay.

Army Tuition Assistance Eligibility

The Army Tuition Assistance program (TA) pays 100% of tuition and required fees for taking college courses while on active duty.

Soldiers eligible for TA must have successfully completed one year of service following graduation from Advanced Individual Training (AIT). All soldiers must have ten years of service to receive graduate level TA if any portion of their undergraduate degree was paid through TA.

TA requests must be submitted and approved before the start date of the class, without exception. Reimbursement will be required from the service member if a successful course completion is not obtained.

Officers who use TA incur an Active Duty Service Obligation of two years, and Reserve Component officers incur a Reserve Duty Service Obligation of four years. These are calculated from the date of completion of the last course for which TA was used.

For more information, visit your base education center and speak with education services specialist.

Payments

You can be reimbursed for up to 100 percent of the course cost, not to exceed:

- $250.00 per semester hour
- $166.67 per quarter hour
- 16 semester hours per year
- maximum of $4,500 per year

Current Army policy limits TA to 130 semester hours of undergraduate credit or baccalaureate degree, whichever comes first and 39 semester hours of graduate credit or masters degree whichever comes first. The 39 semester hour limit applies to all credits taken after completion of a baccalaureate degree.

For general information about the Army's automated TA process, visit www.GoArmyEd.com.

Air Force Tuition Assistance

Air Force Tuition Assistance (TA) pays up to 100% of tuition for taking college courses while on active duty.

Payment

The Air Force Tuition Assistance program will pay 100% of your tuition not to exceed:

- $250 per semester credit hour, or
- $166 per quarter credit hour, and
- $4,500 maximum per fiscal year

Application Process

You must apply for TA online using the Air Force Virtual Education Center. This must be done through the Air Force Portal at https://www.my.af.mil/. There are six steps to completing the AFVEC online TA process.

The Fine Print

AF policy requires you to create a goal and upload a degree plan via the AFVEC website prior to requesting TA (use Tutorials on AFVEC site). A generic degree/academic plan can be used for up to 6 semester hours until you have an evaluated degree plan.

1. You must request TA before class starts, maximum of 45 days prior to and minimum 7 days prior to class start date.
2. Your supervisor must electronically approve all TA requests (allow time for this).
3. If you withdraw from a course you must notify the school AND the Education Center immediately.
4. If you fail a course, you must reimburse the USAF for the full amount of tuition paid.
5. If military duties prevent you from attending class you can apply for a waiver of reimbursement.
6. You must submit a letter explaining the reasons for withdrawing from the course(s) signed by your Squadron Commander.
7. You are responsible for ensuring that your education record reflects your official grade within 30 days after the class ends.
8. You are allowed 15 Semester Hours (5 classes) to establish a GPA; you must maintain 2.0 for undergraduate degrees, 3.0 for graduate degrees, to continue using TA.
9. TA is not authorized for courses leading to a lateral or lower level degree than you already possess (i.e. Second Associate's or Bachelor's degree).

CCAF Exception

- TA will not be given for courses leading to the same or lower degree level than one you may have had before entering the Air Force
- Airmen who have a CCAF degree are not eligible to use TA for an associate’s degree but may pursue a subsequent CCAF degree.
- Officers who have completed an AF-sponsored master’s degree cannot use TA.
- You are no longer required to obtain your supervisor's signature on your TA form; however, you are expected to discuss your schedule with your supervisor to ensure that participation has his/her support.

Additional Information

If you have to pay back any tuition assistance money due to a failing grade it must be in a lump sum - no payment plan.

If you get a grade of incomplete from a school, you have as much time as the school allows you to clear the incomplete or 12 months from the end of the term, whichever comes first, to clear the incomplete. If you fail to provide a grade that clears the incomplete by that time, you must pay back any tuition assistance to the AF.

You must pay for books & non-reimbursable fees.

If Tuition Assistance doesn't cover all the costs of your courses you may be able to use your GI Bill® to make up the difference. See our GI Bill® Tuition Assistance Top Up page for details.

If an eligible Service Member decides to use Tuition Assistance (TA), this school will enroll him/her "only" after the TA is approved by the individual's ESO, Military Counselor or Service".

Navy Tuition Assistance

The Navy Tuition Assistance program (TA) pays up to 100% of tuition and required fees for taking college courses while on active duty.

Navy Tuition Assistance Eligibility

TA is available to both Navy officer and enlisted active duty and reservists on continuous active duty. It's also available to enlisted reservists ordered to active duty 120 days and to reserve officers ordered to active duty for 2 years or more. To qualify, you must:

- have at least two years time-in-service before applying for benefits
- be on active duty for the whole length of the course.
- attend an accredited school.
- get counseling from a Navy College Office or Virtual Education Center Counselor
- provide all grades from previously funded TA courses and reimburse all W and F grades. (Withdrawals for involuntary reasons may be granted with command verification.)
- Agree, if an officer, to remain on active duty for at least two years upon completion of courses funded by TA. This obligation runs concurrently with remaining obligated service time. Those who fail to serve the obligation must repay the TA funds expended on their behalf during the last two years of active duty on a pro rated basis.

Payments

Effective Oct. 1, 2019 all sailors are limited to 12 semester hours (or their quarter hour equivalent) TA per fiscal year. They are also limited to 120 semester hours for their entire career.

You can be reimbursed up to 100 percent of the cost of the course, not to exceed:

- $250.00 per semester hour
- $166.67 per quarter hour
- $4,500 per fiscal year

You must pay any back any TA you receive for:

- undergraduate classes you get a D or lower in
- graduate classes you get a C or lower in
- any classes you get any non-passing or incomplete grade in

Application Process

- Contact your Navy College Office or the Virtual Education Center to get educational counseling either in person, virtually, by phone or email. With your academic advisor, determine which courses will be requested for TA funding.
- Complete a TA Application in WebTA listing course(s). Check with your institution to make sure the amounts for tuition you listed are correct. Fees may not be paid using TA funds.
- Start your application 30 days in advance of the term start date.
- To apply for Tuition Assistance electronically from any computer, go to https://www.navycollege.navy.mil, and click on Secure Tuition Assistance & Other Funding.
- You may log-in via CAC or DEERS.
- Every TA application MUST be Command Approved prior to being forwarded to the VEC.

Requirements for Command Approval

1. Must have served one-year on-board in their FIRST permanent duty station (this requirement may be waived by CO)
2. Will serve on active duty through the last day of the course.
3. Pass the most recent Physical Fitness Assessment or received a waiver.
4. Took their most recent advancement exam, if applicable, and be recommended for advancement or promotion.
5. Have not received a NJP within 6 months or not pending administrative separation.
6. Not under instruction in initial skills training or in a duty under instruction training status.

For further program details and Navy Tuition Assistance program updates visit the Official Navy College website.

Marine Corps Tuition Assistance

Marine Corps Tuition Assistance (TA) pays up to 100% of tuition and required fees for taking college courses while on active duty.

Marine Corps Tuition Assistance Eligibility and Payment Rates

TA is available for all active duty Marines with at least 24 months of service. Tuition assistance is also available to reservists on continuous active duty, enlisted reservists ordered to active duty 120 days, and to reserve officers ordered to active duty for two years or more.

The Marine Corps will pay 100% Tuition and Fees not to exceed:

- $250 @ Semester Credit Hour, or
- $166 @ Quarter Credit Hour, and
- $4500 @ Fiscal Year

Marine Corps Tuition Assistance Eligibility

- First time users can only take one course for their first enrollment, all others are limited to a maximum of two courses at a time
- Must have a minimum GT score of 100 or a minimum TABE score of 10.2
- Must complete Marine Corps Institute (MCI) Personal Financial Management (Course ID 3420G).

Marine Corps Tuition Assistance Details

1. TA can't be used if you have had or are pending disciplinary action.
2. TA can't be used to pay for flight training.
3. TA can't pay for the same course more than once.
4. TA can't be approved retroactively. Applications must be submitted and command approved before the course starts.
5. You must earn a grade of D or higher or P for passing all non-graduate level coursework, and C or higher for graduate level courses. If not, you have to repay all TA funds for that course.
6. Fees no longer covered by TA include: equipment, supplies, exams, and costs associated with distance learning
7. TA is authorized for graduate studies through the master's degree level; doctoral programs will not be funded
8. Only schools with an approved DOD Voluntary Education Partnership MOU are eligible to participate in DOD Voluntary Education programs including military tuition assistance.

The rules and regulations regarding TA can be found in MCO 1560.25.

Coast Guard Tuition Assistance

Coast Guard Tuition Assistance (TA) pays up to 100% of tuition and required fees for taking college courses while on active duty.

Current Payment Rates

You can be reimbursed up to 100 percent of the cost of the course, Not to exceed:

- $250 per semester hour
- $166.67 per quarter hour
- $2,250 per fiscal year

If you get a grade lower than a C for undergraduate courses or B for graduate courses you will have to pay back any TA money received for those courses.

Application Process

A complete TA application (degree plan uploaded, command approved) must be received by ETQC NO LESS than 14 days prior to the class start date, not including the date of submission to ETQC nor the class start date. There are no exceptions or waivers to this policy.

If you begin a class without an approved TA authorization from ETQC, you will have to pay all the course costs yourself.

The Fine Print

You must have a degree plan after the completion of the second course or 6 semester hours using TA. If a degree plan has not been received by ETQC after the second course, no further TA will be authorized until the degree plan has been provided.

Lifetime credit hour limits for TA are as follows: 130 semester hours for undergraduate work, and 40 semester hours for graduate work.

You must be on active duty or a reservist on long-term orders greater than 180 days to qualify.

TA is only available for courses leading to the first associate, bachelor, and masters degrees. You must maintain satisfactory progress toward completion of unit quals, work-station quals, and craft proficiency to be eligible for TA. You must also have satisfactory conduct during the six months prior to beginning TA.

National Guard Tuition Assistance

Members of the National Guard are eligible for tuition assistance. However each of the Armed Forces determines how to administer their own Tuition Assistance (TA). In addition each state may offer its National Guard members state funded education incentives based on state guidelines and eligibility (i.e. TA, waivers, exemptions, student loan repayment, etc.

Army National Guard (ARNG)

The ARNG Federal Tuition Assistance provides financial assistance to ARNG soldiers in support of their professional and personal self-development goals. A masters degree may be supported provided funding is available.

The maximum amount paid for Federal Tuition Assistance for ARNG members is:

- 100% Tuition up to $250 per semester hour, up to 16 semester hours annually
- Not to exceed $4,000 per fiscal year
- Lifetime limit of 130 undergraduate semester hours
- Lifetime limit of 39 graduate semester hours
- May be used with the Post-9/11 GI Bill® or MGIB-Active Duty (AD) for the same course

Eligibility

- The college/university is regionally or nationally accredited and is a GoArmyEd participant
- The course meets a requirement in your documented degree plan from the school
- For undergraduate courses you must maintain a GPA of 2.0
- For graduate courses you must maintain a GPA of 3.0

Air National Guard (ANG)

The Air National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance provides financial assistance to ANG soldiers in support of their professional and personal self-development goals. A masters degree may be supported provided funding is available.

If activated you will become eligible for the Air Force Tuition Assistance for Active Duty and Activated Reserve/Guard. This Tuition Assistance Program offers:

- 100% Tuition and Fees up to $250 per semester hour
- Not to exceed $4,000 per fiscal year

State Tuition Assistance

Although not all states offer payment of TA, many states have additional tuition incentives, which are offered at varying amounts. Visit our State Benefits page to see your state benefits.

Reserve Tuition Assistance

Members of the Selective Reserves are eligible for tuition assistance. However each of the Armed Forces determines how to administer their own Tuition Assistance (TA). In addition each state may offer its National Guard servicemembers state funded education incentives based on state guidelines and eligibility (i.e. TA, waivers, exemptions, student loan repayment, etc.)

Army Reserve (USAR)

The USAR offers:

- Enlisted personnel - 100% tuition assistance, up to $250 per semester hour, or $166 per quarter hour, not to exceed $4,500 annually.
- Officers - 75% tuition assistance, up to $250 per semester hour, $166 per quarter hour, and $4,500 per fiscal year for those pursuing a bachelors degree.

Eligibility

- The soldier must be a drilling reservist in good standing.
- The soldier must declare an educational goal leading to a credential higher than current degree level.
- Enlisted soldiers and warrant officers must have sufficient time remaining on their term of service to complete the course before separation.
- Commissioned officers must have at least four years of Selected Reserve service remaining from the date of completion of the course for which tuition assistance is provided.
- The soldier must enroll for the independent study course following Army Reserve procedures.

Contact your local Army Reserve Education Office for assistance with TA or any other voluntary education assistance. Army Reservists may go to GoArmyEd and sign in using their AKO login and password to submit TA requests online.

Navy Reserve (USNR)

There are currently no Tuition Assistance programs for the Navy Reserve. However, if you are activated under Title 10 then you qualify for the active duty Navy Tuition Assistance.

Marine Corps Reserve (USMCR)

There are currently no Tuition Assistance programs for the Marine Corps Reserve. However, if you are activated under Title 10 then you qualify for the active duty Marine Corps Tuition Assistance.

Air Force Reserve (USAFR)

USAFR offers:

- Undergraduate (Associates and Bachelors Degrees)
  - 100% tuition assistance for undergraduate degree programs
  - Not to exceed $250 per semester hour, or $166.67 per quarter hour
  - Up to $4,500 annually per servicemember.
- Graduate Studies (Masters Degree)
  - 75% tuition assistance for graduate degree programs
  - Not to exceed $250 per semester hour, or $166 per quarter hour
- Up to $4,500 annually.

Visit the Air Force Reserve Website or the Air Force Education Services Programs website for more information.

Coast Guard Reserve (USCGR)

The Coast Guard offers selected reservists:

- 100% tuition assistance up to $250 per semester hour, or $166.67 per quarter hour
- Not to exceed $2,250 annually per servicemember.
- Contact your Coast Guard ESO for information on how to apply for tuition assistance and other programs.

Check out the ETQC website for details.

Recap of program:

Service	Amount Covered	Covered Fees	Who is Eligible	Form
Air Force	100% tuition & fees, not to exceed: • $250 per semester hour • $166 per quarter hour • $4,500 per fiscal year	• Tuition • Lab Fees • Enrollment fees • Special Fees • Computer Fees	• Active duty • Reserves	Online
Army	100% tuition & fees, not to exceed: • $250 per semester hour	• Tuition • Lab Fees • Enrollment fees • Special Fees • Computer	• Active Duty • ARNG on Active Duty • Army Reserves	Online

	• $166 per quarter hour • 16 semester hours per year • $4,500 per fiscal year	Fees		
Navy	100% tuition & fees, not to exceed:: • $250 per semester hour • $166 per quarter hour • $4,500 per fiscal year	• Tuition • Lab Fees • Enrollment fees • Special Fees • Computer Fees	• Active Duty • Naval Reserves in AD status	Online
Marines	100% tuition & fees, not to exceed: • $250 per semester hour • $166 per quarter hour • $4,500 per fiscal year	• Tuition • Lab Fees • Enrollment fees • Special Fees • Computer Fees	• Active Duty only	Online
Coast Guard	100% tuition & fees, not to exceed: • $250 per semester hour • $166 per quarter hour • $2,250 per fiscal year	• Tuition • Lab Fees	• Active Duty • Reserves in AD status	CG-4147

Keep Up With Your Education Benefits

Whether you need a guide on how to use your GI Bill®, want to take advantage of tuition assistance and scholarships, or get the lowdown on education benefits available for your family, Military.com can help. Sign up for a free Military.com

membership to have education tips and benefits updates delivered directly to your inbox.