



Education Counseling Services

Education counseling services are available to all ARNG Soldiers through the State Education Services Office. Educational counseling helps Soldiers meet educational goals and objectives by providing guidance, advice and planning assistance.

Step 1. Get Assessed

Planning your educational goals and objectives can be a daunting task. To get started, Soldiers should download a copy of your Joint Services Transcript (JST) and then contact your State Education Services Officer (ESO) for further assistance.

ESOs help Soldiers by:

- Providing advice and counsel on individual education and career goals;
- Determining cost-effectiveness of Tuition Assistance and other resources;
- Recommending course options such as resident instruction or online;
- Providing guidance, information and advocacy to maximize college credit for military training and experience.

Step 2. Choose a Field of Study

Log-in to your GoArmyEd account (www.goarmyed.com) and use VIA. VIA is a decision support tool designed to help Soldiers make informed decisions.

- VIA recommends college degree options that best prepare an individual for that career and recommends schools that offer the degree online or near the location you select.
- VIA also helps Soldiers choose a “best fit/best value” school by comparing cost, student outcomes, and alignment with student preferences.
- After using VIA, Soldiers will submit their career goal, degree, and school selection to their Army Education Counselor for approval and further discussion if needed.
- While VIA is a useful tool in the college planning process, additional career guidance and planning resources are listed in the box above.

Step 3. Choose a School

Choosing a school is a difficult task. Below are a few web sites to help Soldiers make informed choices on available schools and programs;

- TA Decide: www.dodmou.com/TADECIDE
- College Navigator: www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator
- GI Bill Comparison Tool: www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool

MILITARY TRANSCRIPTS:

JST: Joint Services Transcript

www.jst.doded.mil

VMET: Officer Credits

www.dmdc.osd.mil/tgps

CAREER GUIDANCE/PLANNING:

Army e-Learning:

www.atrrs.army.mil/selfdevctr/eLearninWelcome.aspx

Kuder College & Career Planning Counseling Services:

www.dantes.kuder.com

Peterson's DOD MWR Libraries:

www.petersons.com/dod

Military OneSource:

www.militaryonesource.mil

Step 4. Get Financial Assistance

There are numerous Federal, State, and local education programs and services available to ARNG Soldiers. Programs include; GI Bill, Federal Tuition Assistance, State Tuition Assistance (if applicable), Testing services, Financial Aid, Scholarships, and more. The rules governing these programs can be complicated. To ensure you are receiving everything you may be entitled to, contact these offices:

- ARNG Education Office – obtain information on ARNG education benefits including GI Bill programs, Federal TA testing services, and state-level programs.
- School Financial Aid Office – obtain information on various programs available to students attending an educational institution.
- Department of Veterans Affairs – obtain information about various veteran's education benefits.

Step 5. Attend School

Submit all applications according to the required submission deadlines. Keep your State ESO and School Certifying Official informed of any changes in your enrollment status. Be mindful of minimum Grade Point Averages (GPA) required for certain benefit programs.

Step 6. Graduate!

Upon completion of your program/course, provide an official transcript to your Unit Readiness NCO and the State Education Services Office to ensure your personnel records are up to date.

For More Information:

- ❖ Visit us On-Line: www.nationalguard.com/education
- ❖ Contact your State Education Office:
 - Available at ng.wa.waarnq.list.per-education@mail.mil

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NATIONAL GUARD ®

GI BILL RESOURCES:
Dept. of Veterans Administration
www.benefits.va.gov/gibill

Apply for GI Bill Benefits
www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp

TUITION ASSISTANCE:
Apply for Federal TA Benefits
www.goarmyed.com

TESTING RESOURCES:
DANTES
www.dantes.doded.mil
CLEP Exams
www.clep.collegeboard.org/military
Study Materials
www.nelnetsolutions.com/dod
Credentialing Opportunities
www.cool.army.mil

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS:
Free Application for Federal Student Aid
www.fafsa.ed.gov
Scholarships
www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/finding-scholarships