

TEXAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

FY26-27 Education Benefits Handbook



EDUCATION,
Your Key to Readiness!

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Every effort is made to ensure that the most up-to-date information is presented in the Texas Military Department's Education Benefits Handbook; however, individual program policies and regulations are subject to change. For the most accurate information, please contact the office of the specific program of interest to obtain the latest updates.

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TXARNG EDUCATION BENEFITS & FUNDING SOURCES

STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE (STATE TA)

- ✓ Currently serving in TXARNG, TXANG, TXSG.
- ✓ Successfully completed basic training, RBOT, or Military Science 2.



HAZLEWOOD ACT/HAZLEWOOD LEGACY

- ✓ Serve 181 days of qualifying Active Duty Service.
- ✓ Receive a DD214 with an honorable discharge that reflects a Texas address.



FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FTA)

- ✓ Currently serving in ARNG and possess a CAC.

CREDENTIALING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CA)

- ✓ Currently serving in ARNG and possess a CAC.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL-SELECTED RESERVE CH 1606

- ✓ Sign a 6-year contract with a Reserve Component.
- ✓ Successfully complete Initial Active Duty for Training (IADT).



MONTGOMERY GI BILL-KICKER

- ✓ Contract-Specific Benefit (Signed with enlistment or extension contract).

MONTGOMERY GI BILL-ACTIVE DUTY CH 30

- ✓ Serve a 2-3 year T10 Active duty tour or T32 AGR.
- ✓ Enrollment election required.

POST 9/11 GI BILL CH 33

- ✓ Serve 90 days of qualifying Active Duty Service on/after Sept 11, 2001.
- ✓ Receive an honorable discharge on DD214.

TRANSFER EDUCATION BENEFITS (TEB): POST 9/11 GI BILL CH 33

- ✓ Serve 6-years of retirement eligible service.
- ✓ Must agree to serve 4 years from date of TEB request.

STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE (STATE TA)

What Is It?

State Tuition Assistance is a state education benefit funded by Texas for Texans (TXARNG, TXANG, TXSG). We believe in the power of education to transform lives and aim to support resourceful minds committed to making a positive impact through learning. STA is needs-based and contingent upon funding availability.

How Do I Qualify?

- ✓ Actively drilling member in good standing with the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard or Texas State Guard.
- ✓ Qualifying ranks: all enlisted ranks; Officers O1-O5; Warrant Officers WO1-WO3.
- ✓ Must be enrolled and working towards a trade or vocational certificate, undergraduate, graduate or professional degree or credential from an accredited Texas public, private, technical school, college or university.
- ✓ Must have completed Basic Training, RBOT or Military Science 2.

What Do I Get?

- ✓ Financial assistance for up to 12 credit hours of tuition & mandatory fees, up to \$10k per academic semester; fall and spring semesters only.
- ✓ State TA covers eligible tuition & mandatory fees not paid by other gifts, private sources, state or federal aid from other military education benefits, scholarships or state or federal grants.
- ✓ State TA can be combined with FTA & GI Bill provided the total does not exceed 100% of allowable tuition & eligible fees.
- ✓ Available for up to 5 years or 10 academic semesters of received benefit.

How Do I Apply?

The complete application packet requires:

1. Online Application.
2. Signed Statement of Understanding (SOU).
3. Signed Third Party Agreement (Authorized Release Form).

For application dates, please visit:



<https://tmd.texas.gov/state-tuition-assistance-program-dates-deadline>



STA PROCESS:

Phase 1: STA application packet received;

Phase 2: Application screened for military, academic & financial eligibility;

Phase 3: Verify eligible award amount with school;

Phase 4: Issue award payment to school; school applies to student account.

Phase 5: Service Member submits transcript to STA office to verify successful completion of course(s).

For additional information, please contact us at: ng.tx.txarng.mbx.trp@army.mil.



<https://tmd.texas.gov/state-tuition-assistance-program>

Texas Military Department State Tuition Assistance Process Map



Contact Us!

Texas Military Department
STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE
Education and Incentives Office
2200 W. 35th St, Bldg 15,
Camp Mabry, Austin, TX 78703

Office Phone:
(512) 782-5270
Email the Education Team at:
ng.tx.txarng.mbx.trp@army.mil

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Which Texas colleges and universities are eligible?**
 The school, as well as its headquarters, must be located in Texas; can be a public or private, nonprofit institution of higher learning. For a complete list of eligible Texas colleges and universities, please visit: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/msp/schools/list/>.
- Which fees are covered?**
 Mandatory or compulsory fees charged of ALL students are covered by STA. Course specific, department fees, parking fees, equipment, supplies, lab fees are not eligible fees.
- Is there a service obligation?**
 No.
- What happens if I fail, drop or withdraw from a class?**
 The SM is responsible for any failed or dropped classes. If the award has been paid, the SM will need to refund TMD STA or be recouped. SMs are encouraged to contact the STA Office if drop/withdrawal is needed due to a mobilization.
- How does the payment process work?**
 STA is a 3rd party sponsor. STA works with school business office to secure your spot in the class, verify eligible funding needed and then submits payment directly to the school. The school applies payment to the student's account.

HAZLEWOOD/HAZLEWOOD LEGACY ACT

What Is It?

The Hazlewood Act is a Texas benefit that provides qualified Veterans and dependent children with up to 150 hours of tuition exemption, including most fee charges, at public institutions of higher education in Texas. This does NOT include living expenses, books, or supply fees. The Texas college or university is the final decision-making authority on student eligibility.

Veteran:

- ✓ At the time of entry into active duty of the U.S. Armed Forces
 - Designated Texas as Home of Record;
 - Entered the Service in Texas;
 - or was a Texas resident;
- ✓ Received an honorable discharge or separation or a general discharge under honorable conditions as indicated on the Veteran's Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty;
- ✓ Served at least 181 days of active duty service (excluding training);
- ✓ Currently reside in Texas; (40 TAC §461.40) & (40 TAC §461.70);
- ✓ Have no federal Veteran's education benefits, or have no federal Veterans education benefits dedicated to the payment of tuition and fees (such as Chapter 33 or 31) for term or semester enrolled that do not exceed the value of Hazlewood benefits;
- ✓ Not be in default on a student loan made or guaranteed by the State of Texas;
- ✓ Enroll in classes for which the college receives tax support unless the college's governing board has ruled to let Veterans receive the benefit while taking non-funded courses; and
- ✓ Meet GPA requirements.

Child (Legacy) Eligibility

- ✓ Be classified by the institution as a Texas resident; (40 TAC §461.70)
- ✓ Be the biological child, stepchild, adopted child, or claimed as a dependent in the current or previous tax year;
- ✓ Be 25 years old or younger on the first day of the semester or term for which the exemption is claimed (unless granted an extension due to a qualifying illness or debilitating condition); and
- ✓ Have no federal Veteran's education benefits, or have no federal Veterans education benefits dedicated to the payment of tuition and fees only (such as Chapter 33 or 31) for term or semester enrolled that do not exceed the value of Hazlewood benefits; (40 TAC §461.70) & (40 TAC §461.90)
- ✓ Not be in default on a student loan made or guaranteed by the State of Texas;
- ✓ Enroll in classes for which the college receives tax support unless the college's governing board has ruled to let Veterans receive the benefit while taking non-funded courses; and
- ✓ Meet the GPA requirement of the institution's satisfactory academic progress policy in a degree or certificate program as determined by the institution's financial aid regulations and, as an undergraduate student, not be considered to have attempted an excessive amount of credit hours.

HAZLEWOOD/HAZLEWOOD LEGACY ACT

*If a child to whom hours have been delegated fails to use all of the assigned hours, a Veteran may re-assign the unused hours that are available to another child.

Spouse / Dependent Eligibility:

- ✓ Be the spouse/dependent of an eligible veteran who is determined by the VA to be 100%, total and permanent, service-connected veteran or one who became totally disabled for purposes of employability as a result of a service-related injury or illness. The spouse/dependent(s) of an eligible veteran who meets the requirements below are entitled to receive a 150 credit hours exemption, each, under certain conditions as drawn from the Hazlewood Act Statute and Texas Administrative Code §461:
 - ✓ Be a spouse / child of a Veteran who, at the time of entry into the U.S. Armed Forces, (DD Form 214 required) , (40 TAC §461.50) & (40 TAC §461.60)
 - designated Texas as Home of Record,
 - or entered the service in Texas;
 - or was a Texas resident;
 - ✓ Be a spouse / child of a Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces or the Texas National Guard who
 - died as a result of service-related injuries or
 - became totally and permanently disabled or meets the eligibility requirements for individual unemployability according to the disability ratings of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as a result of a service-related injury, or
 - Missing in action (MIA), or
 - Killed in action (KIA).
 - ✓ Have no federal Veterans education benefits, or have no federal Veterans education benefits dedicated to the payment of tuition and fees only (such as Chapter 33 or 31) for term or semester enrolled that do not exceed the value of Hazlewood benefits;
 - ✓ Be classified by the institution as a Texas resident;
 - ✓ Not be in default on a student loan made or guaranteed by the State of Texas;
 - ✓ Enroll in classes for which the college receives tax support unless the college's governing board has ruled to let Veterans receive the benefit while taking non-funded courses; and
 - ✓ Meet the GPA requirement of the institution's satisfactory academic progress policy in a degree or certificate program as determined by the institution's financial aid regulation and, as an undergraduate student, not be considered to have attempted an excessive amount of credit hours. This requirement does not apply to the spouse / child of a MIA, KIA, or service-connected deceased Veteran. (40 TAC §461.50) & (40 TAC §461.60).

How Do I Apply?

1. Visit:
<https://www.tvc.texas.gov/education/hazlewood/> .
2. Download applicable forms.
3. Gather the required documents; submit the completed forms to your school.
4. Contact your school VA Representative, financial aid, or bursar office for guidance.



FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (FTA) PROGRAM

What Is It?

FTA is financial assistance provided for voluntary off-duty education programs in support of a Soldier's professional and personal self-development goals. (Reference: AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System).

How Do I Qualify?

- ✓ Be currently serving in the ARNG and have a CAC.
- ✓ As of OCT 01, 2022, the policy that limited Soldiers to using TA until AIT or BOLC was completed has been rescinded. The tier 1 & 2 policy has also been rescinded.
- ✓ Soldiers with a flag are ineligible to use FTA.

Service Requirement/Obligation:

- ✓ Have an ETS or MRD after completion of FTA funded course(s). Courses must end 14 days prior to the Soldier's ETS/ MRD.
- ✓ Officers and Commissioned Warrant Officers are subject to a 2 year Active Duty Service Obligation (ADSO) *or* 4 year Reserve Duty Obligation (RDSO).

Additional Criteria:

- ✓ The college is regionally or nationally accredited AND is a participant in ArmyIgnitED (AIED).
- ✓ The funded course(s) meets a requirement listed in your education path provided by the school (this can include prerequisite courses).
- ✓ You 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 7 days prior to course start date.

RECENT CHANGE: FTA IS authorized for concurrent use with Chapter 1606/MGIB-SR for the SAME course if enrolled at least halftime.

UPDATE: New user trainings are required before 1st time use of the program.

*For most recent updates visit <https://tmd.texas.gov/money-for-college>.

What Do I Get?

- ✓ FTA will pay up to \$250 per semester hour and up to 18 SHs (Semester Hours) per fiscal yr.
- ✓ Lifetime limit of 130 undergraduate semester hours (SH), 39 graduate SH, 39 Special Program SH, 21 lifetime certificate SH.

FTA will pay toward one degree at each of the following levels:

- ✓ Associate Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree, and 1 Undergraduate or Graduate Certificate per lifetime.
- ✓ First Professional degrees are NOT eligible (i.e. Ph.D, JD).
- ✓ Special Program Options - lifetime semester hour cap of 39 SH.



FTA PROGRAM

The Following Special Program Goal Options Are Available In ArmyIgnited:

- AMEDD Enlisted Commissioning Program (AECP)
- College Preparatory and Remedial
- Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program
- Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program (EMDP2)
- High School Completion
- Historic Goal, Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP)
- Master of Social Work (MSW) Program
- Master's Program in Nutrition (MPN)
- Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) Program
- Specialized Chaplain Certificate
- United States Military Academy (USMA)

Programs NOT Eligible For FTA:

- Courses leading to a degree that are lower or lateral to the highest degree you have already earned.

Example: if you have a bachelor's degree (even if you came in the ARNG with one), you cannot use FTA to pursue a second bachelor's or associate's degree.

- Any program that bundles tuition and fees together into a lump sum charge.
- Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or courses that do not meet degree requirement.

How Do I Apply?

For the application, guides & other resources, visit: <https://www.armyignited.army.mil/student>

Tips To Remember When Applying:

- ✓ Apply for FTA up to 60 days prior to the class start date, but no later than 8 days prior to the class start date (all FTA MUST be approved prior to the class start date).
- ✓ You must submit an FTA request for each individual course that you want FTA to fund.
- ✓ You must submit an education goal and have it approved prior to using FTA.
- ✓ You must have an evaluated degree plan approved in AIED from your school after two classes of FTA use.
- ✓ If your school charges by quarter hour or clock hour, AIED will automatically convert them into semester hours on the FTA request.
- ✓ In order to drop or withdrawal from a class, you must initiate this through the school. Classes can only be dropped in the system by you or the education office if the requested start date has not passed.
- ✓ Withdrawal waivers must now be completed within 30 days of the school submitting the "W" in the system. This request must be initiated by the Soldier.
- ✓ Failing or unsatisfactory grades no longer qualify for a military withdrawal. The school must enter a grade of "W" in order to be eligible for a recoupment waiver.
- ✓ New user trainings are required before 1st time use of the program.

CREDENTIALING ASSISTANCE (CA) PROGRAM

What Is It?

- ✓ The Army Credentialing Assistance (CA) program provides up to \$2,000 in funding for training, materials, fees, recertification and exams leading to an industry-recognized academic or vocational credential located on Army COOL.
- ✓ Soldiers are limited to 1 credential per FY with a max of 3 credentials for their first 10 years of service. After 10 years Soldiers are eligible for an additional 3 credentials. Re-certifications do not count toward the three credential max.
- ✓ Soldiers are required to take the exam associated with the credential they are pursuing. If exam is not completed within 180 days after completion of training or if the SM fails the exam, he/she will be recouped.

What Do I Get?

- ✓ Soldiers may use both Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) and Army Credentialing Assistance (CA); however, the credential funding will NOT exceed **\$2,000 per FY**.
- ✓ CA will pay credentialing expenses for classroom, hands-on, online/blended training (and associated materials) to include: **manuals, study guides, textbooks, processing fees, test fees, and re-certification of credentials.**

All Army components are limited to \$1000 per FY for select Aviation Credentials.

How Do I Qualify?

- ✓ NG Soldiers may begin work on their first credential upon successfully obtaining a CAC.
- ✓ Must not be flagged.
- ✓ Soldiers must complete CA 101 training (provided by the CA Virtual Counseling Cell).
- ✓ Soldiers must complete MilGears prior to creating their education goal.
- ✓ Holds related to: Student agreements, GPA, Military Withdrawal, Course Drop, or any other hold related to TA will NOT keep Soldiers from using the CA program.
- ✓ Soldiers can pursue any credential found in Army Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL).
- ✓ CA cannot exceed the \$2000 per FY cap. **Any funding used subtracts from the same funding pot as Tuition Assistance (TA).** The Army reserves the right to limit the amount of CA funding that Soldiers can use for certain credentials.
- ✓ Before receiving CA, the Soldier must establish an ArmyIgnitED account. Account registration and activation may require Soldiers to update their personnel record through their unit S1 administrative office.
- ✓ Soldiers must sign the electronic user agreement acknowledging compliance with Army CA policies and procedures each time they create a CA request.
- ✓ Soldiers must declare a credentialing goal in terms of a credential. Only the Army Credentialing Assistance Program Office (ACAPO) can approve these goals.

Who Is Ineligible For CA?

- Contracted Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship cadets (receiving either tuition and fees or room and board incentive).
- ROTC Cadets contracted under the Green to Gold ROTC program.
- Soldiers flagged under provisions of AR 600-8-2.

How Do I Apply?

- ✓ View an approved list of credentials at Army COOL: <https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/index.html>.
- ✓ View an approved list of training providers: https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/costs_and_funding/army_credential_assistance.htm.
- ✓ Prior to being approved for CA, Soldiers are encouraged to meet with an Army Education Counselor, either virtually or in person, for information regarding CA program policies and procedures.
- ✓ Soldiers must complete CA 101 training (provided by the CA Virtual Counseling Cell).
- ✓ Soldiers must complete MilGears prior to creating their education goal.
- ✓ Once Army Credentialing Assistance Program Office (ACAPO) approves the credentialing goal, Soldiers must submit separate CA requests in ArmyIgnitED for each credentialing course, exam and books and materials. CA requests must be submitted not earlier than 90 days, but not later than 45 days, prior to the start date of either the course or the exam. The end date of the requested course or exam must be within one calendar year (365 days) of the start date.
- ✓ Courses must start in the FY that the request was funded. For each CA request under the same credentialing goal, Soldiers can add additional custom quotes by submitting a new message to the CA team and attaching the supporting docs. Currently Soldiers cannot add items to supporting docs AFTER a goal has been submitted.
- ✓ If required, Soldiers must request books and materials separately in conjunction with a request for a credentialing course or exam. Requests for only books or materials will be rejected unless there is a current credentialing course or exam in progress or pending payment.

Important To Know:

Credentialing Assistance (CA) Policy Changes Effective 11 DEC 24

- ✓ Soldiers are not authorized to prepay a course or exam using personal funds while a CA request is pending approval. Reimbursement for Soldiers' out-of-pocket expenses is not authorized.
- ✓ Soldiers may not attend a course or sit for an exam prior to receiving verification from the CA, CBO, Army Credentialing and Continuing Education Services for Soldiers, Army University (ACCESS, ArmyU), that the course or exam has been CA funded. If this occurs, Soldiers will be liable for the cost of the course or exam.
- ✓ Payments to Vendors typically happen 1-2 days before the training will start. If your vendor hasn't been paid by the start date, please open a helpdesk case or contact the education center.
- ✓ ALARACT 099/2024 Important Policy Changes Regarding CA (Find ALARACT 099/2024 by searching in <https://armypubs.army.mil/>).
- ✓ The Fiscal Year (FY) annual cap has decreased from \$4,000 to \$2,000. There is still a shared cap between Tuition and Credentialing Assistance programs. The cap has increased to \$4,500.
- ✓ Credentials are limited to one per FY. Re-certifications do not count towards the FY limit.

CREDENTIALING ASSISTANCE (CA) PROGRAM

Important To Know continued

- ✓ CA usage will be capped at three credentials per ten years of service. This is retroactive based on BASD.
- ✓ CA for Credentials related to aviation pilots licenses will be capped at \$1000 per FY. These specific limits are indicated in ArmyIgnitED when selecting the credential.
- ✓ First-time CA users must complete standardized ArmyIgnitED training provided by the CA Virtual Counseling Cell and must use the MilGears decision support tool prior to requesting CA for the first time.
- ✓ Soldiers are required to take the exam associated with the Credential training.
- ✓ These changes are reflected in ArmyIgnitED Virtual Benefits Training (VBT) as well as functionality.
- ✓ Additional updates to policy will follow with the publication of AR 621-5 later this FY.
- ✓ For assistance, Soldiers should contact the CA Virtual Counseling Cell or the Education Office at ng.tx.txarng.mbx.education@army.mil.

Professional Credentialing Opportunities:

- CompTIA
- Certified Personal Trainer (CPT)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Certified Welder (CW)
- Commercial Driver License (CDL)
- Associate Professional in Human Resources (aPHR)
- Lean Six Sigma
- Project Management Certified (PMP)
- Logistics Technician Professional (CLT)
- And 1600 More!



GI BILL COMPARISON CHART

MGIB-SR (Chapter 1606) Rates Eff. 01OCT2024	MGIB-AD (Chapter 30) Rates Eff. 01OCT24	Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) Rates Eff. 01AUG2024
\$481/ month (Full time) \$360/ month (3/4 time) \$240/ month (1/2 time) \$120.25/month (< 1/2 time) Qualifications <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Six year contract or Officer Service Agreement (OSA) High School Diploma or Equivalent IADT Complete (DD Form 214) 	\$2,438/ month (Full time) \$1,828.50/month (3/4 time) \$1,219/ month (1/2 time) \$609.50/month (1/4 time or <) Qualifications <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 24 or 36 Month AD service \$1,200 paid by SM Not previously declined AGRs are eligible to Buy-In	Pays Tuition and Fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 100% at public school up to \$28,937.09 annually at private school Pays Monthly Housing Allowance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be more than 1/2 time Maximum rate = BAH rate for E5 with dependents \$1,177.50 for 100% on-line study Pays Book Stipend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$1,000 annually <small>* Pay rate is based on qualifying service time</small> <small>* Transferable to dependents</small>

* In support of a contingency operation...i.e. Iraq, Kosovo, Bosnia, Afghanistan and Noble Eagle, Border Mission, COVID and support to Capitol Police. (Other T32 ADOS or T32 ADSW does NOT count as Qualifying Service for NG Members). See the Post 9-11 Section of this book for more details.

**** POST 9-11 Transfer will require 4 years of continued service from the date of transfer.**

MGIB-SR KICKER	
RATE	RATE
OCS/WOCS/ROTC \$350/mo	Enlisted/Re-Enlisted \$350/mo
QUALIFICATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet basic MGIB eligibility. For more details, see the section in this handbook on MGIB Kicker.	

Note: Soldiers may receive up to 36 months in any one Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) education assistance program and a maximum of 48 months of combined benefits if eligible for two or more DVA educational assistance programs. For the most current GI Bill information visit the DVA website available at <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.



For more information visit: <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>

or call 1-888-GIBILL-1, 1-888-442-4551

Try out the GI Bill Calculator tool: <https://www.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool/>

The TMD Education Office is the contact for initiation of the MGIB benefits.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL- SELECTED RESERVE (MGIB-SR) CH1606

What Is It?

The MGIB-SR is a benefit administered by the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) that provides basic educational assistance for traditional/M-day Soldiers actively serving in the Selected Reserve (Reference: Title 10 USC Chapter 1606; DoDI 1322.17).

How Do I Qualify?

- ✓ Sign a six-year enlistment contract or Officer Service Agreement to serve in the ARNG.
- ✓ Have a High school diploma or equivalent.
- ✓ Complete Initial Active Duty for Training (IADT) or Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC).
- ✓ Be actively serving in the ARNG (cannot be in the Inactive National Guard-ING or Individual Ready Reserve-IRR).
- ✓ **Not be AGR** or on Active Duty.*
- ✓ Not be using a Dedicated Army National Guard ROTC Scholarship (Ref: Title 10 USC 2107).
- In most cases your eligibility begins immediately after you complete IADT/BOLC.
- CAN be combined with Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) for the same course.
- CAN be combined with State Tuition Assistance (State TA).

How Do I Apply?

- ✓ Contact our office at: ng.tx.txarng.mbx.education@army.mil to ensure your eligibility is updated.
- ✓ Submit the Veterans Online Application at: www.va.gov.
- ✓ Notify the VA Certifying Official at your school so they can certify your enrollment.
- ✓ Continue to verify your enrollment each month via text message, email, or by calling 1-888-GIBILL1 (1-888-442-4551).

What Do I Get?

- Monthly payment for full-time or part-time enrollment.
- Payment made directly to the Soldier each month from the DVA.

* AGR new policy: AGR Soldiers with a MGIB-SR initial eligibility date prior to 30 June 2008 will have their MGIB-SR eligibility **suspended** while in AGR status.



MONTGOMERY GI BILL “KICKER”

What Is It?

The Kicker incentive is an additional education payment to attract Soldiers to specific units, skillsets, a critical MOS, or positions to meet and sustain ARNG readiness requirements (Reference: DoDI 1322.17).

How Do I Qualify?

FIVE CATEGORIES:

1. Non-prior service applicants (enlisted only); 50 or higher on ASVAB (CAT I-III A), agree to serve in a critical skill/critical unit.
2. Prior service applicants (enlisted only); 50 or higher on ASVAB (CAT I-III A), DMOS qualified, E-7 or below, and agree to serve in a critical skill/critical unit.
3. Re-Enlistment of currently serving enlisted Soldiers that served previous 3 years in ARNG but less than 14 years in total service, SFC or below, DMOSQ.
4. Officer commissioning program (ROTC/ SMP, OCS, WOCS) prior to commissioning, must have previously completed AIT and awarded an enlisted MOS in order to qualify.
5. Commisioned or Warrant officers* can contract for a Standard Officer Kicker (SOK) up to 1 year after commissioning.

* AGR new policy: AGR Soldiers with a MGIB-SR initial eligibility date prior to 30 June 2008 will have their MGIB-SR eligibility **suspended** while in AGR status.

Basic Criteria:

- ✓ Be eligible for the MGIB-SR/Chapter 1606 or MGIB-AD/Chapter 30;
- ✓ Sign a six-year enlistment contract, Officer Service Agreement (OSA) or extend to have six years on their contract remaining and meet all other relevant criteria in the current SRIP policy.

Additional Criteria:

- ✓ Be actively serving in the ARNG (cannot be in the Inactive National Guard-ING or Individual Ready Reserve-IRR).
- ✓ Not be in Military Technician, AGR, or Active Duty Status.
- ✓ Not on a Dedicated ARNG ROTC Scholarship (Reference: Title 10 USC 2107).

What Do I Get?

Up to \$350 per month in addition to your basic GI Bill payment (paid directly to the Soldier).

How Do I Apply?

- ✓ When applying online for your GI Bill at www.va.gov, indicate you have a kicker by marking “I have a reservist kicker” when prompted.
- ✓ Notify the School Certifying Official at your school so they can certify your enrollment.
- ✓ Continue to verify your enrollment each month online at: www.gibill.va.gov/wave.



MONTGOMERY GI BILL ACTIVE DUTY - CH 30

What Is It?

An education program for 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.

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.
- ✓ Submit election is IPPS-A.

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 30 June 1985.
- Have an Initial AGR period under Title 32 beginning on or before 28 November 1989.
- Are an ROTC scholarship recipient who completed ROTC on or before to 30 September 1996.
- Are an ROTC scholarship recipient on or after 1 October 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.

\$600 Buy-Up Program

Must be eligible for the MGIB-AD. 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.

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, CHAPTER 33

What Is It?

The Post 9/11 GI Bill is an education benefit for Service Members who serve on active duty after 10 SEP 2001 and receive an honorable discharge. (Reference: Title 38 USC Chapter 33, DoDI 1341.13).

How Do I Qualify?

Serve at least 90 days in a period of qualifying active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

Qualifying Active Duty service is:

- ✓ Service in any active component.
- ✓ Title 10 AGR or Title 32 AGR
 - Title 10 U.S.C. Sections 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12301(h), 12302, 12304, 12304a, or 12304b.
- ✓ Title 32 U.S.C., Section 502(f), in which orders occur during following dates and include references to these approved missions:
 - 11 SEP 01 – 31 MAY 02, in support of Operation Noble Eagle
 - 15 FEB 2019 - 20 JAN 2021, in support of Southern Border Mission
 - 22 MAR 2020 - 1 JUL 2022, in support of COVID-19 Mission
 - 11 JAN 2021 - 23 MAY 2021, in support of Capitol Police Mission
- ✓ Separation from qualifying service period due to a service connected disability or injury requires only 30 continuous days in a qualifying duty status.
- ✓ Basic Training and AIT can be added to qualifying time if:
 - You have completed 24 months of other qualifying active duty; and
 - Your Basic Training and/or IADT occurred on or after September 11, 2001.

The following service time **DOES NOT** qualify for Post-9/11:

- Title 32 ADOS/ADSW/FTNGD.
- During the 5-year ADSO after attending a Service Academy.
- During the 4-year ADSO from an ROTC Active Duty Contract (Dedicated Guard).
- During 3-year ADSO used for Active Duty Student Loan Repayment Program.
- Active Duty period receiving less than Honorable discharge.

POST-9/11 GI BILL, CHAPTER 33

What Do I Get?

Tuition and Fees

- ✓ Up to 100% of in-state tuition if attending a public school.
- ✓ Max payment of \$28,937.09 per year at a private or foreign school.

Book and Supply Stipend

- ✓ Up to \$1,000 per academic year (\$41.67/credit hour).

Monthly Housing Allowance

- ✓ Equal to BAH rate - E-5 with dependents.
- ✓ Based on zip code of campus where attending class.
- ✓ MUST be attending more than half-time to qualify.
- ✓ If attending only online classes: \$1,177.50.
- ✓ AGR and Active Duty Soldiers are **NOT eligible** for the Housing Stipend.

Payment Tiers

- ✓ Payments for all three benefits are prorated based on your percentage tier. The book and supply stipend and MHA are also adjusted based on your enrollment (number of credit hrs).

Qualifying Service	Percentage Tier
at least 36 cumulative months	100%
at least 30 cumulative months	90%
at least 24 cumulative months	80%
at least 18 cumulative months	70%
at least 6 cumulative months	60%
at least 90 cumulative days	50%

Timeline/Expiration of Benefits

- ✓ If your last day of qualifying Active Duty is on or after 1 JAN 13, your benefits never expire.
- ✓ If your last day of qualifying Active Duty is before 1 Jan 13, your benefits expire 15 years from your last day of Active Duty.
 - You can reset your expiration date by completing another qualifying period of service of at least 90 consecutive days.
 - Submit VA Form 21-4138 with your new DD214 to the VA Regional Processing Center.

How Do I Apply?

- ✓ Submit the Veterans Online Application at: www.va.gov
- ✓ Notify the School Certifying Official at your school so they can certify your enrollment.
- ✓ Check Claim Status:
1-(888)-GIBILL – 1-(888) 442-4551
- ✓ Effective August 2021, Soldiers must verify enrollment each month online at:
www.gibill.va.gov/wave

<https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11/>



TRANSFER OF EDUCATION BENEFITS (TEB)

POST-9/11 GI BILL

What is it?

TEB is an incentive for continued service offered to Service Members who qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. All TXARNG Soldiers considering TEB should initiate the TEB process as soon as they meet the requirements (Ref: Title 38 USC Section 3319; DoDI 1341.13).

How Do I Qualify?

- ✓ Qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill at any payment tier.
- ✓ Be currently serving in the Uniformed Services, with at least six years completed.
- ✓ NOT be flagged for adverse action, APFT/ABCP failure, or as Unsatisfactory Participant.
- ✓ Agree to a four-year service obligation from the date of your transfer request.
- ✓ Transfer to an eligible dependent:
 - Spouse and/or dependents must be listed under you in DEERS.
 - Transfers to children must be completed before each child's 23rd birthday (21st birthday if they aren't enrolled full-time at an Educational Institution).

What Do I Get?

Dependent(s) receive the same payment eligibility tier as Soldier.

Spouses:

- ✓ May use transferred benefits immediately:
 - If your last day of qualifying service is before January 1, 2013, your spouse's eligibility ends 15 years from the last day of that qualifying duty.
 - If your last day of qualifying service is on or after January 1, 2013, your spouse's eligibility never ends.
- ✓ The spouse of a Soldier on Active Duty/AGR is NOT eligible for the Housing Stipend.
- ✓ Is always paid as if Soldier is in a Non-Active Duty Status.
- ✓ Can begin using the benefit on their 18th birthday or upon high school graduation, whichever comes first.
- ✓ A child's eligibility ends on their 26th birthday unless you specify an earlier end date.
- ✓ Ward/Foster children must reside with the Soldier under court order for a minimum of 12 months in order to be eligible to receive transferred benefits.

Children:

The transferring Soldier has to have completed 10 years in the Armed Forces before the benefit can be used:

- ✓ You can modify and/or revoke months between any dependent you originally transferred months to even after you separate from service.

IMPORTANT! You must be currently serving to add a new dependent!

(TEB) POST-9/11 GI BILL

How Do I Apply?

STEP 1: COMPLETE EXTENSION (IF REQUIRED)

- ✓ Enlisted Soldiers MUST have an ETS date that is four or more years after the TEB request date. If you do not have four years remaining, you will need to extend before submitting your TEB.
- ✓ Officers' MRD MUST be four or more years beyond the request date.

IMPORTANT! Your TEB request will be denied until the ETS/MRD is updated in IPPSA.

STEP 2: COMPLETE APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER

- ✓ Log into milConnect at:
<https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>.
- ✓ Verify your dependents are listed as eligible to receive the transfer. Your dependents will be listed in the List of Family Members chart.
- ✓ If your dependent(s) is not listed or is identified as ineligible, contact your DEERS (ID Card) office to enroll/update the dependent profile in DEERS.
- ✓ Enter the number of months you wish to transfer to each dependent.
- ✓ Entering a Transfer End Date is optional, and not recommended. If left blank, the dependent will receive the longest period of eligibility allowed by law.
- ✓ Click the "OK" button and repeat for each dependent.

Complete the application by reading every statement and selecting every check box. Be sure to click the SUBMIT button.

STEP 3: TEB NOTICE WILL BE SENT TO YOUR ENTERPRISE EMAIL

- ✓ The ARNG GI Bill Support Team will review your application and send approval instructions to your military email (army.mil account).
- ✓ Login to milConnect, review your obligation end date (OED), print your approval form.
- ✓ If your request gets denied, an email notice will be sent to you explaining the reason for denial.

IMPORTANT! If you voluntarily separate from military service PRIOR TO COMPLETING your obligation end date, your TEB will be terminated AND any funds paid to your dependents will be recouped!

STEP 4: DEPENDENT APPLICATION TO VA

- ✓ When ready to attend school, your approved dependent(s) apply for the Post 9/11 GI Bill at: www.va.gov.
- ✓ See the section of this handbook, "How to Apply for GI Bill Benefits".
- ✓ You can modify and/or revoke months between any dependent you originally transferred months to – even after you separate from service.



HOW TO APPLY FOR GI BILL BENEFITS

STEP 1: APPLY FOR YOUR CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY (COE)

- ✓ Contact ng.tx.txarng.mbx.education@army.mil to ensure your eligibility data is correct and documents are on file.
- ✓ Have all of the required information before you start. You must complete the form in one session – there is no option to save and come back later.
- ✓ Go to <https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply>.
- ✓ Click on “Find your education benefits form”, under “How Do I Apply?”.
- ✓ Answer the questions by clicking the appropriate bubble until you reach “Apply Now”.
- ✓ Sign into or create an account with Login.gov or ID.me .
- ✓ Complete and submit the application.
- ✓ The VA will process your application in approximately 30 days and you will receive a Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) in the mail.
- ✓ For CoE issues go to: <https://ask.va.gov> .

STEP 2: REGISTER FOR CLASSES

- ✓ Register for classes as soon as your school’s registration period opens.
- ✓ Contact your School Certifying Official (SCO) and provide a copy of your CoE and course schedule. Note: Ensure your SCO certifies your enrollment each term.

STEP 3: VERIFY ATTENDANCE

- ✓ While in school, you must verify your enrollment EVERY MONTH to receive your next monthly deposit.
- ✓ Complete your monthly verification from these three options:
 - Opt-in to text message enrollment verification.
 - Opt-in to email enrollment verification.
 - Continue to verify your enrollment at: <https://www.va.gov/education/verify-school-enrollment/> .

STEP 4: NEXT SEMESTER

- ✓ Do not repeat the application on [va.gov](https://www.va.gov) unless changing schools or degree plans.
- ✓ As soon as registration for the next term opens, register for classes early.
- ✓ Make another appointment with your SCO.

Required information:

- Applicant’s Social Security Number
- Military history (Service Members only)
- Sponsor’s Social Security number (Dependents only)
- Information about the school you wish to attend
- Bank account and direct deposit information
- Education history



<https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>
888-442-4551
866-ARNGEDU (276-4338) or arng.esc@army.mil

TESTING SERVICES-DANTES

What Is It?

DANTES provides numerous programs and services to assist service members seeking to further their voluntary education goals and objectives.

How Do I Qualify?

Be an actively drilling member of the TXARNG.

What Do I Get?

Free Academic and College Credit Equivalency Exams:

- ✓ College credit equivalency exams (CLEP, DSST).
- ✓ Tests are administered at National Test Centers (NTCs).
 - Locate a local NTC to schedule CLEP exams at: <https://clep.collegeboard.org/test-center-search>.
 - Locate a local NTC to schedule DSST testing at: <http://getcollegecredit.com/institutions/search>.



NOTE: DANTES no longer supports the reimbursement of SAT, ACT, GMAT, GRE, or Praxis exams.

Free Test and College Prep Materials:

- ✓ Khan Academy: www.khanacademy.org -Comprehensive videos and practice quizzes to help with college level mathematics, science, and history tests.
- ✓ EBSCO Learning Express: EBSCO's DoD Learning Express Test Prep library provides eLearning tutorials, practice tests, e-books, flashcards and articles that help users build their skills in a wide array of core subjects for success in the classroom, on the job, and in life, including preparation for CLEP, DSST, ACT, GRE and more.
- ✓ Access the DoD MWR Digital Library online by visiting <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/>. Select the menu icon in the upper right. Then, select the MWR Digital Library link. Go to the bottom of the page and select the "ACCESS THE LIBRARY" button under the "For Adults" section. You will now be able to select the tile titled "EBSCO DoD Learning Express Test Prep." You will need to register and login using your authentication certificate to have access to the EBSCO library.
- ✓ OASC/CPST: <https://dantes.petersons.com/> -Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) and the College Placement Skills Training course (CPST). The OASC focuses on preparing you with the academic skills needed to do well on the ASVAB/AFCT. The CPST helps learners achieve college readiness and place into college-level courses by scoring well on the ACCUPLACER exam.
- ✓ Free DSST Practice Exams: https://www.getcollegecredit.com/dsst_practice_exam/.
- ✓ Free College Board CLEP Study Material. Upon registration, military members will receive a free eGuide available at: <https://clep.collegeboard.org/earn-college-credit/military-benefits>.
- ✓ Free CLEP Prep: <http://www.free-clep-prep.com/index.html> -This website tells you what to expect for many CLEP and DSST exams, offers all kinds of test-taking tips, study guides, and resources, plus it's 100% free.

ARMY PERSONNEL TESTING (APT)

What Is APT?

APT encompasses standardized tests used to determine eligibility for specialized training and to support the Army's personnel selection and classification process, including language proficiency testing (Reference: AR 611-5).

How Do I Qualify?

- ✓ Be an active drilling member of the Army National Guard (ARNG).

What Tests Can I Take?

APT offers career-enhancing exam options, such as:

- Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT).
- Selection Instrument Flight Training (SIFT).
- Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT).
- Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB).

**The OPI is NOT offered at Camp Mabry*

What Are The Benefits of These Tests?

- AFCT: Raise GT/Line Scores to Re-class MOS or Qualify for Officer Candidate School.
- SIFT: Qualify for Aviation School.
- DLPT/DLRPT/DLAB: Qualify for Foreign Language Billets and Proficiency Bonuses.



<https://tmd.texas.gov/money-for-college>

FY 26-27 Testing Information

CAMP MABRY

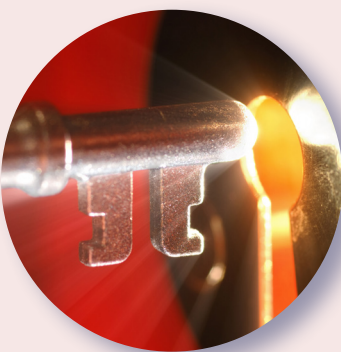
Language Tests
(DLPT and DLAB):
qualify for Foreign
Language Billets
and Proficiency
Bonuses.

- DLPT (Defense Language Proficiency Test)
- DLAB (Defense Language Aptitude Battery)
- AFCT (Armed Forces Classification Test)

To View Current Test Dates and to Schedule An Exam:



1. Make a reservation by visiting:
<https://tmd.texas.gov/money-for-college-request-a-reservation>
2. Download the 4187 for your test and make sure it is signed by your unit commander.
3. Upload it to the reservation request. **It must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the test date.**



Test Prep:

The DLPT is comprised of Reading and Listening. You must have the language as a requirement on your orders to be eligible for FLPB pay.

Find practice on 41 languages at:
<https://gloss.dliflc.edu/>



Interested In Boosting Your GT Score?

The Technical Aptitude Development Course (TAD-C) supports Soldiers in raising their GT scores and advancing their careers, helping to shape the Army leaders of tomorrow. For more details, upcoming test dates, and to schedule an exam, please visit:

<https://tmd.texas.gov/technical-aptitude-development-course-tad-c?visdate29120=2025-08-01T00%3a00%3a00>

CONTACTS & RESOURCES

TMD Education & Incentives Office

2200 W. 35th St, Bldg 15
Camp Mabry, Austin, TX 78703
Main: (512) 782-5515
<https://tmd.texas.gov/money-for-college>

EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Education Benefits (FTA, CA, STA, GI Bill):
ng.tx.txarng.mbx.education@army.mil

STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE:

ng.tx.txarng.mbx.trp@army.mil
Main: (512) 782-5270

INCENTIVES (SLRP, BONUSES):

ng.tx.txarng.mbx.incentives@army.mil

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Toll-free: (888) GIBILL-1 (442-4551)
From Overseas: 001-918-781-5678
<http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>

WEAMS Institution Search

<http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do>

Free Application for

Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Main: 1 (800) 4FED-AID
<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Texas Veterans Commission

1700 N. Congress, Ste 800
Stephen F. Austin Bldg
Austin, TX 78701
Main: (512) 463-5538
Toll-free: 1 (877) 898-3833
<https://www.tvc.texas.gov/education/hazlewood/>
Email: hazlewood@tvc.texas.gov

Military Transcripts

JOINT SERVICES TRANSCRIPT (JST)

<https://jst.doded.mil/jst/>

Kuder Education Solutions

Career assessments, college planning tools, and guidance to prepare students for their future.
(877) 773-8444 • <https://www.dantes.mil/kuder/>

Army Cool

https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/welcome_to_new_cool.html

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

1200 E. Anderson Ln
Austin, TX 78752
Main: (512) 427-6101 • Toll-free: 1 (811) 311-8881

<http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/CollegeScholarships.org>

<http://www.collegescholarships.org/financial-aid/>

Higher Education Resource Center

Higher Education Resource Center
5401 Kingston Pike, Ste 400
Knoxville, TN 37919
1 (865) 686-8347

<https://www.degreequickly.com/>
Email: support@degreequickly.com

Testing

CLEP EXAMS-COLLEGE BOARD

<https://clep.collegeboard.org/earn-college-credit/military-benefits>

Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES)

6420 Saufley Field Rd
Pensacola, FL 32509-5243

Main: (850) 452-1111
<https://www.dantes.mil>

DOD MWR Library

The DoD Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Libraries deliver online library services to DoD Service members and families.

<https://www.dodmwrlibraries.org/>

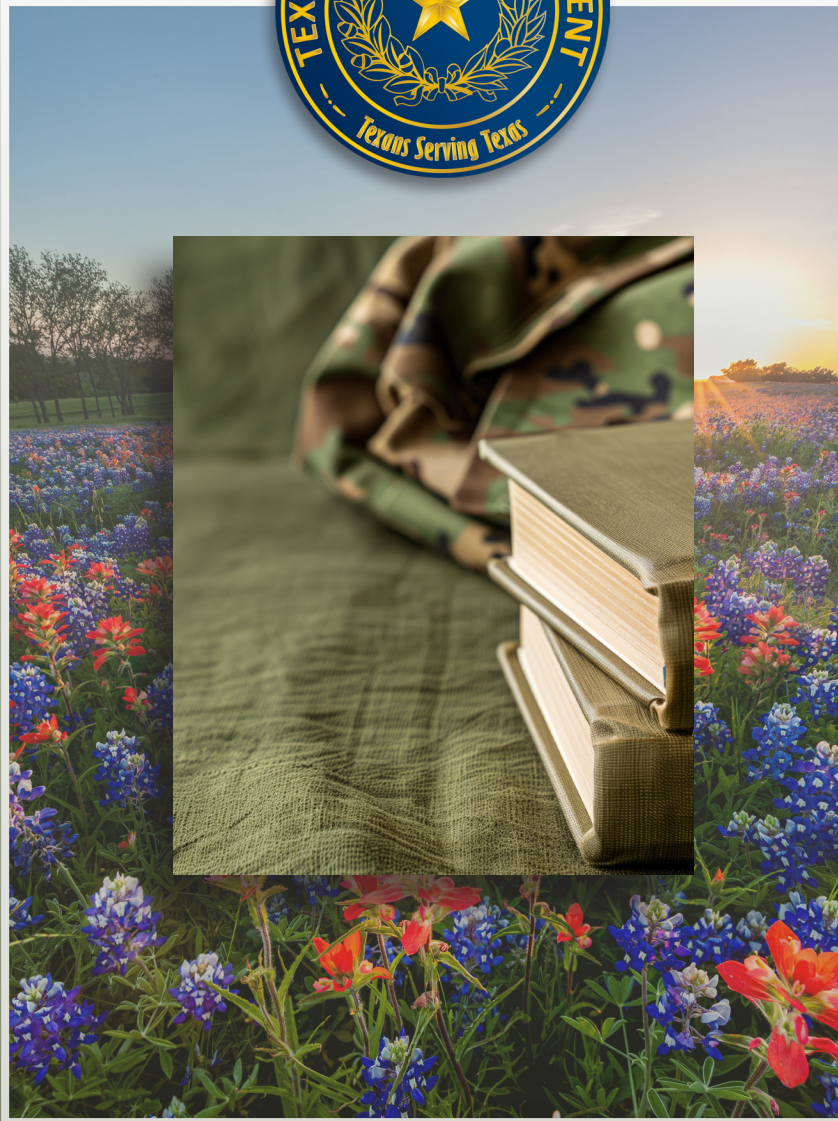
Free Tutoring/Academic Support

Toll-free: 1 (800) 411-1970
<https://military.tutor.com/home>

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Lined paper for writing.





TEXAS MILITARY DEPARTMENT
Education & Incentives Office

2200 W. 35th St., Bldg 15 • Camp Mabry, Austin, TX 78703
(512) 782-5515

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