

Educational Benefits for Military Service

If you're interested in entering the military, are currently serving, or have completed your service, this information can help make paying for college a little easier. Both state and federal programs are available.

ISAC administers the Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) and Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Programs (see details below). Find contact information for other state and federal programs on the reverse.

Illinois Veteran Grant Program

Eligibility

- Veterans or military service members with at least one year of federal active duty service in the U.S. Armed Forces *
- Veterans who served in a foreign country in time(s) of hostilities in that country (regardless of service length)
- Veterans medically discharged for service-related reasons (regardless of service length)
- Veterans discharged prior to August 11, 1967 (regardless of service length)
- Honorable discharge for each period
- Attending Illinois public college or community college
- Illinois residency as defined on application
- Maintain minimum grade point average (GPA) required by college
- No defaulted student loan(s) or pending refund on state or federal grant(s)
- ROTC members not eligible

Benefits

- Pays tuition & mandatory fees for equivalent of four years of full-time enrollment
- Undergraduate and graduate study

Illinois National Guard Grant Program

Eligibility

- Active member of Illinois National Guard with at least one year of service *
- Member within 12 months after discharge with at least 5 years service who were on federal active duty for at least 6 months
- Attending Illinois public college or community college
- Enlisted member or officer
- Maintain minimum grade point average (GPA) required by college
- No defaulted student loan(s) or pending refund on state or federal grant(s)

Benefits

- Pays tuition and certain fees for equivalent of four years of full-time enrollment
- Undergraduate and graduate study

* Illinois National Guard members called to federal active duty service may qualify for the Illinois Veteran Grant Program. Complete details are available on the Illinois Veteran Grant Program page of collegezone.com.

To Request a Copy of the DD214

- ⇒ Current or former members of U.S. Armed Forces who served on federal active duty service

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
P.O. Box 19432
Springfield, IL 62794-9432
217.782.4652

National Personnel Records Center
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63121
vetrecs.archives.gov

- ⇒ Current active status Reserve or Illinois National Guard members

Contact your National Guard unit

- ⇒ Former members of the Illinois Army or Air National Guard

Administrative Services
1301 N. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, IL 62702
217.761.3419 (fax)
Requests must be in writing

Other Contact Information

- ⇒ GI Bill Benefits
888.GIBILL1 (442.4551)
gibill.va.gov/education/benefits.htm
- ⇒ State of Illinois programs
il.gov/iserved/education.htm
state.il.us/agency/dva/vetben.htm
- ⇒ U.S. Department of Education
studentaid.ed.gov (under Funding)

FAQ's

Q. Where can I find more information about these programs?

A. Contact an ISAC College Zone Counselor at 800.899.ISAC (4722) or through e-mail at collegezone@isac.org. Also visit collegezone.com for complete details of these programs and others administered by ISAC.

Q. What if I also qualify for the Montgomery G.I. Bill - can I still receive IVG benefits?

A. Yes. If you qualify for both programs, receiving benefits from one will not impact the other.

Q. Where do I get an application?

A. Applications for both programs are available at collegezone.com, your college's financial aid office or an Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs field office (for IVG) or your National Guard unit (for ING grant).

Q. What are the deadlines for filing applications?

A. An IVG application only needs to be filed once to establish eligibility. After that, you'll need to present your Notice of Eligibility to your college every time you request benefits.

An ING grant application has different due dates, depending on which term you're attending:

- October 1 - full year
- March 1 - only 2nd semester (2nd/3rd quarter) and summer
- June 15 - only summer

Q. Will I need to submit any additional documentation?

A. To establish eligibility for IVG, you'll have to supply a copy of each DD214, Member 4 form. See above for contact information to obtain a copy.



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