

# ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ★

Updated: 28 January 2020



## Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA)

### 1. 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, RAR, 28 October 2019, Army Continuing Education System)

### 2. How Do I Qualify?

- **Tier 1:**
  - Be currently serving in the ARNG and completed either Advanced Individual Training (AIT), Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC), or Basic Officer Leaders Course (BOLC).
  - Have not attained a bachelor's degree and wish to pursue an undergraduate academic certificate, associate's or bachelor's degree or
  - Have attained a bachelor's degree and wish to pursue a graduate academic certificate or
  - Have attained a bachelor's degree without the use of FTA and wish to pursue a master's degree.
- **Tier 2:**
  - Be currently serving in the ARNG and completed either Advanced Leader's Course (ALC), Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC), Captain's Career Course (CCC), or equivalent.
  - Have attained a bachelor's degree with the use of FTA and wish to pursue a master's degree.
- **Service Requirement/Obligation:**
  - Have an ETS or MRD **after** completion of FTA funded course(s).
  - Officers and Commissioned Warrant Officers are subject to a four-year Reserve Duty Service Obligation (RDSO) OR a two-year Active Duty Service Obligation (ADSO).
- **Additional Criteria:**
  - The college is regionally or nationally accredited AND is a participant in GoArmyEd (GAE).
  - The funded course(s) meets a requirement listed in your personalized degree plan 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 5 business days prior to course start date.

### 3. What Do I Get?

- FTA will pay up to **\$250** per semester hour and up to **16 SHs** per fiscal year.
- Lifetime limit of 130 undergraduate semester hours and 39 graduate semester hours.
- Up to 21 additional semester hours for a certificate.
- FTA will pay toward one credential at each of the following levels:
  - Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, Master Degree, Undergraduate/Graduate Certificate
  - First Professional degrees are NOT eligible (i.e. doctorate degrees, Juris doctorates)

## 4. Programs NOT Approved For FTA

- Courses leading to a credential that are lower or lateral to the highest credential 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.
- FTA is also NOT authorized simultaneously with Chapter 1606/MGIB-SR for the SAME course.

## 5. How Do I Apply?

- **Create a user account in GoArmyEd.com:**
  - Go to [www.goarmyed.com](http://www.goarmyed.com) and establish a GAE Federal Tuition Assistance account by clicking on the "New User" button and entering all required data.
- **Tips to remember when applying:**
  - Apply for FTA up to 60 days **prior** to the class start date, but no later than 5 business 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.
  - If your school charges by quarter hour or clock hour, GAE will automatically convert them into semester hours on the FTA request.
  - If your school's courses are not listed in GAE (i.e. you have to physically enter your courses into each FTA request), you must upload the following documentation into your GAE "Education Record" eFile:
    - Cost Verification Statement: individualized document such as a billing statement/invoice specific that breaks out the cost of tuition and fees separately.
    - Class Schedule: individualized document that shows all courses to include class name, start date, end date, course number, and number of credit hours.
    - All of these documents **MUST** have your name and the name of the school on them or a screenshot from your online student account, and cannot be in an editable format.
  - After you complete six semester hours of FTA-funded coursework, you must provide an individualized degree plan/student agreement to GAE.
  - This document should list the courses required for completion of your degree, as well as the existing credits already applied toward your degree.
  - New FTA users and anyone who changes their degree plan are required to complete VIA (VIA is a planning tool in GAE designed to help Soldiers identify their 'best fit' school).

### ***For More Information:***

- Contact the Education Support Center: 866-ARNGEDU (866-276-4338)
- Apply On Line: [www.goarmyed.com](http://www.goarmyed.com)
- Visit us On-Line: [www.nationalguard.com/education](http://www.nationalguard.com/education)
- Contact your Education Services Office: [www.nationalguard.com/select-your-state](http://www.nationalguard.com/select-your-state)

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