
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2024

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2023



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

National Guard Benefits Program

Eligibility

The National Guard Benefits Program, previously known as the National Guard Educational Assistance Program, provides scholarships to National Guard members attending eligible Iowa colleges and universities, including community colleges. Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Must be an Iowa resident and a member of the Army or Air National Guard for each term that benefits are received.
- Must satisfactorily complete required Guard training and maintain satisfactory performance of required Guard duty.
- Must be pursuing a certificate or undergraduate degree at an eligible Iowa college or university and maintain satisfactory academic progress.
- Must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and apply for all nonrepayable State and federal financial aid for which the National Guard member is eligible.
- Must submit an application to the Adjutant General of Iowa, on forms prescribed by the Adjutant General, who shall determine eligibility and whose decision is final.

Iowa National Guard members who have been attending Kaplan University and receiving aid under the Program may continue receiving aid, despite Kaplan becoming an out-of-state entity as a result of its purchase by Purdue University in Indiana.

Awards

The maximum award cannot exceed the average resident tuition rate established for the Regents universities. Each year, the Guard determines what percentage of tuition will be reimbursed based on the available funding and the anticipated number of applications. The level of applications can be difficult to predict due to changes in Guard deployments.

Awardees are limited to receiving total assistance under the Program for up to 120 semester credit hours of undergraduate study or the equivalent. An additional 10 semester hours of undergraduate study are available for those pursuing a degree that qualifies for the federal Edith Nourse Rogers Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Scholarship.

Funding

The Program receives an annual General Fund appropriation. Funding levels fluctuate as a result of changes in demand due to deployment levels.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [261.86](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [283—20](#)

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More Information

College Student Aid Commission: www.iowacollegeaid.gov

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