

# Our Community Salutes

College Options in the  
Military presented by:



**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
GLOBAL CAMPUS**

# Who Are We?

## University of Maryland Global Campus

- Founded in 1947
- 1949 established first college classes in Germany for GIs in the field
- Relationship with the US military has grown and strengthened over the past 6 decades
- Currently on-site, with boots on the ground, in more than 150 locations in 25 countries and territories



# College Options in the Military

- Why is it important to get a degree on Active Duty
- Things to Consider about College
  - Tuitions & Costs
  - Programs
  - Accreditation
- Enrollment Options
  - On-base education
  - Satellite Campuses
  - Online Programs
  - Testing Programs
  - Certification Programs
- Paying for College
  - Tuition Assistance
  - GI Bill
  - Scholarships & Financial Aid
- How do I get Started?
- Additional Resources



# Why Get A Degree on Active Duty?

- Getting a degree while on Active Duty is a good idea!
  - Taking advantage of your benefits
  - Working towards your future
    - Promotion opportunities
    - Possible road to become an officer
    - Assist in a new career path after their time in the military.



# Things to Consider

## Tuition & Costs

While most schools offer tuition assistance to service members, certain institutions can be more affordable, like in-state or public universities. Private schools can sometimes be costly. To reduce the amount of debt you graduate with, research each school's tuition and financial aid offerings carefully.

## Courses & Programs

If you have a specific area of focus that you want to pursue, narrow down your choices to schools with those programs.

Think about the ability of your program to move with you

Look for Class Availability.

Rotating start and end dates within a term

Search the Department of Defense's [Voluntary Education Memorandum of Understanding](#) site to see which schools are participating in the federal tuition assistance program.



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# Accreditation

- **What is it?**
  - Voluntary review of educational programs to ensure certain uniform standards are being met within the educational program
  - Maintained only when the institution continues its adherence to certain regulations and criteria
- **Why is it important?**
  - Ensures you are seeking a quality education
  - Determines a school's eligibility in federal funding
  - Integral for transferability and acceptance of college credit between schools
  - Pre-requisite for many graduate programs
- **What is the most recognized in the United States?**
  - Regional Accreditation

# Enrollment Options

## On-base Classes

### Pros

Hundreds of schools in the United States offer this option

Flexible programs that allow for deployment

Less commuting time

Smaller class size

- Also 5 colleges and universities that offer classes on the military installations overseas

### Cons

Fewer degree plans to choose from

Scheduled classes mean less flexibility than with online programs.

## Online Classes

### Pros

Flexibility

No commute

More variety

### Cons

Limited interaction with instructor and other students

Time Management

Technology requirements

# Testing Programs

- Provides students the opportunity to earn college credits without even stepping foot in a classroom
- Save you money
- Decrease the time it takes to earn your degree
  - **CLEP Exams:**
    - There are 33 exams that fall into five categories: composition and literature, world languages, history and social sciences, science and mathematics, and business.
    - For every one of these exams that you pass, you receive three hours of college credit, though six or 12 hours are also possible.
  - **DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST):**
    - The DSST program is a series of examinations in various college subjects. Similar to CLEP exams, passing a DSST also earns you college credit.



# Paying for College

- **Tuition Assistance (TA)**
- **GI Bill**
- **Scholarships and Grants**



# Tuition Assistance

## Who Uses it?

TA is available to eligible members serving on active duty in all five branches of the Armed Forces: Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard.

## Why is TA a good option?

Uses a yearly benefit allocated to you

Preserves GI Bill benefits, for an advanced degree after serving, or in the case of the Post 9/11 GI Bill, a transfer of benefits to a dependent family member while still serving.

## How does it work?

Student's military branch falling under the DOD pays 100 percent of the tuition up to the maximum amount directly to the school.

Note - Coast Guard falls under the Department of Homeland Security and not the DOD - payment guidelines are different.  
- pay up to 75% of tuition and only lab fees.

Applying for TA varies between the various branches. All branches but the Coast Guard use some type of online application process:

Army – [Online Application](#)

Navy – [Online Application](#)

Marines – [Online Application](#)

Air Force – [Online Application](#)

Coast Guard – [CG-4147 Application Form](#)



# Other Payment Options

- **GI Bill**

- Department of Veterans Affairs education benefit
- Earned by members of Active Duty, Selected Reserves and National Guard
- Designed to help servicemembers and eligible veterans cover the costs associated with further education and training
- Several different programs with their own unique eligibility requirements.
- For a description of each GI Bill program, including eligibility requirements, and payment amounts please research at:
  - <https://www.va.gov/>

- **Scholarships and Financial Aid**

- Even though benefits available today are the most generous ever offered, sometimes they are still not enough
- Many different scholarships and grants available just to military members
- Military members may still be eligible for Financial Aid as well



# How Do I Get Started?

- Start with your installation's education center.
  - Discuss what schools are available, what classes you can take, Tuition Assistance regulations for your branch of service and what you need to do to get started.
- Make sure you develop a good plan and stay organized through the process of going to school while serving as active duty in the military.
- Take it slow at first, don't jump in with too many classes.



# Additional Resources

- [Choosing a School Guide](#) – A helpful guide that talks about types of degrees and schools, benefits of getting an education and how to choose a degree major.
- [College Navigator](#) – A detailed school search program, along with good information on financial aid, preparing for college and other education-related topics.
- [DANTES](#) – Being able to test out of certain classes and get credit for the course without taking it is a great way to not only save GI Bill entitlement but also time to a degree.
- [Joint Services Transcripts](#) – Receive a description of military education and work history for civilian employers and academic advisors.
- [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#) – By selecting data from each drop-down menu – military status, GI Bill, length of service, venue and city/school – search results are returned that let individuals compare schools to see which ones would be best based on their selections.
- [Post 9/11 GI Bill](#) – Explore the pros and cons associated with using this type of GI Bill while actively serving in the military.
- [Yellow Ribbon Program](#) – This page explains the personal and academic benefits and eligibility for the Yellow Ribbon Program.
- [Yellow Ribbon Schools](#) – Explore institutions that participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program to maximize program benefits.



# Questions?