



LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD

PROTECT WHAT MATTERS

EDUCATION BULLETIN

What is STEP?

STEP is the State Tuition Exemption Program, available to Louisiana Army National Guard Soldiers who meet the following requirements:

- Resident of LA
- Not Flagged
- Actively serving (not ING)
- Attending a Public, LA school
- Good-standing with school

Helpful Links

- www.va.gov
- www.cool.osd.mil/army/
- Www.armyignited.army.mil
- Www.dantes.doded.mil
- Www.tutor.com/military
- Www.geauxguard.la.gov/education

We would love to help you pursue a college education or advanced career path. Please reach out to us soon so that we may guide you.



FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (FTA)

- The policy for FTA changed on October 1! Previously, Soldiers had to be MOS-Qualified in order to utilize FTA. All you need now is a Common Access Card (CAC).
- This program provides \$4,000 per year to pay for college tuition for an Associates', Bachelor's or Master's Degree at both Public and Private institutions.
- Visit www.armyignited.army.mil today to apply for funding and explore your options! Reach out to the ESO if you have any questions.

What's Happening

- **October 1**– FTA requirements have changed. Soldiers are no longer required to be MOSQ to use FTA funding– all you need is a CAC and you are eligible.
- **October 24**– Soldiers will be able to request funding for Credentialing Assistance again.
- **November 1**– All students using VA benefits must verify their enrollment every month.
- **November 15**– VFW Scholarships applications due. <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support>
- **November 16**– ARNG Credentialing Expo! Info on FB.



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LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD
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Common Question: Can I combine Post 9/11 and State Tuition Exemption?

- The answer is yes, absolutely! If you plan to use Post 9/11 and you are also eligible for STEP, your school must FIRST apply STEP to your account (which zeroes out your tuition bill). Then, they may bill the VA for the remainder of the costs associated with your schooling—fees, books, etc.

Transfer your Post 9/11 Education Benefits before it's too late!

- If you have completed 6 years of service in the LANG and have earned Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits through deployments or COVID orders, you may be eligible to transfer your benefits to dependents (must be in DEERS). You will incur a four year service obligation from the date of transfer, so don't wait until it's too late to transfer!
- You can always give your dependents 1 month each to initiate the process and change the amount distribution later on. Got questions? Send us an email!

What do I do if I have questions or concerns about my benefits?

- Please reach out to us as soon as possible. 1LT Anthony and Mr. Acker are here to help you with all of your education benefit questions and concerns. It is always better to clarify with us first before you make permanent decisions about benefits and money.