

FY14 Proposed Changes to Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA)

1. Effective date of Proposed Policy is 1JAN14
2. Soldiers cannot use the policy until 1 year after the completion of AIT.
3. Restricted to 16 Semester Hours at \$250 per credit.
4. Cannot use TA for a second, higher level degree until completion of 10 years time in service.
5. APFT and Weight Control flags suspend FTA.
 - a. This is a continuation of the current policy. Soldiers who do not have their FLAG removed 30 days prior to the first day of class will not be eligible for any TA that semester.

What does this mean to me as a member of the North Dakota National Guard (NDNG) or a prospective member?

1. Any FY14 TA request approved by 31 December 2013 will be honored for payment. However, no new enrollments are authorized until you meet the eligibility requirements. Though everyone should get their applications in as soon as possible, it is essential that anyone who does not meet the 1 year requirements submit their applications ASAP. Those applications submitted and approved by 31 December 2013, will be honored.
2. Soldiers not attending North Dakota's state schools, or schools located within the state of North Dakota who have agreed to waive a portion of their tuition will be subject to all of the restrictions. Those Soldiers attending out of state schools, online schools, or schools not agreeing to waive a portion of their tuition, will either have to personally fund the remainder, take out personal or student loans, or use a portion of their GI Bill benefits to pay the remainder.
3. This will prevent National Guard and Reserve Soldiers from utilizing their FTA benefits for approximately 16 months or longer. Those who have their applications in and approved for the Spring 2014 semester by 31 December 2013 will receive FTA for that semester. They will need to apply for STA if they are still ineligible in following semesters.
4. Soldiers restricted from using FTA for the first 12 months after completing training will be required to apply for State Tuition Assistance (STA). STA is only available to North Dakota State schools and schools located within the state of North Dakota agreeing to waive a portion of their tuition. STA is a reimbursement program that pays upon the successful completion of a class. Soldiers will be required to pay the school up front and be reimbursed at the end of the semester. Soldiers will have to either use personal finances, student loans, personal loans or short term loans to pay their bill up front. After the 12 month waiting period, the Soldier would then need to sign up in GoArmyEd and apply for FTA. This is going to further complicate an already complicated application process, and again limited to certain schools.
5. Having a restriction of 16 Semester Hours at \$250 per credit will require Soldiers to use a combination of STA and FTA to cover a normal full-load of credits. This

will have a negative impact on the NDNG State Tuition budget. This may mean that STA would no longer be able to pay fees, leaving them as Soldier funded.

6. Soldiers would not be allowed to use FTA for a second, higher level degree until completion of 10 years time in service. Those Soldiers who used FTA to earn any portion of their undergraduate degree would not be eligible to use FTA for their Masters Degree for 10 years. Soldiers who are currently actively pursuing a graduate degree, but who do not have ten years of service based on their BASD or PEBD may continue to receive Federal TA for graduate classes **through the end of FY14, 30 September 2014**. Beginning FY15, all Soldiers will be subject to the ten year service requirement for graduate TA if TA paid for a portion of the undergraduate degree.