

State Tuition Assistance Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. If I am not eligible for Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) due to the one year requirement, will I receive State Tuition Assistance (STA)? Soldiers are still eligible for FTA through 31DEC13. Soldiers attending school in the spring of 2014 need to submit their applications and have them approved by 31DEC13. Applications can be submitted up to 60 days prior to the start date of class. If the class has a start date that falls outside that window, they will need to submit a STA request for reimbursement. The state application can be found at:

<http://www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil/benefits/tuitionassistanceapplication/Pages/default.aspx>

Soldiers who are not eligible for FTA due to the 1 year wait after Spring 2014 will have to submit for STA for classes until they meet the 1 year requirement. Once the Soldier meets the 1 year requirement, they will be required to submit an FTA request in order to receive the additional state benefits.

Q. I am currently getting my fees reimbursed through STA, will this continue? Currently fees which are charged to all students are being reimbursed through STA. A 100% Tuition free education is the goal of the State Tuition Program. Though we understand that fees can be substantial, up to \$1,709.28, continuing to pay fees cannot be guaranteed. Fees will be paid for the Fall 2013 term. Availability of funds will determine whether or not payment of fees will be continued.

Q. I am attending an online school, a school located outside North Dakota, or North Dakota School which has not agreed to waive the 25% of tuition required to be eligible for State Reimbursement. Will I be able to receive State Assistance? Unfortunately the answer is no. State education benefits are limited to all of North Dakota's state institutions and those private institutions located within the state that agrees to waive a portion of their tuition. Those individuals attending schools that do not meet those requirements are going to be subject to all of the limitations of the FTA program.

Q. What should I do if I am attending a school not supported by STA? We cannot tell you what to do, and every one's situation is different. Your options will be to continue at the school you are attending with the new limitations. This means that you will either only take up to 16 credits, or find another means to fund the additional credits. Your other option would be to change schools to a school that is eligible to receive state tuition assistance.

Q. If I take less credits and fall below full time status, what happens to my GI Bill? GI Bill is based on your rate of attendance. If you fall below the full time status, your GI Bill monthly payment will be reduced to the percentage of full time you are at. An example would be, if you are taking between 9 and 11 credits you would be rated at $\frac{3}{4}$ rate. If you were using Chapter 1606 and receiving the full monthly payment of \$362 per month, your new rate would be \$270 per month. The positive is that you would only be using $\frac{3}{4}$ of a month benefit. Even though you are getting less, you are using less benefit.

Q. I am flagged; can I receive State Tuition Assistance? No. In order to be eligible for STA, you need to be eligible for and apply for FTA.

Q. I have heard that the State program is a reimbursement program and pays at the end of the semester. I need to have my school account paid in full before I can receive my grades and register for the next semester. How am I supposed to accomplish this? There are numerous answers to this question, and will be dependent on the Soldier and their personal situation. Some schools will work with the Soldier to accept payment after the fact knowing that they are getting assistance. The Soldier can take out a short term loan from the school. The Soldier can use any Title IV money they received to pay in advance. The Soldier may need to take out a personal loan or a loan from parents. The bottom line is, yes the state program is a reimbursement program and will cut a check to the Soldier at the end of the semester. This is done once we have received grades and determine successful completion. Other than recommendations above, payment to the school is a personal finance issue.

Q. I have started my Masters program, but don't have ten years in service. Will I be able to continue to receive FTA? There are two answers. Yes, if you did not use FTA to fund any part of any of your undergraduate degrees. If you used FTA to fund your undergraduate degree; you will not be eligible until you have reached 10 years time in service. There is a small grandfather clause that is allowing those in programs currently to fund their masters program through FY14. If you have not reached the ten year mark by October 1, 2014, you will not be eligible to use FTA until then. You will not be allowed to start a new program if not already enrolled. You may apply for STA if you are not eligible for FTA at:

<http://www.ndguard.ngb.army.mil/benefits/tuitionassistanceapplication/Pages/default.aspx>

Q. I did not get my FTA application in and approved by the 31DEC13 deadline. Will I be eligible to receive STA? It depends. We are making every effort to get this information out to those that are eligible to apply. If it is determined that you were missed by all means possible, an exception to policy will be considered. If it is determined that you received the information and disregarded it is unlikely to be considered favorably. Each case will be determined on its own merit.