

COLORADO STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)



Colorado National Guard
State Tuition Assistance Office

Updated 07.01.2024

STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE FAQs

Q. Which Guard Members are eligible to apply for State Tuition Assistance (TA)?

- Title 10: Deployment, Call Up, One-Time Occasional-Tour (OTOT).
- Title 32: Traditional, AGR, Federal Technician, M-Day, One-Time Occasional-Tour (OTOT).
- New CONG members who have completed basic training.
- CONG members who transferred from another state.
- CONG members who transferred from active-duty status.

Not Eligible

- Title 10: Active Duty & Title 38 Veteran/Retiree Spouses/Dependents
- Reservists

Q: How do I start the process to apply for State TA?

First, request your command to complete the [Command Authorization Form](#). Once complete, visit <https://dmva.colorado.gov/tuition-assistance> to start the application process. Next, complete the online qualifying questions. If you qualify, you can proceed to create your account, fill out the application, and upload the required documents listed on the application. The Tuition Assistance Administrator will review your application and contact you with the final determination. The usual turnaround time is 3-5 business days.

Q: Is there a 6-month waiting period?

No, the 6-month waiting period has been removed for all CONG members. However, you must have completed basic training requirements to qualify.

Q: Can I use State TA if I am an officer in the CONG?

Yes, however, there is an additional service obligation of two years, starting from the completion date of the last course funded by State Tuition Assistance. The command to which the officer is assigned is responsible for tracking this service obligation. Full details can be found in the State Tuition Assistance policy under “Guidelines and Requirements, section P.”

Q: Can I use State TA if I am receiving an ROTC Scholarship?

Yes, but only if you chose the room and board option of your scholarship and did not

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opt to use it for tuition and fees. Additionally, you must actively attend weekend drills with the CONG. Full details are provided in the State Tuition Assistance policy under “Eligibility.”

Q: What is the maximum amount of State TA that I could qualify for?

Currently, the program pays up to \$5,000 per semester. Funding is subject to change based on availability.

Q. Can I use State TA for books, cost of living, or any other expenses?

State TA covers tuition exclusively. Applicants are responsible for books, fees, and living expenses. If tuition is paid directly to the school, reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses may not be guaranteed; schools could allocate excess payments to other charges. Check your school's refund policy for details. State TA funds are disbursed directly to the school. Refunds with State TA funds are not allowed. If you get a refund check from your school, verify with both the school's billing office and the State TA office that no State TA money was included. Any errors in the refund process could require you to return State TA funding, possibly leading to collection actions on your account.

Q: What are the types of money sources for tuition assistance?

Federal Financial Aid

- Pell Grant and student loans
- Requirements: Typically requires the completion of the [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

State and Institutional Financial Aid

- [Colorado Student Grant](#) (CSG)
- Requirements: FAFSA is required for these funds; they are applied directly to the student's bill

State Tuition Assistance

- Requirements: Must attend a state-approved school and meet all qualifications

Federal Tuition Assistance

- Federal Tuition Assistance is specifically for the Army Component. Each

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funding source has specific requirements to qualify.

- Website: ArmyIgnitED.army.mil
- There is no Federal Tuition Assistance available for the Air Force at this time.

GI Bill Programs

- Chapter 1606 Montgomery GI Bill – Select Reserve
- GI Bill Kicker
- Chapter 33 Post 9/11
- Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty
- Website: <https://www.va.gov/>

Q: What is the order of payment for the different types of aid sources?

If you apply for all sources of aid, the payment order is:

1. Federal Financial Aid (e.g., Pell Grant)
2. State Funds (e.g., CSG)
3. State Tuition Assistance
4. Federal Tuition Assistance
5. GI Bill Programs (e.g. CH 1606, CH 33, Ch 30, and GI Bill Kicker)

State TA Only: If you only apply for State Tuition Assistance, then only State TA will be applied, providing you qualify and are approved.

Q: Will I get extra money if other funding sources cover my tuition?

No, you will not receive extra money if other funding sources cover your tuition costs. State Tuition Assistance (TA) will pay if Federal Aid (such as Pell Grant, CSG, COF) does not fully cover your tuition. Federal Tuition Assistance (such as the GI Bill or Post 9/11 GI Bill) can be applied after State TA to cover additional costs (if eligible). Federal TA can also be used for living expenses and books.

Q. I received other sources of aid, and my eligibility was adjusted, or I no longer qualify for State TA. Why is this?

Members qualify for tuition assistance under C.R.S. 23-7.4-302.2a if their total tuition, including federal aid, doesn't surpass 100% of tuition costs. State TA adjusts if students receive other aid, and excess aid cancels State TA. Refunds of State TA are prohibited.

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Q. Does State Tuition Assistance pay for out-of-state residency?

As of July 1, 2007, Colorado Guard members with sole residency in Colorado qualify for in-state tuition. However, joining the Guard doesn't automatically grant residency; it just enables eligibility for in-state rates at Colorado state colleges/universities. Contact your desired school for their in-state tuition application process and complete their residency paperwork.

Q: Do I have to apply for Federal Financial Aid or Federal Tuition Assistance to apply for State TA?

No, you do not.

Q. If I apply for State Tuition Assistance and Federal Tuition Assistance (ArmyIgnitED), can I use both sources to pay for my schooling?

Yes. Tuition covered by any tuition assistance source cannot exceed 100%. If eligible, you can apply for Federal TA on the remaining balance at <https://www.armyignited.army.mil/student/public/welcome>

Q. If I apply for State Tuition Assistance, Federal TA, and GI Bill, can I use all three sources together to pay for my schooling?

Yes. State TA, Federal TA, and any one of the GI Bill Programs can be used simultaneously for the same course(s). (Not to exceed 100% of tuition coverage).

Q: How often do I need to apply for State Tuition Assistance?

Qualified applicants must apply for tuition assistance each semester. No State Tuition Assistance will be granted without a complete online application submitted, in addition to any/all other necessary documents outlined in the application process by the State Tuition Assistance office. Deadlines are posted on the State Tuition Assistance webpage.

Q: What school can I attend?

State approved schools are listed on the DMVA TA website.

<https://dmva.colorado.gov/tuition-assistance>

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Q: What is a State TA Authorization/FERPA Release Form:

This is an estimated award letter provided to applicants that needs to be signed and submitted to your school.

Q: Can I drop a course?

During a school's add/drop period, you can remove yourself from a class without penalty. However, dropping courses may impact your State TA authorization amount. Adding classes after authorization could require out-of-pocket expense if additional State TA funds are unavailable. Dropping all courses without replacement constitutes an unofficial withdrawal from school.

Q. What if I Withdraw:

After the add/drop period ends, withdrawing from a course or school typically results in receiving a 'W' or 'I' grade, depending on the institution's grading policy. State TA does not pay for withdrawn classes, and it could lead to out-of-pocket payments expense for the student.

Q. Can my parents or anyone else contact the State TA office with questions regarding my State TA application or account?

Your application and State TA payment details are confidential. The only circumstance under which information may be disclosed to a family member is if you are on orders and our office has a current and valid power of attorney on your behalf.

Q. What forms do I have to fill out and when is my application due for each semester?

Applications must be completed online, with all required documentation uploaded. Deadlines are on the State TA webpage and strictly enforced. Refer to the Document & Submission Checklist on the [State Tuition Assistance Main Page](#) for Applicants to ensure all necessary documents are included if additional information is needed. Act promptly on State TA requests and emails.

Q. The application deadline is approaching, and my course schedule or a cost breakdown is not available from my school. What should I do?

Visit our [State Tuition Assistance Main Page](#) to download the Document & Submission

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Checklist for Applicants. You'll find various options outlined under the cost breakdown section of the checklist.

Q. I am waitlisted for some classes and enrolled in others? What's going to happen to my application?

Waitlisted classes are not eligible for State TA. If you later become enrolled in those courses, your additional courses may be considered based on funding availability at the time and is not guaranteed.

Q. How will I (and my school) know I am authorized for tuition assistance?

If deemed eligible, you will receive a State TA Authorization/FERPA Release form via email for your signature. The review process may take several weeks; if you haven't received a response by the first week of class, contact the State TA office. The Authorization serves as an estimated award letter and may change based on the data provided. Once you receive it, promptly sign, and submit the form to the designated school contact. This form authorizes the release of information according to FERPA regulations.

Q. I got a bill from my institution, and they are asking for payment. It looks like State TA has not been applied to my account yet, what do I do?

Do not ignore communication attempts from your school. If your institution threatens to drop you or place a hold on your student account, immediately contact the designated State TA representative at your school. They may not have you flagged for State TA eligibility, or you might have outstanding charges. If you're unsure who to contact, reach out to the State TA office manager. Your school won't invoice the State TA Office until they receive your signed State TA Authorization/FERPA Release form after the Add/Drop period. To avoid risking non-payment of State TA, ensure you submit the signed form by your school's billing deadline. Invoices won't be provided or paid if you don't submit the form.

Q. Is there a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average requirement for State Tuition Assistance?

Yes. You are required to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5

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every semester. If you do not fulfill this requirement, the state will no longer be obligated to pay your tuition at the time of billing.

Q. Can I apply for State TA when pursuing an additional degree at the same education level (E.g. bachelor's, master's doctorate, etc.)? For example, if I have already earned a bachelor's degree, can I use State TA funds towards the completion of an additional bachelor's degree?

Yes. You can apply for funding consideration. However, State TA prioritizes students seeking their first degree at that level. Applications for such students are evaluated and awarded first, although State TA is typically given on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants should consult the Student Resources Section of the State TA Website and download the Document & Submission Checklist for Applicants.

To view the complete Tuition Assistance Policy, Submission Checklist, State TA Manual, and Command Authorization form.

Go to: <https://dmva.colorado.gov/tuition-assistance>

For more information, please email the State Tuition Assistance Program Administrator:

tuition@dmva.state.co.us