



Washington National Guard

Postsecondary Education Grant

Program Reference Guide



WASHINGTON STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS

National Guard Grant – Program Guide

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Overview

The Washington National Guard Postsecondary Education Grant (NGG) helps eligible, actively participating members of the Washington National Guard get an undergraduate degree or certificate. The program provides education opportunities to qualified service members and serves as an incentive to extend their National Guard service.

Participants commit to serving one year in the Washington National Guard in exchange for each year of grant funding. Combined with state and federal aid, grants can cover tuition and fees at approved colleges in Washington, as well as a portion of books and materials.

Those interested are encouraged to reach out to their education office or recruiter for more information on good standing with the Washington National Guard. The Washington National Guard may select applicants to meet certain recruitment needs.

The current grant was created in 2020, replacing a prior scholarship for Guard members.

Eligibility

You must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the NGG:

- Be an active drilling member in good standing of the Washington National Guard.
- Have completed the current year's [FAFSA or WASFA financial aid application](#).
- Not have previously completed a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Attend an accredited [higher education institution in Washington State](#), or a Washington institution that provides training under the [Montgomery GI Bill®](#).*

*GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.

Application Process

You can apply online by visiting the [application website](#).

The award is first come, first served. We recommend getting your application together as soon as you know you are interested. It is recommended you submit your NGG application once you have registered for classes and completed your financial aid application with your college.

You must complete a new application for each academic year that you plan on attending and for which you would like to receive grant funding.

FAFSA Verification

Once we receive your application, we will verify that you completed the FAFSA for the current academic year.

Note: The FAFSA needs to be submitted to the college you are attending. If you are eligible, you must apply for financial aid at your institution.

National Guard Verification

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) will confirm your participation and good standing with the National Guard. In order to be in good standing, you must meet medical, dental, and physical readiness. You may be ineligible if you have received discipline from your leadership in the past 12 months.

- **Medical readiness** means that you are medically ready to service. For example, your immunizations are up to date, you have submitted all required documentation to your medical group, etc. It is okay to be on a medical profile that would restrict your abilities to do some duties, if you are providing your leadership and medical group with the information they need.
- **Dental readiness** means that you are up to date on your dental care and documentation. If you are on a medical profile that prevents you from getting dental care, please provide that information to your medical group and leadership.
- Your leadership will determine if **fitness readiness** has been met based on specific criteria.

Financial Aid Verification

Financial aid administrators are responsible for verifying your financial aid package at your school. WSAC will notify you once your application has been reviewed by your financial aid office to determine your award amount. We anticipate this occurring approximately 10 days prior to the start of the term if you submit your application by the term's priority deadlines: August 1 for fall term, December 1 for winter quarter/spring semester, March 1 for spring quarter, May 1 for summer term.

Awards & Payments

Award Calculation

NGG covers the difference between your [Washington College Grant \(WCG\)](#) tuition and fees for your school type, less the value of any federal and state-funded grant, scholarship, or waiver assistance you receive, plus \$500 for books and materials.

The annual amount of each grant may vary but may not exceed the annual cost of undergraduate tuition, fees, and services and activities fees at the University of Washington, plus an allowance for books and supplies. Awards are subject to program funding and are not guaranteed.

Example 1: If you are a full-time student attending Western Washington University for three quarters with a \$4,000 Pell award and \$7,300 Washington College Grant award, your award will be calculated as follows:

Maximum Award for Tuition & Fees	\$7,381
Federal and State Aid	-\$7,700
Book Allowance	+\$500
MAX NGG Award =	\$500

Example 2: If you are a full-time student attending Western Governors University for two terms with \$0 federal or state aid, your award will be calculated as follows:

Maximum Award for Tuition & Fees	\$5,619
Federal and State Aid	-\$0
Book Allowance	+\$500
<hr/>	
MAX NGG Award =	\$6,119

Promissory Note & Award Letter

After the award has been calculated, you will receive an email with the following attachments to complete:

- **Promissory Note:** A written promise between you and WSAC that you will fulfill the service obligation for the grant funds received while maintaining Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and good standing with the Washington National Guard.
- **Award Letter:** An outline of your award for each term you are enrolled that has been calculated with your financial aid office. *Note: You can choose to decline funding for specific terms.*

You must complete, sign, and return both documents before a payment can be processed for your grant funding.

Payment & Disbursement

Grant funds will be sent from WSAC to the financial aid office at your college on a term-by-term basis over the course of the academic year. The college will verify your continued financial eligibility and determine how to fit the award into your existing financial aid package. Depending on your situation, the college may pay you directly, apply the funds toward tuition or other expenses, or make other adjustments to your financial aid package. If you are attending a private institution, you will complete a Student Directive for Disbursement form with your college that dictates how you would like your award to be disbursed. Contact your financial aid office for more information.

Service Requirement

The service obligation is an agreement to continue actively participating in the Washington National Guard for one year for each academic year for which you receive funds from the NGG.

The year of service begins after the last term in the academic year for which funds were awarded. Even if funds are not awarded for an entire academic year, a full year of service is still required for each academic year in which grant funding is received.

Example: If a participant receives grant funding for fall and winter quarters only, the service year begins after the end of winter quarter. If a participant receives grant funding for fall, winter, and spring quarters, the service year begins after the end of spring quarter.

Service obligations can run concurrent with servicemembers' Military Service Obligation (MSO). In some circumstances, an extension will be required for the servicemember to fulfill the one-year obligation for receiving the NGG.

Deferments

If special circumstances prevent you from being able to continue actively participating in the Washington National Guard, you may request, in writing, a deferment to temporarily postpone your obligation. Deferments must be pre-approved by WSAC and are only granted when the recipient's circumstances qualify based on WSAC's deferment policies.

Monetary Repayment

If you are not actively participating in the Washington National Guard and you are not in an approved deferment or grace period, then the grant converts to a loan and must be repaid. The amount due will be proportionate to the unsatisfied portion of your service obligation, plus interest and fees. For example, if a recipient fulfills half of the obligation through service, then the loan balance would equal the remaining half of the award. Recipients in repayment status are expected to make monthly payments over the maximum term defined below. Recipients are allowed to make a prepayment or additional principal payments to potentially reduce the fee and interest charges and the time it takes to pay off the loan.

Grace Period

You are granted a single six-month grace period before you must begin either fulfilling your service obligation or making repayments. The grace period begins when a recipient fails to remain an actively participating member of the Washington National Guard, fails to remain enrolled, or the last day of the academic term that culminates in the completion of their academic program.

Maximum Term

You must fulfill the entire obligation, via service or monetary repayment or a combination of the two, within 10 years, not including the six-month grace period. The obligation can be cancelled only in the event of the recipient's death or total and permanent disability.

Obligation Fulfilled

WSAC will confirm your service with the Washington National Guard at the end of your service period and notify you that your obligation has been fulfilled with a formal notice.

Contact Us

If you have questions about the Washington National Guard, please contact your recruiting team, education and incentives office, or base training office:

- Army National Guard: Ng.wa.waarng.list.per-education@mail.mil
- Air National Guard Camp Murray: 194.wg.waang-betm@us.af.mil
- Air National Guard Fairchild AFB: 141fss.basetraining@us.af.mil

If you have questions about how to apply, your award amount, or your application status, please contact the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) at nationalguard@wsac.wa.gov or 1-888-535-0747 (option 7). Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm (excluding state holidays).

FAQs

Application Process

When do I apply for the Washington National Guard Postsecondary Education Grant (NGG)?

The award is first come, first served, so we recommend getting your application together as soon as you know you are interested. It is recommended you submit your NGG application once you have registered for classes and completed your financial aid application with your college.

How do I apply for the NGG?

You can apply online by visiting the [application website](#).

Do I have to complete a FAFSA in order to receive grant funding?

You must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) in order to be eligible for NGG. Please visit [WSAC's website](#) for more information. If you are eligible, you must also apply for financial aid with your school. Contact your financial aid office for information on how to apply.

Do I need to apply every year?

Yes, each year you must submit an NGG application, complete your FAFSA or WASFA, and satisfy any additional financial aid requirements with your college.

Washington National Guard Service

What is a service obligation?

The service obligation is an agreement to continue actively participating in the Washington National Guard for one year for each academic year for which you receive funds from the NGG.

When does the one-year service obligation start?

The year of service begins after the last term in the academic year for which funds were awarded. Even if funds are not awarded for an entire academic year, a full year of service is still required for each academic year in which grant funding is received.

Example: If a participant receives grant funding for fall and winter quarters only, the service year begins after the end of winter quarter. If a participant receives grant funding for fall, winter, and spring quarters, the service year begins after the end of spring quarter.

Can the service obligation run concurrent with my Military Service Obligation (MSO)?

Service obligations can run concurrent with servicemembers' MSO. In some circumstances, an extension will be required for the servicemember to fulfill the one-year obligation for receiving NGG.

What if I can't complete my service obligation?

If you cannot complete your service obligation, your conditional scholarship converts to a loan. You will owe back a percent of the total award equal to the percent of your service you have not completed. For example, if you served six months of a one-year service obligation (i.e., 50% of your service obligation), you would owe back 50% of your conditional scholarship, plus interest and fees. Once in repayment status, you are expected to make monthly payments until the loan is repaid. However, you can make a prepayment or additional principal payments to potentially reduce the fee and interest charges and the time it takes to pay off the loan.

What does it mean to have medical, dental, and physical readiness?

- **Medical readiness** means that you are medically ready to service. For example, your immunizations are up to date, you have submitted all required documentation to your medical group, etc. It is okay to be on a medical profile that would restrict your abilities to do some duties, if you are providing your leadership and medical group with the information they need.
- **Dental readiness** means that you are up to date on your dental care and documentation. If you are on a medical profile that prevents you from getting dental care, please provide that information to your medical group and leadership.
- Your leadership will determine if **fitness readiness** has been met based on specific criteria.

I have less than one year remaining in my contract. Can I apply for NGG?

Yes, you are eligible to apply, assuming you are interested and able to extend your service to the Washington National Guard. Talk to your education and incentives office or base training office for more information.

Could disciplinary action make me ineligible for NGG?

You may be ineligible if you have received discipline from your leadership in the past 12 months. Talk to your education and incentives office or base training office for more information.

Education Requirements

Will NGG pay for online classes?

Yes, NGG will pay for online classes if you are attending an eligible Washington state college or training program. Please see the list of eligible schools and programs on the [NGG website](#).

Will NGG pay for a certificate?

NGG can cover tuition for certain certificate programs. Please see the list of eligible schools and programs on the [NGG website](#).

If I have a bachelor's degree, can I use the NGG for a master's degree?

No. The NGG is for servicemembers without a bachelor's degree.

What happens if I drop or add a class after receiving my grant money?

Your grant funds will be adjusted with the financial aid office at the college if you add or drop a class. WSAC cannot guarantee that there are grant funds to cover classes that go beyond the original award amount. Please contact WSAC if you need additional funds to cover an increased cost in tuition and fees during the term of your award.

Money & Payments

When will I be notified if I will receive grant money?

WSAC will notify you once your application has been reviewed by your financial aid office to determine your award amount. We anticipate this occurring approximately 10 days prior to the start of the term if you submit your application by the term's priority deadlines: August 1 for fall

term, December 1 for winter quarter/spring semester, March 1 for spring quarter, May 1 for summer term. However, we cannot guarantee an award date for each term.

How much money will I receive?

NGG covers the difference between your [Washington College Grant \(WCG\)](#) tuition and fees for your school type, less the value of any federal and state-funded grant, scholarship, or waiver assistance you receive, plus \$500 for books and materials. The annual amount of each grant may vary but may not exceed the annual cost of undergraduate tuition, fees, and services and activities fees at the University of Washington, plus an allowance for books and supplies.

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Maximum NGG Award =	\$6,119

How will I receive my grant money?

Grant funds will be sent from WSAC to the financial aid office at your college on a term-by-term basis over the course of the academic year. The college will verify your continued financial eligibility and determine how to fit the award into your existing financial aid package. Depending on your situation, the college may pay you directly, apply the funds toward tuition or other expenses, or make other adjustments to your financial aid package.

How much money will go toward my tuition this term?

Funding is awarded on a first come, first served basis. If you are awarded NGG, the amount is determined by your college’s financial aid office based on financial need.

When does my school get paid?

Your college will receive grant funds once WSAC is notified of the award amount and can process the fund transfer.

Will my courses be paid before classes start?

Depending on when you apply for the program, your funds may not arrive by the time tuition is due. We recommend applying early so that WSAC, the Washington National Guard, and your financial aid office have time to review and process your application.

What if the college asks for payment up-front, prior to my grant funds being received?

If your tuition is due and you have received notification from WSAC that you are accepted into the program, but your NGG funds have not been applied to your student account, please contact

WSAC. We may be able to work with your financial aid office to expedite the disbursement of NGG funds to your student account.

Can I use the Selective Reserve GI Bill® along with the NGG?

Yes. Selective Reserve GI Bill (i.e. Chapter 1606 funds) are excluded from the calculation of your award. NGG follows federal guidelines on Estimated Financial Assistance, as listed in section 480 of the [Higher Education Act](#). Additionally, Military Housing Allowance (MHA) is not impacted for those using Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. If you have questions regarding how the use of GI Bill benefits may impact your financial aid, please contact the financial aid office at your institution and WSAC.

How does Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) impact how much money I might receive?

Federal tuition assistance (FTA) is applied to a tuition balance before scholarships and grants. You do not have to use FTA. If you have questions concerning the use of FTA, please contact your education and incentives or base training office.

Appendix A – NGG Participating Institutions

Participating Institutions Washington National Guard Postsecondary Education Grant Public Four-Year/Research/Community & Technical Colleges	
Public Research:	Community and Technical Colleges:
University of Washington	Bates Technical College
Washington State University	Bellevue College
Public Four-Year/Comprehensive:	Bellingham Technical College
Central Washington University	Big Bend Community College
Eastern Washington University	Cascadia College
The Evergreen State College	Centralia College
Western Washington University	Clark College
Independent/Private Four-Year:	Clover Park Technical College
Antioch University	Columbia Basin College
Bastyr University	Edmonds Community College
City University of Seattle	Everett Community College
Cornish College of the Arts	Grays Harbor College
DigiPen Institute of Technology	Green River College
Gonzaga University	Highline College
Heritage University	Lake Washington Institute of Technology
Northwest University	Lower Columbia College
Northwest College of Art and Design	North Seattle College
Pacific Lutheran University	Olympic College
Saint Martin's University	Peninsula College
Seattle Film Institute	Pierce College
Seattle Pacific University	Renton Technical College
Seattle University	Seattle Central College
University of Puget Sound	Shoreline Community College
Walla Walla University	Skagit Valley College
WGU Washington	South Puget Sound Community College
Whitman College	South Seattle College
Whitworth University	Spokane Community College
Private Career Colleges:	Spokane Falls Community College
Divers Institute of Technology	Tacoma Community College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Walla Walla Community College
Evergreen Beauty College-Everett/Renton	Wenatchee Valley College
Gene Juarez Academy	Whatcom Community College
Glen Dow Academy	Yakima Valley Community College
International Air & Hospitality Academy	Northwest Indian College
Paul Mitchell - The School (Richland)	
Perry Technical Institute	
Stylemasters	

Appendix B – WCG Calculation Table

Washington College Grant (formerly State Need Grant) 2020-21 Maximum Award Amounts*	
Institution	Award
Public Research:	
University of Washington	\$11,040
Washington State University	\$10,735
Public Comprehensive:	
Central Washington University	\$7,177
Eastern Washington University	\$6,694
The Evergreen State College	\$7,167
Western Washington University	\$7,381
Private Four-Year:	
Independent/Private Four-Year Nonprofit Universities and Colleges	\$9,739
Independent/Private Four-Year For-Profit Universities and Colleges	\$8,517
WGU Washington	\$5,619
Community and Technical Colleges:	
Community and Technical Colleges	\$4,219
CTC Applied Baccalaureate Programs	\$6,764
Private Two-Year:	
Private Two-Year Nonprofit Colleges	\$3,694
Private Two-Year For-Profit Colleges	\$2,823
Tribal Colleges:	
Northwest Indian College	\$3,694