

# Washington National Guard Postsecondary Education Grant Frequently Asked Questions



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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- [Application Process](#)
- [Washington National Guard Service](#)
- [Education Requirements](#)
- [Money & Payments](#)

### **Who do I contact with additional questions?**

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](mailto:Ng.wa.waarng.list.per-education@mail.mil)
- Air National Guard Camp Murray: [194.wg.waang-betm@us.af.mil](mailto:194.wg.waang-betm@us.af.mil)
- Air National Guard Fairchild AFB: [141fss.basetraining@us.af.mil](mailto: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](mailto:nationalguard@wsac.wa.gov) or 1-888-535-0747 (option 7). Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm (excluding state holidays).

## APPLICATION PROCESS

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### **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: <https://portal.wsac.wa.gov/a/national-guard/>

### **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.wa.gov/apply](http://wsac.wa.gov/apply) for more information.

### **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

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### **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**

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### **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 our [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 our [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**

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### **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.

*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 Tuition & Fees	\$7,381.00
Federal and State Aid	-\$7,700.00
Book Allowance	+\$500.00

MAX NGG Award = \$500.00

*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 Tuition & Fees	\$5,619.00
Federal and State Aid	-\$0.00
Book Allowance	+\$500.00
MAX NGG Award =	\$6,119.00

### **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.

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](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill).

**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.