

CHAPTER 9

IOWA NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP

Overview

The Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship (NG) provides funds for eligible members of the Iowa National Guard to help with the cost of attending Iowa colleges and universities.

Date Established: 1996

Funding:

IOWA NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FUNDING HISTORY		
ACADEMIC YEAR	STATE APPROPRIATION	TOTAL FUNDING
1997-98	\$625,000	\$625,000
1998-99	\$833,900	\$833,900
1999-00	\$833,900	\$833,900
2000-01	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000
2001-02	\$1,175,000	\$1,175,000
2002-03	\$1,175,000	\$1,175,000
*2003-04	\$1,175,000	\$1,175,000
**2004-05	\$3,550,000	\$3,550,000
2005-06	\$3,725,000	\$3,725,000
2006-07	\$3,725,000	\$3,725,000
2007-08	\$3,800,000	\$3,800,000
***2008-09	\$3,767,385	\$3,742,629
****2009-10	\$3,841,903	\$3,841,903
2010-11	\$3,186,233	\$3,186,233
*****2011-12	\$4,486,233	\$4,486,233
2012-13	\$4,800,233	\$4,800,233
2013-14	\$5,100,233	\$5,100,233
2014-15	\$5,100,233	\$5,100,233
2015-16	\$5,100,233	\$5,100,233
*****2016-17	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000
2017-18	\$3,100,000	\$3,100,000
2018-19	\$4,700,000	\$4,700,000
2019-20	\$4,700,000	\$4,700,000

⁽¹⁾State Student Incentive Grant Program name changed to Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program in 1999.

*Reduced mid-year to \$1,145,625; enhanced with carryover funds of \$81,032; annual total available \$1,226,657.

**Increased mid-year by \$650,000 from \$2,900,000 to \$3,550,000

***Reduced by 1.5% due to mid-year across the board cut.

***Reduced by 10% due to across the board cut on 10/8/09. Backfill appropriation added \$241,120 on 10/28/09. Final appropriation listed.

****Mid-year appropriation increase of \$1.3 million. Final appropriation listed.

***** Enhanced with carryover funds of \$2,579,317 and mid-year transfer of \$350,195; annual total available \$5,029,512

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. Institutions

The Code of Iowa limits Iowa NG eligibility to Iowa colleges and universities accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities (HLC). HLC candidates are not eligible. Students attending the colleges and universities listed on the following page are eligible to receive NG awards.

Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship	
<u>Regent Institutions</u>	
Iowa State University	Ames
University of Iowa	Iowa City
University of Northern Iowa	Cedar Falls
<u>Private Colleges and Universities</u>	
Allen College	Waterloo
Briar Cliff University	Sioux City
Buena Vista University	Storm Lake
Central College	Pella
Clarke University	Dubuque
Coe College	Cedar Rapids
Cornell College	Mount Vernon
Dordt University	Sioux Center
Drake University	Des Moines
Emmaus Bible College	Dubuque
Faith Baptist Bible College	Ankeny
Graceland University	Lamoni
Grand View University	Des Moines
Grinnell College	Grinnell
Iowa Wesleyan University	Mt. Pleasant
Loras College	Dubuque
Luther College	Decorah
Maharishi University of Management	Fairfield
Mercy College of Health Sciences	Des Moines
Morningside College	Sioux City
Mount Mercy University	Cedar Rapids
Northwestern College	Orange City
St. Ambrose University	Davenport
St. Luke's College	Sioux City
Simpson College	Indianola
University of Dubuque	Dubuque
Upper Iowa University	Fayette
Wartburg College	Waverly
William Penn University	Oskaloosa
<u>Proprietary Colleges</u>	
Waldorf University	Forest City
<u>Community Colleges</u>	
Des Moines Area Community College	Des Moines
Eastern Iowa Community College	Clinton, Muscatine, Bettendorf
Hawkeye Community College	Waterloo
Indian Hills Community College	Centerville, Ottumwa
Iowa Central Community College	Fort Dodge
Iowa Lakes Community College	Estherville
Iowa Valley Community College	Ellsworth, Marshalltown
Iowa Western Community College	Council Bluffs
Kirkwood Community College	Cedar Rapids
North Iowa Area Community College	Mason City
Northeast Iowa Community College	Calmar, Peosta
Northwest Iowa Community College	Sheldon
Southeastern Community College	Burlington
Southwestern Community College	Creston
Western Iowa Tech Community College	Sioux City

2. Student

Service Members must meet the following prerequisites:

- Be an active member of the Iowa Army or Air National Guard.
- Eligible Service Members must meet all of the following:
 - Be a resident of Iowa and a Service Member of the Iowa National Guard.
 - Service Member has satisfactorily completed the required Initial Entry Training (IET).
 - Maintains satisfactory performance of duty throughout the program's use (i.e. not flagged, has satisfactory drill and A.T. attendance, current passing physical fitness test and satisfies height/weight requirements).
 - Has applied for NG by the application deadline date(s), unless accepted by policy or law. No exception to policy requests will be authorized for late application. Unless out of state on Title 10 orders under training or deployment status.
 - July 1st for fall semester.
 - December 1st for spring semester.
 - Maintains satisfactory academic progress toward a certificate or undergraduate degree at and eligible Iowa college or university. Satisfactory academic progress is determined by the institution for which benefits are utilized or applied. The standards each institution must publish are outlined in CFR § 668.34.
 - Provide notice of National Guard status to the college or university at the time of registration.
 - Has not utilized 120 semester hours of assistance or equivalent, or earned a bachelor's degree.
 - Service members may request and Exceptions to Policy (ETP) if they are enrolled in a STEM program that qualifies for assistance under the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship. Approved ETP's will allow Service Members to receive benefits up to 130 credit hours.
 - Service members of the Iowa National Guard who are awarded NG funds and then become ineligible or are discharged from the Iowa National Guard during the semester or term of their award may have their awards recouped.
 - AGRs and dual status technicians are encouraged to apply but there is not guarantee funding will be approved. Approved traditional (M-Day) Soldiers and Airmen will be funded first. Title 5 Federal Technicians are eligible to receive NG.

B. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are required to complete both the Iowa Financial Aid Application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Applications for the 2019-20 academic year should be submitted on or before July 1, 2019, through the Iowa Financial Aid Application online at www.iowacollegeaid.gov/IFAA and the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov. Spring-only applications should be submitted on or before December 1, 2019.

C. SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

The Adjutant General of Iowa determines eligible Iowa NG recipients, including their determination for Iowa residency. These students are placed on the NG Designated Roster, and college and university officials verify their enrollment. Students may not be awarded under this program until their names appear on the NG Designated Roster.

Iowa college and university officials can access a designated roster of NG recipients by logging into the Iowa College Aid Processing System (ICAPS®) and clicking on rosters. Only students on a 'Designated' roster can receive a NG payment. College and university officials should use the awarding instructions in this chapter in conjunction with general guidance in Chapters 1 – 3, to award NG.

College and university authorized officials shall provide awards to Iowa NG recipients only after Service Members' name appears on the NG Certified Eligible Roster of the program's web site.

- It is important to verify the semesters that a Service Member is eligible to receive NG funds. Beginning with the 2017-18 year and the implementation of the Iowa College Aid Processing System (ICAPS®) Service Members will be certified separately for the fall and/or spring semesters. Certification for fall will happen following the July 1 deadline and spring certification will happen following the December 1 deadline. Be sure to check the Designated roster for each term separately.
- College or university officials can view the total number of aggregate NG credit hours the certified applicant has received prior to the 2019-20 academic year. To view the report in ICAPS® go to 'Standard Reports' and select 'NG Grant History'. No designated NG applicants can be awarded more than 120 semester hours, or the equivalent.
- Automatic email notification is built into ICAPS® so the designated financial aid administrator at the college or university is notified when a Service Member is added to their roster. Please ensure rosters are reviewed to make sure no Service Members were removed during the academic year. It is also wise to compare your roster to the list of Service Members that you have reported disbursements for in ICAPS® at the end of the year – just to make sure all have been reported. Individual email notifications are sent in August, after the Iowa National Guard Education Office staff has approved the majority of applicants (to reduce the number of individual emails college administrators will receive through this process). Currently, only one administrator at each college can be set up to receive these automatic emails.

CUMULATIVE NG RECEIPT LIMITS AND GUIDANCE:

Only credits that count toward the student's certificate/degree program should be included in the calculation of the INGSS award, and only those corresponding credit hours should be reported in ICAPS®. If a student is taking a class that will not be accepted toward the required credits for their certificate/degree program, those credits should not be included in the calculation of the INGSS award, and those credits should not be reported in ICAPS®. This would include any ROTC credits that the student may be taking. If the ROTC class counts toward the certificate/degree program requirements you would award INGSS and report the corresponding credit hours. If it does not fulfill a credit hour requirement within the certificate/degree program, then you would not award or report those credits in ICAPS®.

If a student is paid NG funds during a term of enrollment, the associated credit hours will need to be reported back to the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) in ICAPS®. For programs of study (or colleges/universities) that cap tuition charges for a semester at 12 credit hours (even if a student enrolls in 15 or 18 credit hours), all credit hours for that term should be reported as paid credit hours for NG, not to exceed 120 semester

credit hours, or the equivalent. Any credits including ROTC credits should only be reported if accepted toward the student's degree program.

Example: Sam enrolls at Ruthven College in the fall semester. Ruthven College charges tuition by the credit hour, with a tuition charge cap at 12 credit hours per semester (students enrolling in more than 12 credit hours are not charged additional tuition). Sam enrolls in 15 credits and receives a full-time NG award. Ruthven College reports 15 NG paid credit hours to Iowa College Aid for that semester.

For students attending a community college, NG is paid based on the actual tuition charged. In this scenario, the total number of credit hours paid by NG for the semester should be reported to Iowa College Aid.

Example: Sam enrolls at Ayrshire Community College. Ayrshire Community College charges tuition by the credit hour, with no tuition charge cap. Sam enrolls in 15 credits and receives NG award corresponding to 15 credit hours. Ayrshire Community College reports 15 NG paid credit hours to Iowa College Aid for that semester.

Regarding the treatment of credit hours from which a NG recipient withdraws, receives an incomplete, etc., NG paid credit hours should be regulated by the college/university refund policy. If a student is paid a partial NG award (according to the college/university refund policy, as a result of withdrawing from a course or set of courses), those paid NG credit hours would contribute to the 120 semester hour, or the equivalent threshold, and should be reported to Iowa College Aid with that term's associated NG disbursement. If the student is paid no NG funds as a result of withdrawing from a course or set of courses (again, according to the institution's refund policy), no credit hours should be reported to Iowa College Aid for that course or set of courses for which no NG was paid.

Service Members who are deployed during a period of enrollment should be counseled on the military refund policy as detailed in Iowa Code section 261.9. Decisions made regarding the Service Members withdrawal may affect the Service Member's cumulative NG receipt limit.

Students can only receive up to 120 semester hours, or the equivalent of NG, unless they have had an ETP approved for a STEM program under the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM scholarship. Therefore if a student enrolls in more credit hours than they have remaining eligibility for they will only be paid for their remaining eligibility.

Example: Sam is enrolled in 12 semester credit hours but only has 4 hours of remaining NG eligibility. The college/university should award 4 credit hours of NG and report 4 credit hours in ICAPS®.

Members of the Iowa National Guard may use NG in conjunction with federally funded programs such as the Army National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance program (ARNG-FTA). Members receiving federal benefits which pay tuition benefits directly to the institution are eligible to receive NG. Caution must be used, however, in the event a Service Member is receiving a Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill benefit. A Federal Tuition Assistance award is first applied to tuition charges and the Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill pays the remaining tuition based on their tiered percentage. NG should not impact this final total (guidance established 8/2011).

D. AWARDING

National Guard officials have determined that they will be able to pay 100% of the Regent's resident **tuition rate** or 100% of the rate at the institution, whichever is lower for the 2019-20 academic year. NG awards may be used only to pay for educational assistance including tuition and fees; room and board; books, supplies, transportation and personal expenses; dependent care; and disability-related expenses. Individual award amounts are limited to:

- Not be less than fifty percent of the resident tuition rate established for institutions of higher learning under the control of the state board of regents or fifty percent of the tuition rate at the institution attended by the National Guard member, whichever is lower.

For academic year 2019-20, the maximum **tuition rate** for full-time students at Iowa Regent Universities is \$8,073. Therefore, the maximum annual NG award for the 2019-20 academic year is \$8,073 (\$4,037/\$4,036 per full-time semester or \$2,691 per full-time quarter).

Students enrolled at eligible colleges/universities in programs with tuition charges that are lower than \$8,073 will have their maximum award calculated based upon the actual tuition charges. If the Iowa National Guard has determined that they will pay a percentage of the Regent tuition rate (up to 100 percent), the maximum award for students attending programs with institutional charges lower than the Regent tuition rate will be the set percentage of their actual tuition charges.

Example: The Iowa National Guard has determined that they will pay 100 percent of the Regent tuition rate in the fall of 2019. Student A is being charged tuition of \$215 per credit hour and is enrolled in 6 credit hours. Since Student A's charged tuition rate is lower than the Regent rate (\$215 < \$337 for part-time students), Student A's maximum Iowa NG award would be 100 percent of \$1,290 (\$215 * 6 credit hours, or \$1,290.)

2019-20 ACADEMIC YEAR AWARDS:

The following chart provides the maximum Iowa National Guard Service Scholarship award allowed per credit/quarter hour of enrollment based on a maximum award of 100 percent of the maximum Regent **tuition rate**. The chart reflects the number of semester or quarter credit hours multiplied by the maximum rate, which is 100 percent of the \$337 per credit hour **tuition rate** at Iowa Regent Universities.

Number of Hours Enrolled	Maximum National Guard Award Semester School	Maximum National Guard Award Quarter School
1	\$337/336 ⁽¹⁾	\$225/224/224 ⁽²⁾
2	\$673	\$449/449/448
3	\$1009	\$673/673/672
4	\$1,346/1345	\$897
5	\$1,682	\$1,122/1121/1121
6	\$2,019/2,018	\$1,346/1346/1345
7	\$2,355/2,354	\$1,570/1570/1569
8	\$2,691	\$1,794
9	\$3,028/3,027	\$2,019/2,018/2,018
10	\$3,364	\$2,243/2,243/2,242
11	\$3,700	\$2,467, 2,467/2,466
12	\$4,037/4,036	\$2,691

$$^{(1)}(1 \text{ hours} \div 12 \text{ hours}) \times (\text{Full NG} \div 2) = (1 \div 12) \times (\$8073 \div 2) = \$337$$

$$^{(2)}(1 \text{ hours} \div 12 \text{ hours}) \times (\text{Full NG} \div 3) = (1 \div 12) \times (\$8073 \div 3) = \$225$$

If the award breakdown in the chart above results in different amounts per term, the higher dollar award(s) should be provided in the first term(s) of enrollment.

For students enrolled in programs with tuition charges lower than the Regent tuition rate (primarily community colleges), the Iowa NG award has been set by the Adjutant General at 100 percent of the **tuition rate** at the college. College officials will calculate 100 percent of the per-hour **tuition rate** and multiply that figure by the number of hours a guard member is enrolled, with a maximum benefit not to exceed \$4,037 per semester or \$2,691 per quarter for students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours.

These awards are not need-based; the award can cover a recipient's Estimated Family Contribution (EFC).

E. AWARD NOTIFICATION

College and university officials must provide award notices to all Iowa NG recipients. Award notices must clearly indicate award amounts and the state programs from which students will benefit. All notices concerning state grants must include the following award notification statement:

“In the event that available state funds are insufficient to pay the full amount of each approved grant, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission has the authority to administratively reduce the award.”

F. Disbursement of Funds

Chapter 3 provides a complete description of the payment process.

Disbursement requirements shall align with federal Pell Grant disbursement requirements, as authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act, as amended.

G. IOWA COLLEGE AID RESPONSIBILITIES

Iowa College Aid staff provides the NG Designated Roster through ICAPS®. The roster updates each time the Adjutant General adds a recipient.

H. CERTIFICATION

College and university officials must verify the following information for each Iowa NG recipient:

- The student is Eligible for NG (verified by checking NG Certified Eligible Roster or performing a search);
- The student is meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress outlined in CFR § 668.34;
- The student has not met the requirements of a baccalaureate degree;
- The student is enrolled in certificate or undergraduate degree programs that is Title IV eligible;
- The student is not defaulted on a Federal student loan;
- Ensure that NG funds are applied to components of the Cost of Attendance
- Ensure cumulative NG semester hours total is less than 120 (130 if in an eligible STEM program), or the equivalent; and,
- Number of hours enrolled matches a correctly calculated award amount.

I. CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Any changes in awards must be provided to Iowa College Aid electronically via ICAPS® by the reporting deadlines established in Chapter 3 of the Iowa Student Financial Aid Guide.

J. VERIFICATION/COMPLIANCE

College officials are responsible for coordinating all aid to ensure compliance with student eligibility (Section H. Certification) allowable award amounts.

One disbursement of state-funded student financial aid may be made prior to completing the verification process as long as college or university officials have no reason to believe application information is inaccurate. If verification indicates that students are ineligible for aid, refunds must be made to state-funded programs.