

**Stronger Together:
Strengthening Veteran
Success Through
Education and Community**



ISFAA Conference 2026

About Us

The Indiana School Certifying Officials is a peer -group organization of administrators who serve military-connected students in institutions across our state who utilize education benefits from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), Department of Defense (DoD), and Indiana Department of Veteran Affairs (IDVA).

Advisory council:

Joel Matherly - University of Southern Indiana

Wendy Mouser - Purdue University

Savanna Hebert - Annis - Indiana University

Laura Vest - Ivy Tech Community College

Sara Certano - Ivy Tech Community College

Lori Sprague - Ivy Tech Community College



Agenda

- What is an SCO?
- VA Guidance
- Shopping Sheets
- Overview of GI Bill ® Benefits
- Military Tuition Assistance
- Indiana Military Affiliated Tuition Grants
- Order of Aid
- Instate Tuition
- Important Info





What is a School Certifying Official (SCO)?

A VA-approved individual responsible for administering VA education benefits at an institution. Key responsibilities include:

- Certifying student enrollments in VA Enrollment Manager (start/end dates, modality, program, credit hours, tuition/fees).
- Ensuring all reported information complies with VA regulations.
- Processing and updating student certifications when enrollment changes occur.
- Reporting institutional or program changes that may affect VA benefits.
- Advising the institution on processes that impact VA students and compliance.
- Assisting students in applying for and understanding their VA education benefits.



School Certifying Official Handbook

THE DOCUMENT GUIDES SCO'S TO
ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH VA
EDUCATION BENEFITS.



[READ MORE](#)



Shopping Sheets



HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FOR
MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS?

Per Section 1018

Schools must provide a covered individual (a student using benefits under chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, 35 or chapter 1606) with a personalized shopping sheet that contains:

- Program and living costs
- VA-covered expenses
- Other financial aid options
- Estimated loan debt
- Graduation and job-placement info
- Transfer credit policies
- Licensing or certification requirements
- Comparison details across institutions



Summary of Federal Military Affiliated Education Benefits

BENEFIT	WHO IS ELIGIBLE	PAYS FOR	HOW TUITION/FEES PAID	HOW TO APPLY	NOTIFY COLLEGE	MONTHLY VERIFICATION
CH 30 (Montgomery GIB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active-Duty Servicemembers Veterans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Stipend 	Student pays college	VA.Gov	YES	YES
CH 1606 (MGIB- Selected Reserve)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reserve & Guard Servicemembers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Stipend 	Student pays college	VA.Gov	YES	YES
CH 35 (DEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependents of Servicemembers who are deceased, captured, missing or permanently/totally disabled w/service-connected disability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Stipend 	Student pays college	VA.Gov	YES	YES
CH 31 (VR&E)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterans with requisite service-connected Disability Rating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Stipend Tuition/Fees Books/Supplies 	VA pays college	VA.Gov	YES	NO
CH 33 (Post 9/11 GIB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Servicemembers w/requisite Active-Duty service Veterans Dependents with benefits transferred from servicemember 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Housing Allowance Book Stipend Tuition/Fees 	VA pays college	VA.Gov	YES	YES
Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry (Fry Scholarship)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependents of Active and Reserve Service Members who were killed on or after 9-11-01 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Housing Allowance Book Stipend Tuition/Fees 	VA pays college	VA.Gov	YES	YES
Yellow-Ribbon Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% level Ch 33/Fry recipients at participating IHL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition/Fees 	VA pays college	Institutional Policy	YES	NO
Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch 33 recipients w/exhausted benefits enrolled in undergrad program over 120SH/180QH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly Stipend Tuition/Fees Books/Supplies 	VA pays college	VA.Gov	YES	YES
Tuition Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service members who meet the requirements as defined by each Branch of Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition Only 	Military pays college	Branch of Service Portal	Institutional Policy	NO



What is the Yellow Ribbon Program?

The Yellow Ribbon Program can help eligible Veterans and Dependents using Post-9/11 GI Bill ® pay for out-of-state, private school, foreign school, or graduate school tuition and fees that the Post 9/11 GI Bill ® doesn't cover.

The Yellow Ribbon program is an agreement between the school and the VA. The school will contribute a certain amount toward the extra tuition and fees through a grant, scholarship, or similar program. The VA will match the contribution.

The student must qualify for the Post 9/11 GI Bill ® at the 100% benefit level, or Fry Scholarship.

The school must meet certain requirements:

All of these must be true:

- The school is an institution of higher learning, and
- The school offers the Yellow Ribbon Program, and
- The school hasn't offered the Yellow Ribbon benefit to more than the maximum number of students in their agreement with the VA, and
- The school has certified the student's enrollment with the VA and provided Yellow Ribbon Program information

What benefits can the student get through this program?

The student can get money to help pay for tuition and/or fees at any of these types of schools:

- A private school that may have higher tuition and fees, or
- A foreign school, or
- A public school to help pay for out-of-state tuition

Example: Purdue University agreed to remit fees up to \$3500 for Fall and \$3500 for Spring semesters towards out-of-state tuition to be matched by the VA for 50 qualified students each year.



Military Tuition Assistance Programs

In addition to these common TA requirements, each branch has their own criteria for eligibility and use.

TA Authorization must be obtained prior to the start of the selected course

Must be able to complete course prior to separation from service

Fiscal Year Limitations (Oct 1 – Sept 30)

- \$4,500
 - Semester Hours: 18 cr hrs @ \$250/cr hr
 - Quarter Hours: 27 cr hrs @ \$166.67/cr hr
 - Clock Hours: 270 hrs @ 16.67/hr

Generally, can only pursue credentials higher than any already held

SAP Requirements

- Funding is not subject to institutional SAP policy
- Undergraduate programs
 - GPA of 2.0 on all TA funded coursework
 - Must earn a C or better in course or be subject to recoupment
- Graduate programs
 - GPA of 3.0 on all TA funded coursework
 - Must earn a B or better in course or be subject to recoupment

Must provide a degree plan/program outline

Students in recoupment can continue to use TA provided they meet academic standards



Military Tuition Assistance Programs

Branch of Service	Military Status	Where to Start	Max UG Cr. Hrs.	Max GRAD Cr. Hrs.	TA Request Window
Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Reserve Guard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://armyignited.cce.af.mil/student/public/welcome 	130 SH 195 QH 1950 CH	39 SH 59 QH	Opens: 60 days prior Closes: 1159 EST on 7 th day prior
Air Force Space Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.afpc.af.mil/Career-Management/Military-Tuition-Assistance-Program/ 	124 SH 186 QH	42 SH 63 QH	Opens: 45 days prior Closes: 1 day prior
Coast Guard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Reserve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.forcecom.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/FORCECOM-UNITS/ETQC/Voluntary-Education/Tuition-Assistance/ 	None		Opens: 90 days prior Closes: 7 days prior
Marine Corps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Reserve - on AD orders 180+ days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/education/tuition-assistance 	138 SH 207 QH 2070 CH	45 SH 68 QH	Opens: 60 days prior Closes: Course Add/Drop or Late Registration Deadline
Navy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Reserve - on AD orders 180+ days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/sailors/tuition-assistance 	Lifetime Cap 120 SH 180 QH 1800 CH		Opens: 120 days prior Closes: 7 days prior



What is the National Guard Supplemental Grant (NGSG)?

National Guard Supplemental Grant (NGSG) - a grant that guarantees up to 100% of tuition will be funded by the State of Indiana for eligible members of the Indiana National Guard at the undergraduate rate.

- The NGSG covers tuition and regularly assessed fees, not room and board or textbooks.
- The NGSG can only be used in the fall and spring semesters. It is subject to available funds.
- The grant amounts are based on credit hours per semester up to 15 credit hours.
- NGSG is a once a year application that resets every June.
- Funds are based upon availability and annual budget set by the State of Indiana Legislation.
- Application process is done through <https://scholartrack.che.in.gov/>



Indiana Tuition Benefit for Purple Heart Recipients & Children

There are three State Aid Programs for Tuition and Fee Exemption administered by IDVA through Scholar Track. (Students must be eligible for the resident tuition rate for state supported schools in Indiana to use these state aid programs.)

Tuition and Fee Exemption for Indiana Purple Heart Recipient

Provides up to 100% of tuition and regularly assessed fees for up to 124 semester credit-hours at Indiana public colleges and universities at the undergraduate resident tuition rate.

Provides an annual award of up to \$5,000 of tuition and regularly assessed fees at Indiana private, non-profit colleges and universities at the undergraduate resident tuition rate if the recipient graduated high school January 1, 2023 or later.

1. [Indiana Purple Heart Recipient](#)

- a. Proof of award of the Purple Heart Medal if not already annotated on the DD214 or DD215
- b. DD214 showing an Indiana Home of Record address at the time of entry
- c. Must complete FAFSA

1. [Child of a Disabled Veteran](#)

1. biological or adopted child of Veteran
2. One-time application on Scholartrack
3. Must complete FAFSA



Indiana Military Affiliated Tuition Grants

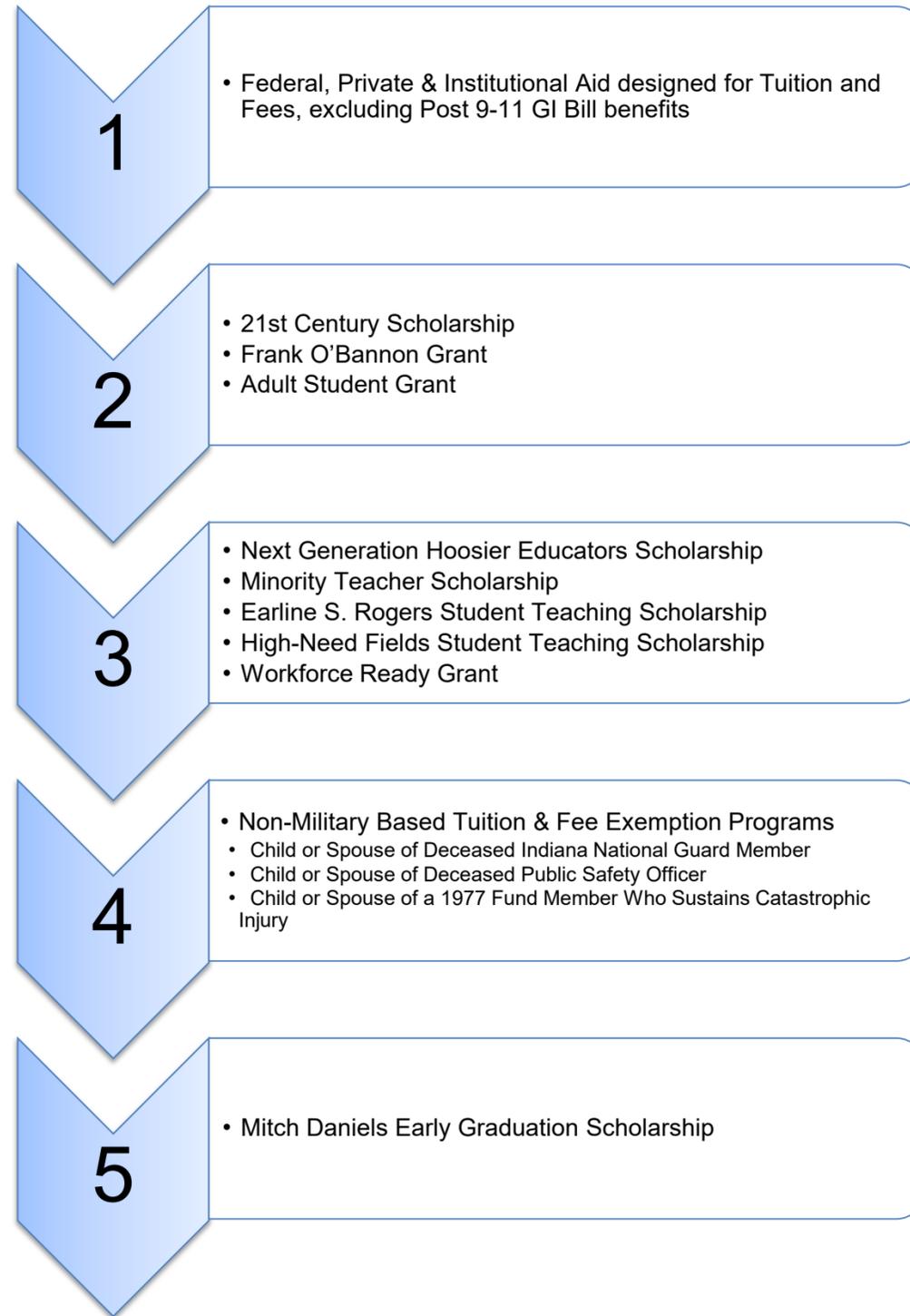
Military affiliated state grants:

- Require an annual FAFSA filing
- Applied for via [ScholarTrack](#)
- Eligibility evaluated by IDVA or INNG
- Indiana state residency is required
- Subject to institutional SAP requirements

BENEFIT	WHO IS ELIGIBLE	CREDENTIALS	ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS
Children of Disabled Veterans or Purple Heart Recipients	Children of veterans who are: Deceased Service-connected Disability Recipients of a Purple Heart	Undergraduate Graduate Professional	IN Public IN Private non-profit
Children and Spouse of Indiana National Guard	Dependent of INNG member w/line of duty death while on State Active Duty Orders	Undergraduate	IN Public
Indiana Purple Heart Recipient	Indiana veterans who have received a Purple Heart	Undergraduate Graduate Professional	IN Public
National Guard Tuition Supplement Grant	Indiana Air and Army National Guardsmen	Undergraduate Graduate	IN Public IN Private non-profit
Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home	Former students/graduates of Morton Memorial High School Former residents of the ISSCH	Undergraduate Graduate Professional	IN Public



Order of Aid with Military Affiliated Benefits



In-State Tuition with GI Bill ®

In-state tuition rates under the Veterans Choice Act

A student who is covered under a GI Bill ® program or the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program may receive in-state tuition rates at a public school even if they haven't lived in the state where the school is located.

Eligibility for in-state tuition

A student may be eligible for in-state tuition if they meet all of these requirements:

- They're receiving benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill ®, the Montgomery GI Bill ® Active Duty (MGIB-AD), Survivors & Dependent Assistance, Montgomery GI Bill ® Selected Reserves or Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E), and
- When they start school, they live in the state where the school is located

Residency requirements

The residency requirements vary by state and school. Each school is allowed to establish a process for the student to have their residency status updated. In some states the student may have to show their intent to become a legal resident. The student may be asked to show that they're in the process of claiming legal residency by registering to vote, getting a state ID, or getting a state driver's license. In this case, the student can get in-state tuition while they go through the process of claiming legal residency.



Military Affiliation & In-State Tuition without GI Bill ®

In-state rates for military affiliated students attending Indiana Public College or University

In accordance with [IC 21-14-9; 12.3 & 13](#) the following students shall be charged in-state tuition regardless of currently declared state residency or participation in GI Bill ® or VR&E programs.

- Active-Duty Service Members stationed in Indiana
 - Spouse or dependent of an Active-Duty Service Member stationed in Indiana
 - Member of the Indiana National Guard
 - Veteran* who enrolls no later than 12 months after discharge or separation from service
 - Spouse or dependent of a veteran who enrolls no later than 12 months after discharge or separation from service
 - Servicemembers who served at least 180 days on the USS Indiana (SSN-789)
- IN defines veteran as having served in the armed forces of the United States or INNG and received an honorable discharge



Indiana GI Bill ® Usage ¹

In 2025 Veteran/Military Hoosiers saved nearly **\$69,500,000.00** in tuition/fees²

204 IN institutions w/Dept. of Ed. OPE recognized accreditation

100 IN institutions w/Title IV eligibility

46 IN institutions have signed on to the DOD MOU to participate in the MilTA program

47 IN institutions participate in the VA's Yellow Ribbon program

41 IN institutions award credit for prior military training or experience

20 IN institutions have a Student Veteran Group on campus

VA School Type	Total Number of VA Locations	Number of IN Institutions	IN Undergrad Enrollment	IN GI Bill Beneficiaries	IN Post 9/11 Recipients	IN Post 9/11 Tuition/Fees	IN Post 9/11 YR Recipients	IN Post 9/11 YR Tuition/Fees
Flight	223	8	-	20	19	\$ 157,709.04	-	\$ -
For Profit	3,193	61	5,279	535	350	\$ 4,288,938.66	11	\$ 14,273.57
Private	4,098	67	61,762	2,276	1,280	\$ 14,971,868.15	270	\$ 2,481,745.31
Public ³	9,427	104	304,580	11,617	7,639	\$ 47,422,628.29	72	\$ 86,524.47
Total ⁴	17,659	240	371,621	14,448	9,288	\$ 66,841,144.14	353	\$ 2,582,546.35



¹Estimates based upon data extracted from ope.ed.gov, fsapartners.ed.gov and GIB Comparison Tool on 2 -25-26

²Based upon VA data for Calendar Year 25 (CY25)

³Includes High Schools and Police/Fire Academies

⁴111 IN Institutions did not have any GI Bill beneficiaries enrolled/listed for CY25

Important information about GI Bill ® Benefits

- Financial Aid full time is not the same as VA full time
- Financial Aid eligibility does not impact VA benefit eligibility
- Every institution has their own process in place for VA benefits
 - check your office to see if there is a form required each semester
- Repeating a course is not permitted unless the student failed and is required for their program completion
- Modality (in person vs. online) impacts housing eligibility for Chapter 33 and Chapter 31 students .
- If a student withdraws from a course they could have a debt with the college as well as the VA



Join the conversation on SLACK!

- Share best practices
- ask a question
- tell a joke

It's all about connecting and helping one another out!
VA is not easy and we are all in this together!

To be a part of this peer-support group email
LSprague1@ivytech.edu



THANK YOU!

We Look Forward to Working With You!

