INDIANA COMMISSION *for*
HIGHER EDUCATION

FAQs about the Indiana National Guard Supplemental Grant (NGSG)

Applying for and Renewing NGSG

How do I apply for or renew the NGSG?
You must file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by March 10th of each year and correct any errors on the FAFSA by May 15th. In addition, each branch of the Indiana National Guard (Air and Army) has a filing deadline of five days before the start of classes. No late applications will be accepted.

Can I get the NGSG if I go to college part-time?
Yes. The NGSG can be used for part-time enrollment as well as full-time enrollment. Check with your college Financial Aid Office about using the NGSG for part-time enrollment. Part-time grants count as half as much as a full-time grant toward your eight (8) semester maximum.

Can I use the NGSG in the summer?
No, the NGSG can be used only in the fall and spring semesters and not the summer.

Can I use it for just one semester a year?
Yes, you can use it one semester at a time although in most cases you will become ineligible after eight (8) years.

Do I have to have a certain grade point average in order to qualify for the NGSG?
Yes. You must be within the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards as defined by your college in order to qualify for the NGSG. Those standards include a minimum GPA (typically a 2.0) as well as other criteria (for example, that you pass a minimum number of credit hours). Ask your college for a copy of their SAP standards. The college cannot claim the NGSG on your behalf if you have failed to meet these standards.

I received a bill from my college. Why isn't the NGSG paying 100% of my tuition and fees?
The state will cover *up to* 100% of certain tuition and regularly assessed fees. Like all other state grants, the NGSG covers only fees that are assessed to all students independent of program. It does not cover special fees such as lab fees. Moreover, at schools that charge by the credit hour, the NGSG only covers tuition up to 15 credit hours per semester. Any charges beyond those limits are your responsibility.

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NGSG and Other Federal Benefits

What is the difference between Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) and the Indiana National Guard Supplemental Grant (NGSG)?
The Army National Guard FTA is administered by the Army National Guard and funded with federal dollars. The NGSG is a state grant administered by the Commission for Higher Education and funded with state dollars. They are separate programs. Both Air and Army Indiana National Guard students are eligible for the NGSG but only Army National Guard students are eligible for the FTA. The NGSG pays up to full tuition and regularly assessed fees at Indiana public colleges and universities, while FTA provides only a portion of that amount.

I have other military benefits such as the GI Bill, GI Bill Kicker, or VA Benefits. Does the Commission for Higher Education handle those too?
No. Indiana National Guard Education Services Office or the VA.

NGSG and Other State Grants

I have the NGSG. Might I be eligible for other state grants?
Because the NGSG pays up to full tuition and regularly assessed fees for eligible Indiana National Guard members, recipients of this grant do not receive funding from the state's need-based financial aid programs. There are other highly targeted state grant programs (for example, a student teaching stipend for STEM and special education teachers) for which an NGSG recipient could apply. Visit our website for a full list of programs

I had a state grant before I joined the Indiana National Guard. Does that award count as part of my 8 semesters of aid?
Yes. Students can receive a total of eight semesters of state aid in any combination. This includes any state grants used prior to, concurrently with, or after the NGSG. Part-time grants count as half as much as a full-time grant toward your eight (8) semester maximum.

I am in the Indiana National Guard and also a 21st Century Scholar. Can I get both grants at the same time?
No. Both the 21st Century Scholarship and the NGSG cover the same tuition so you can have only one. As a rule, if you applied in middle school, satisfied program requirements, and are going to college full-time, you will receive the 21st Century Scholarship. But if you go part-time, the NGSG should be used instead; as a part-time student, you will not be eligible for the 21st Century Scholarship.

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Active Duty

I was called to active duty while in school. What should I do?
You should talk to your academic advisor and the Financial Aid Office *immediately.* Schools have policies to accommodate students in this situation. They will provide you with information about what to do. The school will likely ask you for a copy of your orders to begin the process. Follow their directions completely.

Are there exceptions to the state filing deadlines?
Yes, but they are limited. If you were on active duty (state or federal) during the filing or correction periods and unable to file or fix your FAFSA, deadlines may be waived through an appeals process. Visit http://in.gov/sfa/2565.htm to learn more about filing an appeal. When you file an appeal, include copies of official Department of Defense (DoD) documentation such as your DD214 or orders, but preferably both. Exceptions to the deadline for reasons not related to active duty are rare.

I was deployed on active duty and indicated that I was a veteran on the FAFSA, but the federal government couldn't verify it. I received a comment code (codes 161, 162, 173, or 180 are typical) telling me I have to talk to my college's Financial Aid Office. What do I do?
Take your DD214 to the Financial Aid Office of your college. If you meet a minimal set of criteria, the college will verify your veteran status and that will make you an *independent* student. As an independent student you will not need parental information on the FAFSA. Note that going to basic or advanced training is not sufficient to be declared a veteran, and parental data on the FAFSA may need to be supplied for other dependency criteria.

Troubleshooting

My college says I did not receive the NGSG. What should I do?
First, go to http://www.in.gov/ai/appfiles/eStudents/ (the Commission for Higher Education's student portal) and see if you have been allocated the grant at the college you are currently attending. If you have, print a copy of the award and take it to the Financial Aid Office of your college. If not, check with Ms. Madison (yolonda.m.madison.nfg@mail.mil) in the Indiana National Guard Education Services Office to make sure the Indiana National Guard has certified you for the grant.

I know I have the NGSG but my college says the Commission has not sent my money to them. What do I do?
The process of distributing money from the Commission to your college starts with your college notifying the Commission. (Financial aid officials will call this "claiming your award.") If the money has not reached your college, you should first check http://www.in.gov/ai/appfiles/eStudents/ to see if the college you attend is *listed as the first choice college.* If not, follow the instructions in eStudent

to change it. If your current college is listed as your first choice but money still has not been received, please contact the Commission's student support center at awards@che.in.gov or 888-528-4719 to investigate the reason.

I had the NGSG in the fall but my college says I don't have it for spring. What should I do?
The Indiana National Guard re-certifies students each and every semester. Check with Ms. Madison (yolonda.m.madison.nfg@mail.mil) in the Indiana National Guard Education Services Office to make sure the Indiana National Guard re-certified you for the spring semester. Without the certification you cannot receive the NGSG. However, if your FAFSA indicates that you have financial need you can receive money from the state's need-based financial aid programs during the spring semester (though additional performance requirements then apply). Don't forget that you must file a FAFSA by March 10th and re-apply for the NGSG each and every year as well.

I can see that the Commission has awarded me the NGSG, but the college says that I need to submit more documentation. Do I have to comply with their request?
Yes. You may have been selected for a process called Verification by the college or the federal government. If selected, you must submit any requested documentation to the college before they can claim any financial aid including your NGSG. If you fail to submit the requested documents within the requested timeframe you can lose your NGSG and all other state and federal aid as well.

Will I get my NGSG as soon as the Indiana National Guard certifies my eligibility?
Not immediately. It might take 1-2 weeks for the Commission to process your information from the Indiana National Guard and notify the college. The Commission may also need more information from your college before it can create the grant. Once a grant has been created, your e-student account will reflect it and your college will be notified.

Statutory Authority

What is the law that governs the Indiana National Guard Tuition Supplemental Program?
The law governing the NGSG program can be found in IC 21-13-1 (which defines eligibility) and IC 21-13-4 (which establishes the program and sets conditions for renewal of the grant). Another section, IC 21-13-5, establishes the Indiana National Guard Scholarship Extension Program, which is available to certain Indiana National Guard members after their discharge.