



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
2001 EAST CAPITOL STREET
WASHINGTON, DC 20003-1719

05 October 2022

NGDC-CG

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DCNG Personnel

SUBJECT: Major General David F. Wherley, Jr. District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program Joint Policy (23-01)

1. References.

- b. DC Code Section 49-807, National Guard Tuition Assistance Benefits
- c. AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System (ACES), 28 October 2019
- d. DAFI 36-2670, Total Force Development, 25 June 2020

2. Purpose.

To establish policies governing the use of The Major General David F. Wherley, Jr. District of Columbia National Guard (DCNG) Retention and College Access Program, herein referred to as DC TA.

3. Implementation.

This policy is effective 1 October 2022 (FY2023) and supersedes all previous DCNG Tuition Assistance policies and memoranda and will remain in effect until rescinded or superseded.

4. Funding. The DC TA program is funded for District of Columbia Residents through the annual District of Columbia Budget and Financial Plan. For non-residents of the District of Columbia, funding is directed through the District of Columbia Appropriations Bill. Funding is disbursed based on availability.

5. Eligibility.

- a. Must be a current member of the District of Columbia National Guard and have at least one year of service remaining on their service obligation from the last day of the course paid by DC TA funds.
- b. Must be Military Occupational Specialty Qualified (MOSQ), or Air Force Skill Code Qualified (AFSCQ)
- c. Must be a satisfactory participant. Service member must not be subject to a

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suspension of favorable personnel action (SFPA) or unfavorable information file (UIF) and have no current or pending adverse actions as a result of investigation.

d. Service members who are ineligible to receive Federal Tuition assistance or the cost per credit hour exceeds the amount covered by Federal Tuition Assistance may use DC TA.

e. Army Soldiers requesting DC TA must first utilize ArmyIgnitED, regardless of eligibility for Federal TA, in order to obtain proof of Army cost or Soldier ineligibility.

f. AGR Airmen requesting DC TA must first utilize AFVEC in order to obtain an AFFORM – M (AF Automated Education Management System) to confirm cost approval for Federal Tuition Assistance. If ineligible, documentation must be forwarded from the Base Education Officer prior to submission of the DC TA Application.

6. Authorized Uses.

a. Service members may request DC TA for any degree level where DC TA was not utilized previously for that level of degree. No more than one credential from each of the following degree levels:

(1) Academic certificate. Academic certificates are those granted by accredited post-secondary educational institutions upon completion of a credit-bearing academic course of study at the undergraduate or graduate level.

(2) Associate Degree

(3) Bachelor's Degree

(4) Master's Degree

(5) Doctoral Degree

(6) Continuing Education Units (CEU). Courses leading to State education credentials (teaching, administration, supervision and support services) to teach in public school systems regardless of the degree level the service member has attained. CEUs for other professions may be authorized on a case by case basis and only when it is in direct correlation with the service members MOS, AOC or AFSC.

(7) Undergraduate or graduate prerequisite courses for enrolling in a Bachelor's or Master's degree or for completing requirements for career advancement programs.

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7. **Unauthorized Uses.**

a. Lower or lateral degrees are not authorized for DC TA funding if the service member has previously utilized DC TA to obtain that level of degree, with the exception of recertification for the purpose of obtaining a certification as described in para 5.a.(1) and, the second degree is related to the service member's current or new military career field.

b. **Certifications.** A certification program which is a set of courses in a particular field that lead to certificate status or a license to practice and not part of a degree program.

c. **Licensure.** A licensure program which grants a license to engage in professional practice and not part of a degree program.

8. **Accreditation.** Regional or national institutions, secondary schools, and institutions accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) are eligible for DC TA.

9. **Authorized Rates.** The total amount of DC TA each service member may receive will not exceed \$12,500 per Fiscal Year (FY), if maxing all fees; \$12,000 for tuition and \$500 for authorized fees. Any costs in excess of the annual rate are the responsibility of the service member.

10. **Utilization of Benefits.** Traditional drilling and Active Guard Reserve (AGR) service Members may use DC TA in addition to other funding sources based on certain limitations.

a. Service members may use Federal TA and DC TA concurrently. Service members eligible for Federal TA have to apply for Federal funds prior to DC TA and provide documentation of Federal TA awarded with the DC TA application. Combined Federal and DC TA funds may not exceed 100% of the cost of tuition and fees.

b. In cases where service members are eligible for Pell Grants or loans, DC TA funds may be used concurrently.

c. The Montgomery GI Bill Chapter 1606 or the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP) Chapter 1607 may be used concurrently with DC TA funds.

d. The Montgomery GI Bill Chapter 30 and Post 9-11 (Chapter 33) GI Bill may be used concurrently with DC TA funds.

e. The Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) is an incentive with no

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applicability to DC TA funds.

f. When utilizing multiple benefit programs, the service member must provide documentation attesting to the amount of funds utilized.

11. Suspension of Benefits. If a service member is found to abuse the Tuition Assistance Program in any of the following ways, they are subject to suspension of the benefit for up to one Fiscal Year. Examples of abuse are found below:

- a. Utilizing funds for a course that was previously failed or dropped without recoupment.
- b. Doctoring or forging signatures on any Tuition Assistance applications or other related forms.
- c. Failing to notify the Education Office of changes to your enrollment status within 5 business days.

13. The Joint Force Headquarters District Tuition Assistance Board. The Joint Force Headquarters District Tuition Assistance Board will convene quarterly, to ensure effective and equitable disbursement and execution throughout the fiscal year.

- a. The Joint Force Headquarters District Tuition Assistance Board will be composed of the following: DCNG ESO, DC Government Program Analyst, DC Government Operations Program Manager, ANG Personnel Superintendent, ARNG G1 SGM, DC TA Program Manager.
- b. The Joint Force Headquarters District Tuition Assistance Board will meet as needed to discuss current and future funding, policy, and submission procedures.

14. All DC TA requests, Army and Air, can be submitted to the DC TA program manager and Education Services Officer at: ng.dc.dcarng.list.per-edu@army.mil

SHERRIE L. MCCANDLESS, Major General, USAF
Commanding General

4 Encls:

1. DCNG Form 10-02-1
2. Statement of Understanding
3. Approved Schools in DC Vendor Services Portal
4. DC TA Timeline and requirements