

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: MING-STAP

See the full [MING-STAP policy](#) for more details.

General FAQ (Dependent FAQ begins on Page 3):

What is the Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program?

The Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (MING-STAP) is a State of Michigan funded tuition assistance program that pays for the tuition costs of eligible Michigan National Guard service members and their dependents.

Who is eligible?

All eligible Michigan National Guardsmen currently in good standing, including Active Guard Reserve (AGR) Soldiers, Airmen pursuant to Title 10 and Title 32 and their dependents. Soldiers and Airmen in the Inactive National Guard (ING) or the Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR) status are ineligible for Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program.

Service Member Eligibility Criteria:

1. Is an active drilling member of his/her unit of assignment or attachment.
2. Is not under MCMJ (Michigan Code of Military Justice) or UCMJ (Uniform Code of Military Justice) action.
3. Is not AWOL (Absent Without Leave).
4. Is not under suspension of favorable actions (Army) or adverse administrative actions (Air) in accordance with applicable regulation and policy.
5. Cannot be flagged for the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) or the Air Force Fitness Assessment (AFFA) and have a passing APFT or AFFA within the last 12 months for M-DAY and within the last 6 months for Army Guard Reserve (AGR); or has a physical profile exempting them from completing a fitness test.
6. Cannot be flagged for Height/Weight (HT/WT) and must have a compliant date within the last 12 months for M-DAY and AGR.
7. Completed initial active duty for training (IADT) as defined by regulations.
8. Any other criteria determined by the Adjutant General consistent with Michigan National Guard recruiting and retention requirements.

Who is not eligible?

- Soldiers who are AWOL.
- Soldiers who are under adverse action.
- Soldiers whose classes start before they enlist or end after they get out.
- Soldiers who are flagged for height, weight, or a failed physical training test.
- This list may not be all inclusive.

How much does MING-STAP pay?

The Adjutant General has determined that the Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program will reimburse up to 100% of an eligible participant's tuition and mandatory fees per academic year at the maximum rate of \$600 per credit hour not to exceed the limits listed below. In order for a course to be reimbursed it must be passed with a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale for undergraduate work or a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for graduate work or a passing grade for certificate or training programs.

Training Programs – up to \$6,000

Certificate Programs – up to \$6,000

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Master's Degree – up to \$6,000

Associate Degree – up to \$14,400

Baccalaureate Degree – up to \$14,400

What degrees may I earn using MING-STAP?

The Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program applies to any course of study that is intended to culminate in vocational or technical training, a certificate, or the eligible participant's first associate degree, bachelor's degree, or master's degree. MING-STAP does not allow you to work on a degree lower than one you already possess. MING-STAP will reimburse for the following:

- Training Programs – Applies towards graduate lifetime limit.
- Certificate Programs – Applies towards graduate lifetime limit.
- Associate Degree – Applies towards undergraduate lifetime limit – only one regardless of who paid for it.
- Baccalaureate Degree – Applies towards undergraduate lifetime limit – only one regardless of who paid for it.
- Master's Degree – Applies towards graduate lifetime limit – only one regardless of who paid for it.
- Professional Degree* – Students already enrolled in MINGSTAP to apply towards a professional degree will be grandfathered into the program. New professional degree applications will not be accepted.

Can I change what I am working on during the year?

No, once you select how you want your funds allocated for the year you cannot change it until the next academic year. You must wait until a new academic year begins. For example:

- You cannot start working on a certificate and then change to a bachelor's degree during the same academic year.
- If you complete your bachelor's degree, you cannot begin working on a master's degree in the same academic year.

How do I apply?

Go to <https://www.dmva.state.mi.us/mingstap>

When are applications due?

An eligible participant has 14 calendar days after the start of class to submit their application. Example: If classes started on August 28, 2023, you would have to have your application submitted on or before September 11, 2023.

An eligible participant must submit a new application for every academic year. Applications for the 2023-24 school year will be available August 1, 2023.

An eligible participant must submit their reimbursement request, along with supporting documentation within 30 calendar days after the last day of class. Because reimbursement is subject to the availability of funds it is based on a first come first serve basis as determined by the submission date of the reimbursement request, not the date the application was submitted.

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Can MING-STAP be used in conjunction with other federal tuition assistance such as FTA and/or Post 9-11 GI Bill CH 33?

Yes. As long as FTA and the GI Bill do not cover 100% of tuition & fees, MING-STAP can be used to cover remaining tuition and/or eligible fees. For example, if the class tuition is \$300 per credit hour and your FTA pays \$250 per credit hour, then MING-STAP can pay the remaining \$50 per credit hour.

Can I still receive MING-STAP if I'm receiving a Pell Grant?

Yes, since a Pell Grant can be used to assist with other education related expenses such as books, supplies, and other course related materials.

Can MING-STAP be used to help pay for books?

No. MING-STAP does not reimburse the cost of books and/or study materials.

Which schools are eligible to receive MING-STAP?

As a state funded program, MING-STAP can only be used at eligible educational institutions as defined by the Michigan Legislature PA 259 of 2014. "Eligible educational institution" means a public or private college, university, vocational school, technical school, or trade school located in the State of Michigan.

If I cannot request FTA through Army Ignited, can I still apply for MING-STAP?

1. Service members must apply for and use FTA first with the following exceptions. Service members who use FTA for any portion of their undergraduate degree and who are working towards their master's degree but have not yet completed Advance Leadership Course (ALC), Warrant Officer Advanced Course (WOAC), or Career Captains Course (CCC).
2. Service members working towards a professional degree. (Note that students already enrolled in MING-STAP will be grandfathered in. New professional degrees will not be accepted.)
3. APFT/AFFA/HT/WT information is not correct due to the lag time between IPPS-A and Army Ignited.
4. Service member used the max 16 credits or \$4,000 for the fiscal year.
5. Service members that are in a VA work study program are not eligible for FTA.
6. ROTC SMP cadets that are on any type of scholarship to include room and board are not eligible for FTA.
7. If Service member is required to re-enlist to utilize FTA.
8. Other circumstances MAY be considered on a case-by-case basis. For special circumstances, email MINGSTAP@michigan.gov
9. If the service member fails to use FTA the dependent will not be penalized, however, the service member will be unable to use the benefit.

Dependent FAQ:

I am retired, can my dependent use the MING-STAP benefit?

No. The service member must be an active drilling member of his/her unit of assignment or attachment.

Who qualifies as a dependent?

To qualify as a dependent, you must be:

- Lawfully married to the service member **or**
- A dependent child, stepchild, or legally adopted child who has graduated high school or obtained a high school diploma equivalent certificate, **or** who has turned 18 years of age. Dependents

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must use the eligible person's tuition assistance by submitting an application before turning 26 years of age.

Can my high school dependent use MING-STAP?

Yes, if they are 18 years of age or older. A dependent child, stepchild, or legally adopted child who has graduated high school or obtained a high school diploma equivalent certificate, or who has turned 18 years of age. A dependent child must use the eligible person's tuition assistance by submitting an application before turning 26 years of age.

Will MING-STAP pay for my dependent's tuition from previous years?

No. An eligible participant must submit a new application for every new academic year. An eligible participant has 14 calendar days after the start of class to submit an application.

My dependent attends an out of state school. Will they be eligible?

No. Eligible courses include courses taken online or on campus at any eligible institution located in the State of Michigan or off-duty courses taken through the Air University.

I have used MING-STAP for my Undergraduate and Graduate Degree. Can my dependent use MING-STAP?

Yes, but the service member and dependent's usage will be combined when calculating the academic year and lifetime limits.

- Undergraduate Degree
 - Academic year limit: \$14,400
 - Lifetime limit: \$86,400
- Graduate/Certificate program
 - Academic year limit: \$6,000
 - Lifetime limit: \$25,200

Can my dependent and I use MING-STAP at the same time?

Yes, but the service member and dependent's usage will be combined when calculating the academic year and lifetime limits.

When and how can my dependent apply?

Applications for the 2023-24 school year will be available August 1, 2023. The service member will need to complete a MING-STAP profile first if they do not already have one. The service member's dependent can then also create a MING-STAP profile. Once the service member accepts their dependent to use their benefits, their dependent will be able to apply.

Does my dependent need to apply for Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA)?

No, dependents are not eligible for FTA.

How do I confirm my Dependent?

After the dependent submits an application, the service member will need to log in to the MING-STAP website and accept or deny their dependent's request for the benefit. For verification, dependents will be instructed to upload a screenshot from the milConnect self-service portal showing family members and their dates of birth.