

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
MINGSTAP
As of 07/29/2022

What is the Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program?

The Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (MINGSTAP) is a State of Michigan funded tuition assistance program that pays for the tuition costs of eligible Michigan National Guard service members.

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. 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.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Is an active drilling member of his/her unit of assignment or attachment.
2. Is not under UCMJ (Uniform Code of Military Justice).
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 Combat Fitness Test or the Air Force Physical Fitness Test and have a passing score 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 basic military training or its equivalent, as defined by regulations before the first day of class.
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 flagged for height, weight, or failed physical training test.
- Soldiers who did not complete basic training.
- This list may not be all inclusive.

How much does MINGSTAP 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 \$6000

Certificate Programs – up to \$6000

Master's Degree – up to \$6000

Associate Degree – up to \$14,400

Baccalaureate Degree – up to \$14,400

What degrees may I earn using MINGSTAP?

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, master's or first professional degree. The Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program does not allow you to work on a degree lower than one you already possess. The Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program will reimburse for the following:

- a. Training Programs – Applies towards graduate lifetime limit.
- b. Certificate Programs – Applies towards graduate lifetime limit.
- c. Associate Degree – Applies towards undergraduate lifetime limit – only one regardless of who paid for it.
- d. Baccalaureate Degree – Applies towards undergraduate lifetime limit – only one regardless of who paid for it.
- e. Master's Degree – Applies towards graduate lifetime limit – only one regardless of who paid for it.
- f. A participant that already holds a Baccalaureate Degree cannot use the program to obtain a lower degree.

What are the lifetime limits of the MINGSTAP program?

Undergraduate Limit - \$86,000

Graduate Limit - \$25,200

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. For example, you cannot start working on a certificate and then change to a bachelor's degree during the year. You must wait until a new academic year begins.

How do I apply?

-Go to www.michigan.gov/dmva

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, 2019 you would have to have your application submitted on or before September 11, 2019.

An eligible participant must submit a new application for every academic year. The applications open on April 1st.

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

Can MINGSTAP be used in conjunction with other federal tuition assistance such as Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) and/or Post 9-11 GI Bill CH 33?

Yes. As long as FTA does not cover 100% of tuition & fees, MINGSTAP 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 MINGSTAP can pay the remaining \$50 per credit hour.

Can I still receive MINGSTAP 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 MINGSTAP be used to help pay for books?

No. MINGSTAP does not reimburse the cost of books and/or study materials.

Which schools are eligible to receive MINGSTAP?

As a state funded program, MINGSTAP 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 this state.

If I cannot request FTA through Army Ignited, can I still apply for MINGSTAP?

Yes, you can use the MINGSTAP program even if you do not apply for FTA but it will require you to be approved for an exception to policy.

For more detailed information, please visit the www.michigan.gov/mingstap website by clicking the link. A tutorial with additional information can be found by clicking this link https://mingstapapp.state.mi.us/Member/STAP_FAQs .