Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA)

1. What is it?

➢ FTA is financial assistance provided for voluntary off-duty education programs in support of a Soldier's professional and personal self-development goals. (Reference: AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System)

2. How Do I Qualify?

➢ Currently serving in a **SATISFACTORY** status (**not flagged**) in the Army National Guard, &
  o Have served at least one year of service after your AIT/BOLC graduation date.
  o Do not have an ETS or MRD prior to completion of FTA funded course(s).

➢ Service Obligation
  o Officers and Commissioned Warrant Officers are subject to a **four year** Reserve Duty Service Obligation (RDSO) OR a **two year** Active Duty Service Obligation (ADSO).

3. What Do I Get?

➢ FTA will pay up to **$250** per semester hour and up to **16 SHs** per fiscal year.

➢ Lifetime limit of **130** undergraduate semester hours.

➢ Lifetime limit of **39** graduate semester hours.

➢ FTA will be authorized IF:

  o The college is regionally or nationally accredited AND is a participant in GoArmyEd (GAE).
  o The funded course(s) meets a requirement listed in your personalized degree plan provided by the school (this can include prerequisite courses).
  o You maintain an undergraduate GPA of 2.0 for FTA-funded courses.
  o You maintain a graduate GPA of 3.0 for FTA-funded courses.
  o NOTE! FTA is NOT authorized simultaneously with Chapter 1606/MGIB-SR or Chapter 1607/REAP for the SAME course (Ref. DODI 1322.25).

➢ FTA will pay toward one credential at each of the following levels:
  o Associate Degree
  o Bachelor Degree
  o Master Degree
    ▪ First Professional degrees NOT eligible (i.e. doctorate degrees, Juris doctorates).
    ▪ If you have used FTA for a Bachelor's Degree (even 1 credit hour) you must complete ten years of service prior to using FTA for a Master's Degree.
  o Undergraduate/Graduate Certificate
  o Transition Certificate
    ▪ Provides TA for **21** total semester hours for a certificate not previously received within the past five years. Must apply within three years of anticipated separation.

4. Programs NOT Eligible for FTA

➢ Courses leading to a credential that is lower or lateral to the highest credential you have already earned.
- o Example: if you have a bachelor's degree (even if you came in the ARNG with one), you cannot use FTA to pursue a second bachelor's or associate's degree.

➢ Any program that bundles tuition and fees together into a lump sum charge.

➢ Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or courses that do not meet degree requirement.

5. How Do I Apply?

➢ Create a **GoArmyEd.com** (GAE) account
- o Go to **www.goarmyed.com** and establish a GAE Federal Tuition Assistance account, by clicking on "New User" button and entering in all required data.

➢ Apply for FTA - few tips to remember:
- o Apply for FTA up to **60** days **prior** to the start of your courses, but no later than **10** days before the class start date to ensure processing. **FTA MUST be approved prior** to the course start date.
- o You must submit an FTA request for each individual course for which you want FTA to fund.
- o If your school charges by quarter hour or clock hour, GAE will automatically convert them into semester hours on the FTA request.
- o If your school is not listed in GAE (i.e. you have to physically enter your courses into each FTA request) then you must provide the following documentation, uploaded into your GAE "Education Record" eFile:
  - ▪ Cost Verification Statement: individualized document such as a billing statement/invoice specific that breaks out the cost of tuition and fees separately.
  - ▪ Class Schedule: individualized document that shows all courses to include class name, start date, end date, course number, and number of credit hours.
  - ▪ All of these documents MUST have your name and the name of the school on them, and cannot be in an editable format.
- o After you complete six semester hours of FTA-funded coursework, you must complete a Course Planner and provide an individualized degree plan/student agreement to GAE.
- o This document should list the courses required for completion of your degree, as well as the existing credits already applied toward your degree.
- o New FTA users and anyone who changes their degree plan are required to complete VIA (VIA is a planning tool in GAE designed to help Soldiers identify their 'best fit' school).

For More Information:

❖ Apply On Line: **www.goarmyed.com**

❖ Visit us On-Line: **www.nationalguard.com/education**

❖ Contact your State Education Services Office:
- o Available at **www.nationalguard.com/contacts/eso**

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