

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

District of Columbia National Guard – State Tuition Assistance (DC TA)

Effective 01 OCT 2025

Q1: What is DC TA?

A: DC TA is the **Major General David F. Wherley, Jr. District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program**. It provides financial assistance for eligible DCNG Service Members to pursue higher education, certifications, licensures, and professional development courses.

Q2: Who is eligible for DC TA?

A: You must:

- Be a **current member** of the DC National Guard.
 - Have at least **two (2) years of service remaining** from the last day of the funded course.
 - Be in **good standing** (verified via the MOGS checklist).
 - Have **no SFPA, UIF, or pending adverse actions**.
 - Meet **readiness, administrative, and conduct standards** (fitness test, security clearance, medical/dental readiness, evaluation compliance, DTS/GTC status).
 - Eligible immediately upon enlistment (before IET), as long as classes don't conflict with training.
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Q3: How much can I receive?

A: **Maximum:** \$20,500 per Fiscal Year.

- Up to \$20,000 for tuition.
 - Up to \$500 for authorized fees (books, lab, technology, program-specific fees).
 - If your school is **not** on the DoD MOU list at dodmou.com, your max is **reduced to \$16,000/year**.
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Q4: What can DC TA be used for?

A: **Authorized:**

- One credential per degree level: Associate, Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate.
- Pre-requisite courses at any degree level.
- Academic certificates from accredited institutions.
- Licensure programs supporting professional development/career advancement.
- Credentialing Assistance (CA) for no more than one (1) credential per FY not to exceed \$2,000.

Not Authorized:

- Lateral or lower degrees previously funded by DC TA.
 - Recreational/personal interest courses unrelated to professional development.
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Q5: Are there school requirements?

A: Yes:

- Must be DOE-accredited (regional/national).
 - Must be registered in the DC Government Vendor Services Portal.
 - Should have a current DoD MOU (non-MOU schools get reduced benefit).
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Q6: How do I apply?

A: Submit a **complete application** at least **30 days before course start date** via the DC TA website.

Required documents:

- DC TA Application Form.
- Signed SOU (Enclosure 1).
- Signed MOGS (Enclosure 2, completed by your commander).
- Degree Plan.
- Itemized Cost Verification from school.
- Federal TA Eligibility/Ineligibility documentation.

Q7: What if I need an Exception to Policy (ETP)?

A:

- Submit ETP no later than seven (7) business days before course start.
- Must include justification and commander endorsement.
- Route through ESO to G1/MILPO.
- Approval is not guaranteed.

Q8: What deadlines should I know?

A:

- Application: 30 days before course start.
 - Course changes: Notify ESO/DC TA Program Manager within 5 business days.
 - Grades: Submit within 30 days after course completion.
 - Payment documentation: Submit all required documents by 15 August annually to ensure processing before FY closeout.
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Q9: Can I use DC TA with other benefits?

A: Yes – you may combine DC TA with Federal TA, GI Bill, Pell Grants, and loans, but **total aid cannot exceed 100% of tuition and fees.**

Q10: What happens if I fail or drop a course?

A: You may face:

- Recoupment of DC TA funds.
 - Suspension from the program.
 - Possible administrative action.
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Q11: **What is the “Memorandum of Good Standing” (MOGS)?**

A **commander-certified checklist** verifying your compliance with all readiness, conduct, and participation standards.

- All items must be marked “Yes” or explained in commander comments.
 - Required for every DC TA application.
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Q12: **Where can I get help or more information?**

- **Army:** ng.dc.dcarng.list.per-edu@army.mil
- **Air:** angel.holley@us.af.mil