

Applicant's Fact Sheet

California Military Department GI Bill Award Program

Formerly the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program

The California Military Department GI Bill Award Program (CMD GI Bill), formerly the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNG EAAP), is a State-funded grant for up to 1,000 service members in the California Military Department (CMD) or as many participants as the annual budget will allow. This Program authorizes the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) to make payments to accepted eligible program participants. Participants can receive up to the amount of the Cal Grant A award for attending the University of California or the California State University, up to the Cal Grant B award for attending a community college, or up to the University of California Cal Grant A amount for attending a non-public institution. Graduate students who entered the program prior to the 2020-2021 academic year may receive an additional \$500 for books and supplies. For detailed information, please visit the Program's website at [Calguard Education Site](#). If you have any questions after reviewing the website, you can contact Ms. Clarita Cortez at 916-854-4446 or Ms. Katrina Beck at 916-854-4255 or one of them by e-mail at ng.ca.caarng.list.cn6-aaap-mailbox-access@mail.mil.

Eligibility Requirements

All Applicants must:

- Agree to remain an active member in the CMD throughout the participation period in the Program
- Agree to attend a qualifying institution as defined by section 69432.7(l) of the California Education Code and with an active Institutional Participation Agreement with the California Student Aid Commission;
- Agree to maintain enrollment in at least three (3) academic units per term;
- Agree to maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) annually;
- Maintain California residency as determined by the institution (based on resident and non-resident tuition);
- Agree to not receive a Cal Grant award check for the same academic year; and
- Agree to use the award to obtain a certificate, degree, or diploma that is currently not held;

Participants who enter the program during or after the 2020-2021 academic year must:

- Agree to serve two years in the California National Guard, the California State Guard, or the California Naval Militia upon completion of the last academic period of utilizing this program;
- Agree to pursue a certificate, degree, or diploma that leads to a baccalaureate, graduate, or doctoral degree;
- Agree to complete course of study within 10 years of initial acceptance into the program; and
- Agree to only obtain one degree (baccalaureate, graduate, or doctoral) while participating in the program.

How to Apply

Initial applicants must submit the Program's Initial Application, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Statement of Understanding (SOU), a Letter of Recommendation, and an annual Service Commitment Agreement prior to the April 30 deadline to be considered a priority applicant. Applicants who do not complete all 5 steps by the April 30 deadline can apply as first-come, first-serve applicants by completing the Program's Initial Application, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Statement of Understanding (SOU), and a Service Commitment Agreement until January 14, or until all awards have been exhausted.

Renewal participants must complete the CMD GI Bill Renewal Application and the Renewal Statement of Understanding and, if the applicant entered the program during the 2020-2021 academic year or later, the annual Service Commitment Agreement. Renewal paperwork is available from January 15 (or the next business day) through the deadline date of June 1. Failure to renew will result in withdrawal from the CMD GI Bill.

To receive an award check for the summer term, participants must submit a letter from their unit commander stating that the summer term enrollment will not adversely impact the participant's attendance at mandatory military training.

The Frequently Asked Questions and the links for the application process are found at [Calguard Education Site](#).

Selection and Award Announcements

Each academic year, we allocate our funds first to our renewal participants, second to our priority participants, and lastly to our first-come, first-serve participants. Eligible applicants on the priority list will be accepted based on ranking and funding availability. Priority applicants will be ranked by an established predetermined criteria. Eligible applicants on the first-come, first-serve list will be accepted based on their eligibility date and funding availability. As students go on Leave of Absences, graduate, or do not attend and are withdrawn, we take the funds they would have used and allocate them to the next eligible applicant. Because of all of the factors involved, we cannot guess when applicants will be offered an award. The earliest that we will begin to make award announcements is October. Awardees will be notified of acceptance by e-mail.