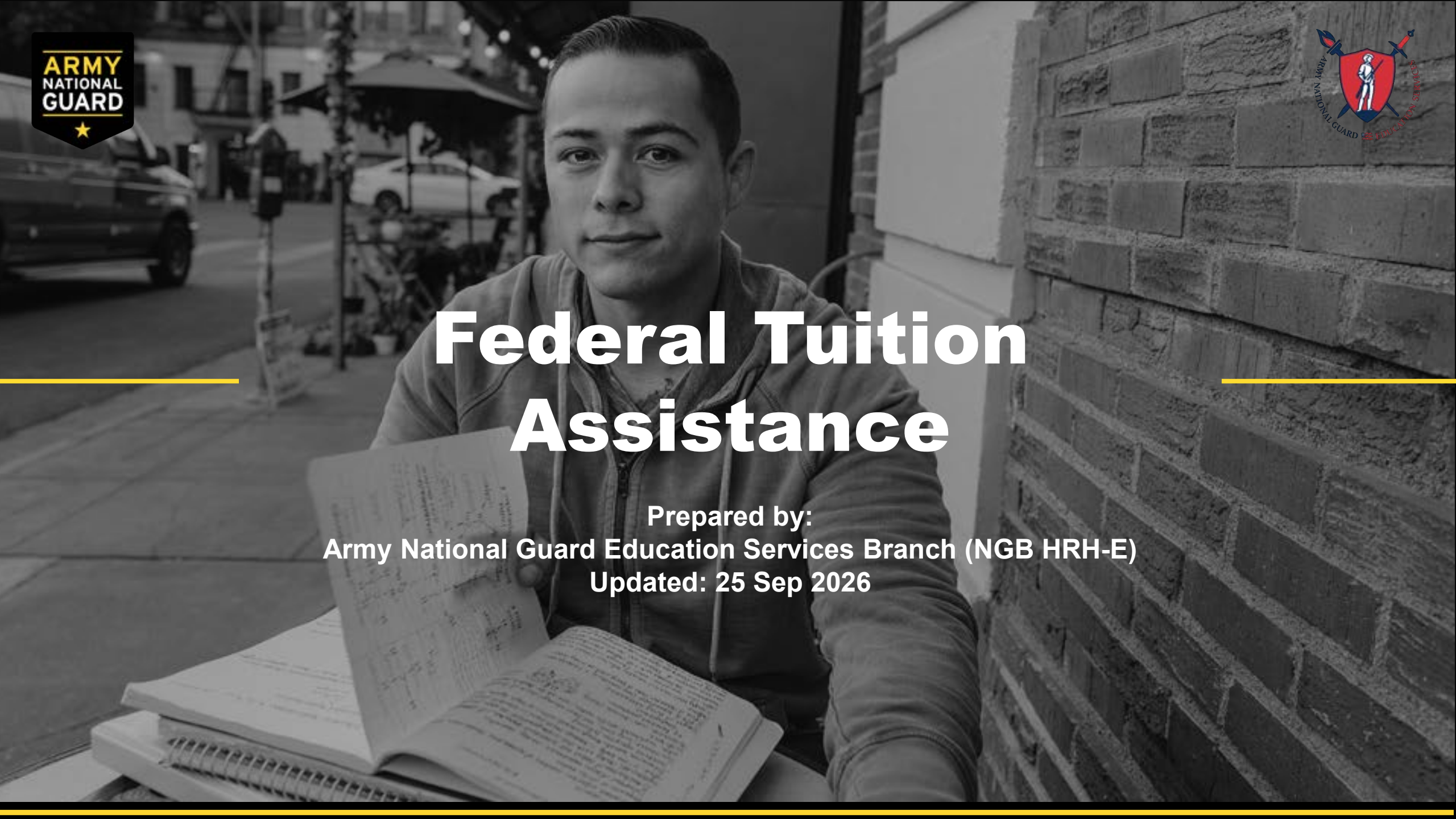


Federal Tuition Assistance

Prepared by:
Army National Guard Education Services Branch (NGB HRH-E)
Updated: 25 Sep 2026

Agenda

- Overview
- Eligibility
- Use With Other Programs
- Prohibitions and Restrictions
- Military Service Obligation
- Recoupment
- FTA Process
- JST
- Supervisor/command approval
- Unsuccessful grade suspensions/appeals
- Points of Contact



Overview

- FTA will fund up to **$4,500 per fiscal** year for voluntary off-duty education programs in support of a Soldier's professional and personal self-development goals:
  - Maximum **18** semester hours per fiscal year (1 Oct–30 Sep)
  - Up to **$250** per semester hour
    - **$166** per quarter hour, or **$5.55** per clock hour
  - **130** semester hours towards an associates and/or baccalaureate degree
  - **39** semester hours towards a master's degree
  - **21** semester hours towards an undergrad or graduate academic certificate (limited to one per career)

Basic Eligibility

- Be in good standing, not flagged
- Have a CAC card (Completion of basic training and AIT is no longer required)
- ArmyIgnitED account is NOT on hold

Submitting Requests

- TA Requests must be submitted and approved at least 7/8 days **PRIOR** to course start date (may submit up to 60 days prior)
- Command approval must happen prior to **5 days** before term start date
- Must submit a degree plan after registration of two FTA funded courses
- Must maintain a minimum GPA
  - 2.0 GPA for undergraduate degrees after 15 SHs of coursework
  - 3.0 GPA for graduate degrees after 6 SHs of coursework

Use With Other Programs

- FTA and Credentialing Assistance (CA) use the same pot of money, but you are limited to $2,000 of CA per FY
- Soldiers can request FTA in conjunction with State Tuition Assistance, Pell Grant, work-study programs, college scholarships
- Some states require FTA use prior to State TA
- Can use FTA and the MGIB-SR together for the same course if ½ time or more enrolled
- Can use with other GI Bill programs (Ch 30 and 33) but cannot exceed 100% of tuition cost

Prohibitions and Restrictions

- School must have signed the DoD MOU and be listed in ArmyIgnitED
- FTA pays tuition only, it does **not** pay fees including, lab fees, enrollment fees, parking fees, etc...
- FTA is **not** authorized for lower or lateral degrees
- FTA is **not** authorized for first professional degrees
- FTA will **not** pay for Double major (that awards 2 separate degrees)
- Soldiers **cannot** receive reimbursement from ROTC or Green-to-Gold scholarships

Military Service Obligation (MSO)

- Enlisted Soldiers
  - Must have **14 or more days** remaining to complete all courses before separating
- Traditional drilling/M-Day Officers (CW2, 2LT, and above)
  - Subject to a four-year MSO after the last day of the course
- AGR/Active Duty Officers (CW2, 2LT and above)
  - Subject to a two-year MSO after the last day of the course

Note: MSO is based on Soldier's status on the start date of the course

Recoupment

- Soldiers will be subject to recoupment if they:
  - Receive a failing grade
    - Grades **D & F** for undergraduate degree
    - Grades **C, D, & F** for graduate degree
  - Receive an incomplete for the course and not complete requirements within 180 days
  - Withdraw from a course without an approved recoupment waiver*
  - Do not complete their MSO

*Note: Recoupment waivers must be submitted w/in 30 days of a ‘W’ grade being posted by the Academic Institution (AI)

FTA Process

STEP 1

- Contact your state's Education Services Specialist (ESS) for information on how to best use all your benefits

STEP 2

- Complete ArmyIgnitED 101 Training. Training can be found at https://youtu.be/hpgydDPBuV8

STEP 3

- Complete Career Path Decide

STEP 4

- Go to https://www.armyignited.army.mil and log in with CAC card

STEP 5

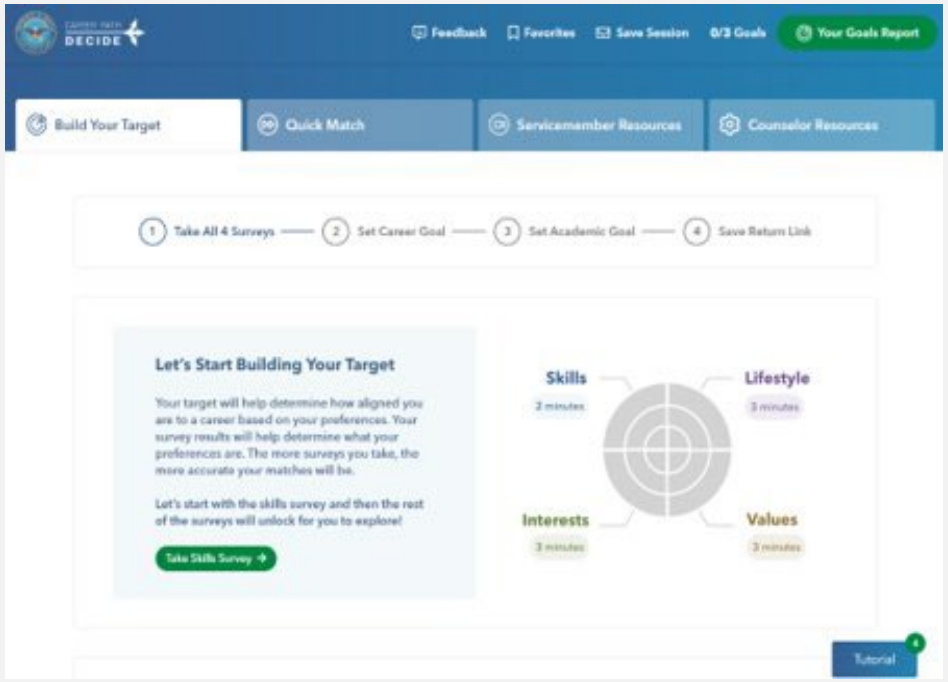
- Click on Education Goals

STEP 6

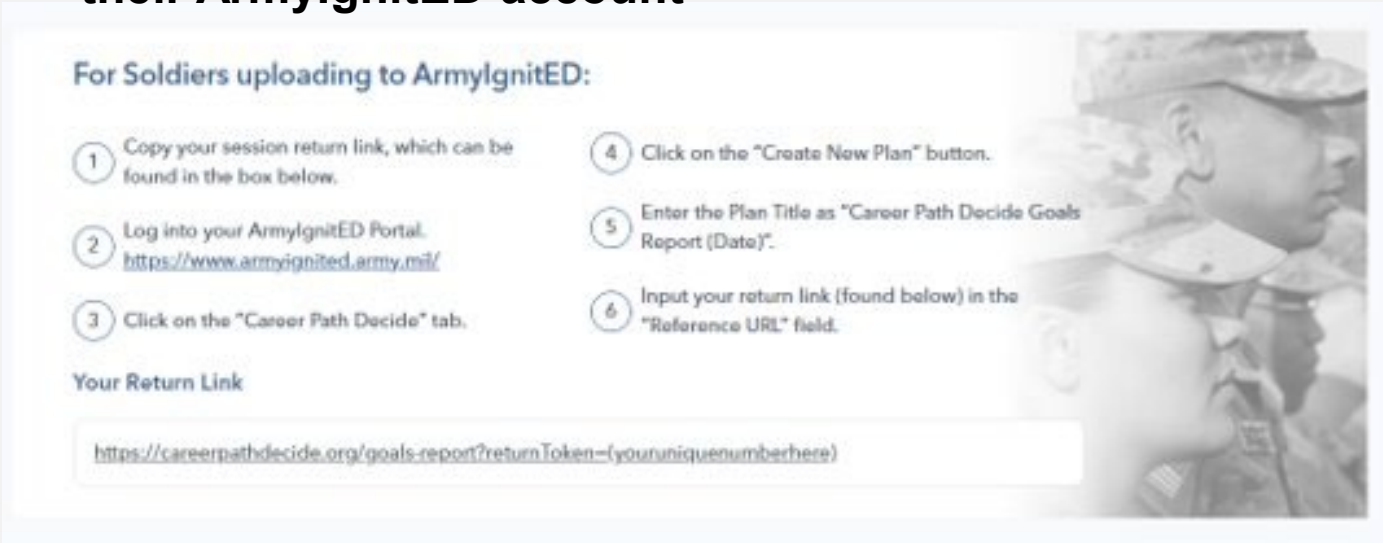
- Click Create New Goal



Career Path Decide



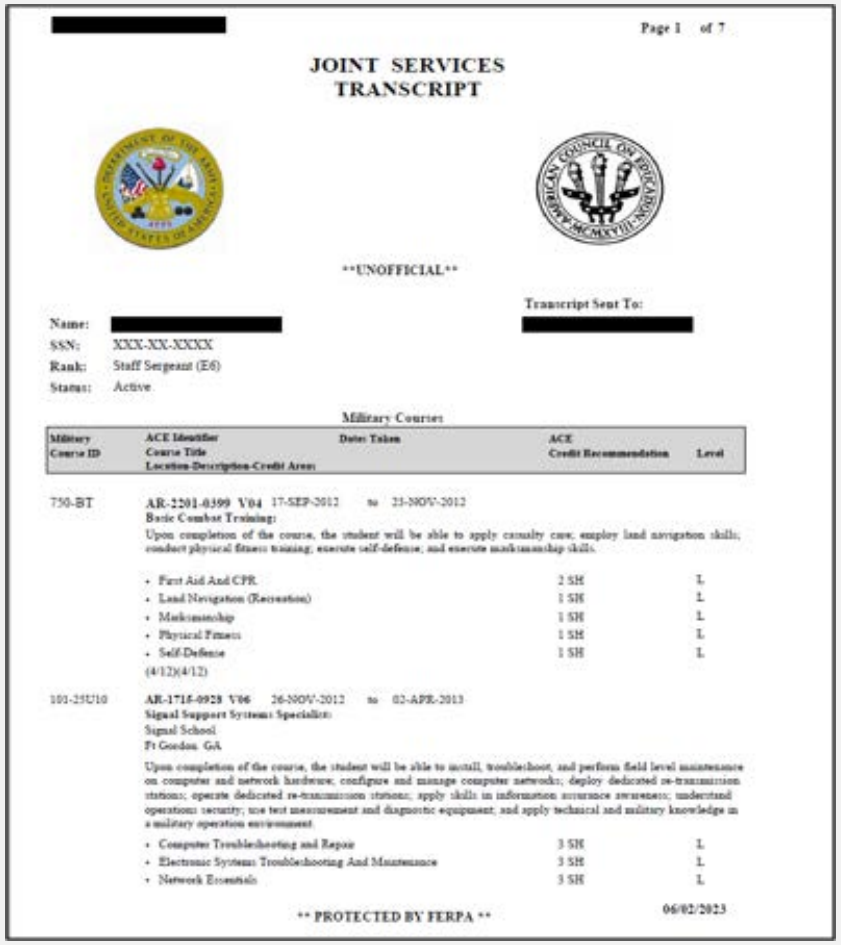
- **Career Path Decide**
  https://www.careerpathdecide.org/
  - **Soldiers must complete the Career Path Decide (CPD) prior to creating an FTA education goal for the first time**
  - **Soldiers must upload their CPD results directly into their ArmyIgnitED account**



Joint Services Transcript (JST)

- JST keeps track of all your military training and experience
- American Council on Education evaluates your military training and experience and *recommends* college credit
- Colleges and Universities may or may not accept this credit toward your degree
- Any credit awarded toward your degree means less time in the classroom
- Request official JST be sent to your college
- Transcript requests are free of charge

Joint Services Transcript (JST)



[redacted] Page 1 of 7

JOINT SERVICES TRANSCRIPT

UNOFFICIAL

Transcript Sent To: [redacted]

Name: [redacted]
SSN: XXX-XX-XXXX
Rank: Staff Sergeant (E6)
Status: Active

Military Courses

Military Course ID	ACE Identifier / Course Title / Location-Description-Credit Area:	Dates Taken	ACE Credit Recommendation	Level
750-BT	AR-2201-0399 V04 17-SEP-2012 to 23-NOV-2012 Basic Combat Training: Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to apply casualty care, employ land navigation skills, conduct physical fitness training, execute self-defense, and execute marksmanship skills.			
	• First Aid And CPR		2 SH	L
	• Land Navigation (Recreation)		1 SH	L
	• Marksmanship		1 SH	L
	• Physical Fitness		1 SH	L
	• Self-Defense		1 SH	L
	(4/12)(4/12)			
101-25U10	AR-1715-0928 V06 26-NOV-2012 to 02-APR-2013 Signal Support Systems Specialist: Signal School Ft Gordon, GA Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to install, troubleshoot, and perform field level maintenance on computer and network hardware; configure and manage computer networks; deploy dedicated re-transmission stations; operate dedicated re-transmission stations; apply skills in information assurance awareness; understand operations security; use test measurement and diagnostic equipment; and apply technical and military knowledge in a military operation environment.			
	• Computer Troubleshooting and Repair		3 SH	L
	• Electronic Systems Troubleshooting And Maintenance		3 SH	L
	• Network Essentials		3 SH	L

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Save time and money!

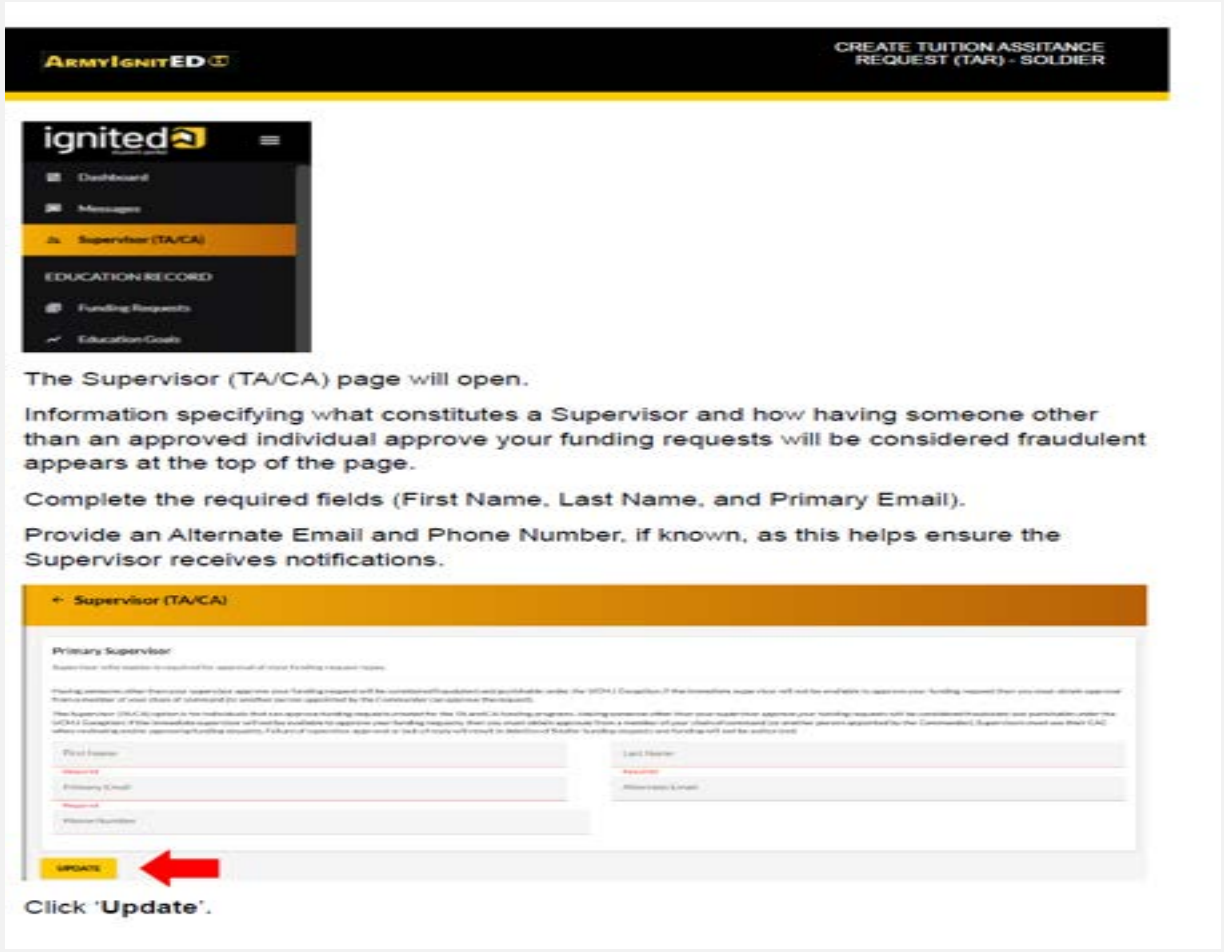
Submit your JST to your school to find out how much college credit you may already have!

Login at: https://jst.doded.mil/

Supervisor/Command Approval (effective 19 Mar 2026)

- All FTA Requests will be routed through a Supervisor for approval/disapproval
- Supervisor is defined as:
  - Commander
  - Individual who signs annual evaluation
  - Individual designated by Commander
- Soldiers will enter Supervisor email in ArmyIgnitED
- Supervisors ARE NOT required to have an ArmyIgnitED account
- Supervisors MUST have CAC and MUST action TA Request no later than 5 days prior to term start date
- Soldiers are responsible to communicate with Supervisor to ensure timely processing of requests
- If a Supervisor misses the 5-day window, the request will be deleted from the system
  - Important! This is NOT a justifiable reason for an ETP/HTAR

Entering Supervisor Info



Supervisor/Command Approval

- **Supervisor Signature Requirement DOES NOT impact the current TA/CA application deadlines:**
  - For TA, Soldiers can request TA 60 days prior to course start date and no later than 8 days prior to course start date
  - Soldiers are responsible to ensure they submit their funding requests in a timely manner to allow for resolution for any issues (i.e. Supervisor action, education counselor review/approval, etc…)
  - Soldiers will receive an email when their request is 10 days prior to the course start date if their supervisor has not actioned it

- **Important!**
  - Soldiers are encouraged to apply for FTA as early as possible to avoid issues and potential loss of funding!

Two Unsuccessful Grades

- **When a Soldier has two unsuccessful grades in the same FY they will be suspended from <u>both</u> TA/CA for 12 months**
  - Policy only applies to unsuccessful grades achieved on/after the effective date of the Wave 2 changes (19 March 2026)
- **Unsuccessful grades can be:**
  - 2 TA-funded courses
  - 2 CA-funded events
  - 1- TA-funded course and 1 CA-funded event (training/exam)
- **Unsuccessful grades are as follows:**
  - Undergraduate courses: Anything below a C-
  - Graduate courses: Anything below a B-
  - Failing a CA-funded course or exam
  - Withdrawing from a TA/CA funded course or an exam
  - Failing to attend a course or sit for the CA-funded training related exam in the allotted timeframe

Two Unsuccessful Grades (Appeal Process)

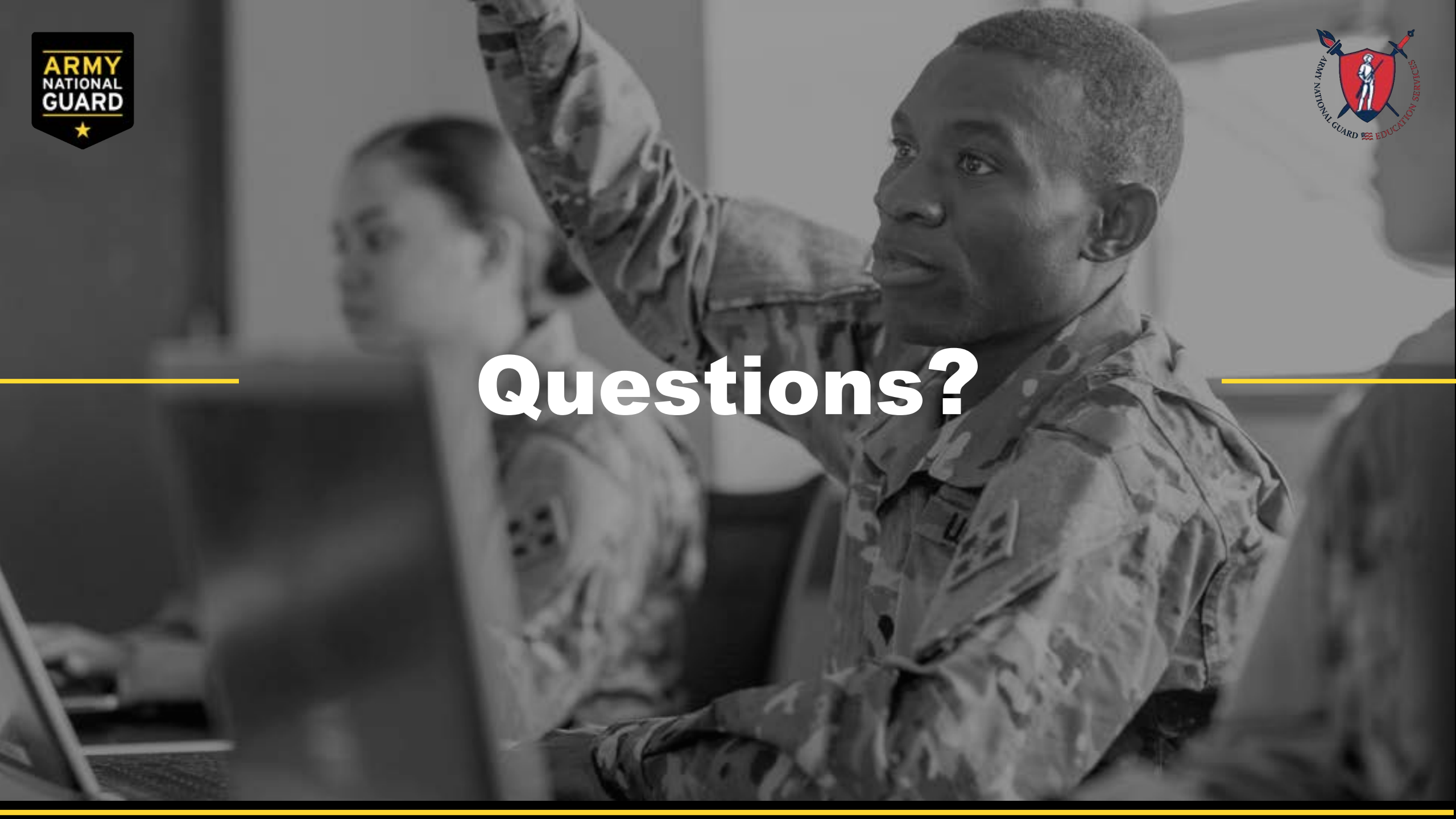
- Soldiers may appeal their 12-month suspension
- Window for appeal is 60 days from date of Student Message informing Soldier of suspension
  - This is the date the message is sent to Soldier, NOT the date the Soldier reads the message
- Appeal MUST be initiated by Soldier through ArmyIgnitED
  - Soldier adds justification for waiver
- Appeal is routed to Supervisor/Commander for signature
  - MUST have signature and justification
- Soldier and Supervisor/Command actions MUST be completed within 60 days—NO EXCEPTIONS
- Appeal is routed to HQ ACED for final decision
- Appeal ONLY removes suspension NOT recoupments

Points of Contact

- ArmyIgnitED: https://www.armyignited.army.mil
  - Once logged in, click on Education Center to see your assigned Ed Center POC
  - Each state has an Education Services Specialist (ESS) and/or Education Services Officer (ESO) to assist you with FTA
  - Tutorials that walk you through each process step by step are available (Click on Help, then click on Documents & Links)
- Contact your State Education Services Office: www.nationalguard.com/select-your-state
- ARNG Education Support Center (ESC):
  - Email: arng.edu@army.mil or 1-866-276-4338 (ARNG-EDU)

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  - ✓ https://www.facebook.com/groups/arngeducation


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Questions?