

ONGSP: Credentialing Assistance Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. Can the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program be used to pay for certification, certificate, licensing and credentialing programs?

A. Yes, in addition to being able to pursue an Associate or Bachelor's Degree, the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program can now pay for courses that lead to completion of approved trade certification, credential-certifying, licensing, or apprenticeship programs. A list of approved programs can be found on the Education Programs and Services of the Ohio National Guard public page.

Q. Are the Federal Credentialing Assistance (FCA) programs the same as the (ONGSP) trade certification, credential-certifying, licensing, or apprenticeship programs?

A. No they are two separate programs that are funded in different ways. The Federal Credentialing Assistance Program (CA) is a Department of the Army program administered through [ArmyIgnited](#) The Ohio National Guard Scholarship program is a state program that will pay for courses that lead to one of the approved Industry recognized credentialing programs listed found on the Education Programs and Services of the Ohio National Guard public [Education Programs and Services](#) page.

Q. Can I use the ONGSP to pay for credentialing, certification, or apprenticeship programs (or courses that lead to a certification) that are not part of a degree (Associate or Bachelors) program?

A. Yes, as long as the credential, certification, or apprenticeship program is listed on [Education Programs and Services](#)

Q. Can I take courses that lead to a certification anywhere I want to take them?

A. To be eligible to use the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, you must take a minimum of 3 semester hours (or 2 quarter hours) at one of Ohio's university or college systems.

Q. What does a "Member in good standing mean?

A. Member in good standing is determined by your unit commander (or his or her designee - Unit Reviewer) and includes, but is not limited to, meeting attendance requirements, physical fitness standards, weight standards, no adverse actions, etc.

Q. What are some tips on the best way to apply?

A. The ONGSP site works best on Google Chrome. You may use smart phones, tablets, laptops, etc., anywhere that you have internet connectivity. You are not required to use your military (.mil) email address if it is not one you access regularly. It is best to apply as far out for your ONGSP benefits as possible.

Q. Who do I contact if I have questions?

A. You should contact your unit leadership with any questions or concerns about member in good standing status, application status, or your ONGSP account. You should contact your school with any questions about billing. If you have any other questions about ONGSP CA not covered in this FAQ please contact the Ohio National Guard Education Services Officer at marchem.pfeiffer.civ@army.mil or email your question to the Education Office Distro: ng.oh.oharng.list.g1-education@mail.mil

Q. How do I know which ONGSP Credentialing Assistance (CA) Courses I am able to take at my school?

A. Each school has already identified which courses they offer that will lead to an Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program Certification. You should contact your academic advisor to determine whether your course(s) are offered for the term you are interested in attending and if you meet the qualifications to take the course.

Q. Is there a minimum number of semester hours I can take in a term?

A. Yes, you must take a minimum of three (3) semester hours (two (2) quarter hours) in a term to be eligible to use the Ohio National Guard Scholarship program.

Q. If I am currently pursuing a degree or have obtained an Associate degree using ONGSP, am I able to also use ONGSP to pursue a certification with any remaining scholarship units I have?

A. You can pursue a degree and a certification simultaneously or separately so long as you have available units of eligibility. You are not eligible to use the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program if you have already have a Bachelor's Degree.

Q. Do I have to apply for Federal Credentialing Assistance first if I want to use the Ohio National Guard Scholarship to pay for courses that lead to a certification?

A. Yes, if you are eligible to apply for and use federal credentialing assistance you must exhaust it before your ONGSP benefit will be applied. You apply for FCA at <https://armyignited.com>. If you were eligible and fail to exhaust your annual FCA benefit, your ONGSP scholarship award will be reduced. Currently, FCA is not available to Air National Guard members unless you are AGR or T10. If it does become available, this policy will apply to Air National Guard members as well.

Q. What is the Deadline to submit Applications?

A. You may submit applications up to your school's last add / drop date. If your application is pending, under review or disapproved you will need to contact your unit to address your status. Your school will only have visibility of "approved" applications. Therefore, If your school requires confirmation of an approved application sooner, you must manage this timeline yourself and back plan accordingly. You will need to give your Unit Reviewer time to action your application request. Because the website works "real time" your school will have visibility in their portal as soon as the Unit Reviewer approves.

Q. Who is not required to apply for Federal Credentialing Assistance?

A. The following are NOT eligible, and should not apply, for Federal Credentialing Assistance

- Non-AGR members of the Air National Guard
- 09R / ROTC contracted Cadets receiving the room and board stipend
- Have not completed Advanced Individual Training (AIT) prior to term start date
- Discharged and attending school on qualifying mobilization time
- Your GPA is below 2.0
- You are retaking a course that hasn't been recouped by Army Ignited
- You exhausted your FCA benefit for the Federal Fiscal Year

Q: How much will the ONGSP cover?

A: The ONGSP will cover 100% of the tuition only costs if you are attending a public college and 100% of the average cost of tuition at the public colleges for attendance at approved participating private schools.

Q: How do I apply for these courses?

A: After determining whether you are required to apply for FTA/CA and applying at [ArmyIgnited](#) you apply for your ONGSP benefit at [Education Programs and Services](#).

Q: Is there a list of Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program approved Certification Programs ?

A: Yes, you may view the full listing of Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program approved industry recognized certifications available for selection at [Education Programs and Services](#)

Q: What do all of the acronyms mean?

A: Navigating these selections can, at times, be confusing. The following list of acronyms used throughout this flyer should help clarify the different programs available –

FTA – Federal Tuition Assistance – These are funds provided by the Department of Defense (DoD) and are made available to members of the National Guard who meet the criteria for using this program. The FTA program may provide up to \$250 per semester hour / \$4,000 per fiscal year to eligible students. Students who are eligible to apply for FTA but fail to do so will have their ONGSP benefit reduced by the amount that FTA would have covered and they will be expected to pay that amount themselves. To determine your eligibility and to apply for FTA you should go to [ArmyIgnited](#) and create an account.

FTA/CA – Federal Tuition Assistance / Credentialing Assistance – This is FTA funding, as described above, made available for students seeking credentialing assistance. Similar to above as well, students who are pursuing an NTEP must apply for FTA/CA additionally or the ONGSP benefit will be reduced by the amount FTA/CA would have covered if applied for.

ONGSP – Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program – Program is funded by the State of Ohio and pays 100% tuition charges at public colleges, and 100% of the average tuition of public colleges, for attendance at ONGSP participating private colleges, after all other authorized State and Federal funds have been applied. ONGSP students apply for the ONGSP benefit at [Education Programs and Services](#)

NTEP – Non-Traditional Education Programs – These programs are industry recognized trade certifications, credentials, licensing and apprenticeship programs that the Ohio Department of Higher Education have identified as authorized for inclusion in the ONGSP program at currently participating Scholarship schools.

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid – Although it is also funded by the Federal Government, and often mistaken for FTA, it is very different than the FTA program. FTA must be applied for if eligible as outlined above. FAFSA should be applied for by ALL college students, regardless of whether they are members of the Ohio National Guard or not. FAFSA is based upon many different factors to include family income.

Q: Where can I find out more information about any of these programs?

A: You may contact any of the following resources to find out more about the programs offered – [Education Programs and Services](#)