

College Planning & Financial Aid Resources for Illinois Servicemembers, Veterans and Their Families

Making Informed College Choices

<p>General Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Department of Education (ED) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – www.ed.gov • U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – www.va.gov • Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – www.isac.org
<p>Free Federal Resources for Making Informed College Choices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Department of Education (ED) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – College Scorecard – search for a college that is a good fit for you and find out more about a college’s affordability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collegescorecard.ed.gov/ – College Navigator -- search for and compare colleges on all sorts of criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/ – College Affordability and Transparency Center – for information about tuition and net prices at postsecondary institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collegecost.ed.gov/catc/Default.aspx – Net Price Calculator Center – to help estimate how much colleges cost after scholarships and grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx • U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – School Decision Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_decision.asp • U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Occupational Information Network (O*NET) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.onetcenter.org/overview.html – Military Crosswalk Search <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.onetonline.org/crosswalk/MOC/
<p>Free State Resources for Making Informed College Choices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Offers guidance to students and parents on planning and paying for college <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.isac.org/students/ – Student Portal provides tools to help students and families make college choices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.isac.org/studentportal • Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Illinois Career Information System offers a variety of career exploration tools to help students choose a career path and explore education and training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.ides.illinois.gov • http://www.ides.illinois.gov/LMI/Pages/Career_Information.aspx • ilcis.intocareers.org/materials/portal/home2.html
<p>Other Free Resources for Making Informed College Choices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The College Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – www.collegeboard.org/ • ACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – www.act.org • Mapping Your Future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – mappingyourfuture.org/

Financing College

<p>U.S. Department of Education (ED) Federal Student Aid (FSA) General Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ED's gateway to information about college planning and financial aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – studentaid.ed.gov • Students must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student (FAFSA) to apply for ED's federal student aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – www.fafsa.gov – For information on changes to the 2017-18 FAFSA process, visit https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/fafsa-changes • Students and parents will need an FSA ID to electronically sign the FAFSA and other financial aid documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – fsaid.ed.gov • A FAFSA demo site is available to increase your understanding of the FAFSA before applying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – fafsademo.test.ed.gov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User name is: eddemo • Password is: fafsatest • To learn more about the federal student loan programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – studentloans.gov/ • Call center staff is available to answer questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 1-800-4FED-AID/(1-800-433-3243) – 1-800-730-8913 (TTY)
<p>State of Illinois General Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illinois Student Assistance Commission offers scholarship and grant programs, a prepaid tuition program, loan repayment programs, outreach services, and free interactive tools for college and financial aid planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – www.isac.org/students – www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid – studentportal.isac.org – www.collegeillinois.org/ – Student Services Contact Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 800-899-ISAC (4722) • E-mail: isac.studentservices@isac.illinois.gov • Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Center for Rural Health administers scholarship programs for students in health professions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/life-stages-populations/rural-underserved-populations • Illinois Department of Employment Security's Career Information System includes an Education section that provides an extensive, searchable list of Illinois scholarships, as well as other tips on paying for college <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ilcis.intocareers.org <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Education area, navigate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – How do I pay for school? – How do I find financial aid?
<p>Other General Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colleges, universities and other higher education institutions also offer financial assistance to their students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The financial aid office is the best place to find out about financial aid programs, options and application procedures – Institutional applications and early deadlines are typical

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private sources of financial aid include community organizations, associations, religious groups, employers, local chamber of commerce, etc. • Online Scholarship Searches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There are many scholarship search services available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While many are legitimate and offer valuable information, others may be fraudulent and charge a lot of money for little information • View with caution any service that requires a fee • Pay close attention to eligibility requirements and application deadlines • Some good places to start <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – www.collegegreenlight.com – www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx – https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search – www.petersons.com/college-search/scholarship-search.aspx – https://www.unigo.com/scholarships • Other Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FinAid website is a comprehensive source of student financial aid information, advice and tools and includes pages that focus on military student aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.finaid.org/military/ – National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) includes information on college preparation and financial aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.nasfaa.org/students_parents_counselors – Mapping Your Future provides a collection of resources about planning and paying for college and managing your money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mappingyourfuture.org/Resources/ – MoneyGeek provides information about paying for college <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.moneygeek.com/education/college/ – Center for Online Education provides information about the online learning experience and resources on financial aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.onlinecolleges.net/resources/#financial-aid
Federal Resources for Military Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), www.va.gov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – VA education programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/education_programs.asp – Information about transferring Post-9/11 GI Bill to spouse or dependent children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_transfer.asp – Survivors and Dependents Assistance Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/survivor_dependent_assistance.asp – eBenefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage • U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Today's Military is a resource for learning about military service and its benefits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • todaysmilitary.com/living/paying-for-college – National Resource Directory (NRD) provides information on education resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.nrd.gov – Military OneSource provides information on education benefits -- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.militaryonesource.mil/education-and-employment/higher-education-for-children

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC) helps military personnel and their families earn degree credentials and offers information on campus programs, scholarships, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.soc.aascu.org • www.soc.aascu.org/publications-and-resources/resources/details/veteran-and-military-family-programs-and-services • U.S. Department of Education (ED) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provides an overview of programs available to military families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/military – Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant or Additional Pell Grant Funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/iraq-afghanistan-service – Servicemembers Civil Relief Act <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/crt/legacy/2011/03/23/screatext.pdf <p>Tax Credits for Higher Education Expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/tax-benefits • www.irs.gov/uac/tax-benefits-for-education-information-center
<p>State of Illinois Resources for Military Families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA), https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/default.aspx <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MIA/POW Scholarship Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application is available at: • https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/benefits/Pages/education.aspx • Questions may be directed to 217-782-3564 – Educational Opportunities for Children Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application available at: • https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/benefits/Pages/education.aspx – Children of Veterans Tuition Waiver <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award criteria and application procedure may be obtained from the University of Illinois' Financial Aid Office • osfa.illinois.edu/types-of-aid/children-of-veterans-tuition-waiver – Troops to Teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.proudtoserveagain.com • E-mail: troops.teachers@illinois.gov – Veteran Services Officers are located throughout the state <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/ServiceOffices.aspx • Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – www.isac.org/students/during-college/military.html – Illinois Veteran Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/illinois-veteran-grant-ivg-program.html – Illinois National Guard Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/illinois-national-guard-(ing)-grant-program.html • Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) Career Information System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ilcis.intocareers.org <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Education area, navigate to <i>How do I pay for school?</i> and/or <i>How do I find financial aid?</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search by financial aid category (Aid for Military) • Illinois Joining Forces (IJF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A statewide network of veteran and military serving organizations collaborating to help service members, veterans, and their families identify and access resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • illinoisjoiningforces.org/
Other Resources for Military Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarships are awarded on the basis of merit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Army ROTC scholarships -- www.goarmy.com/rotc.html – Air Force ROTC scholarships -- www.afrotc.com/ – Navy ROTC scholarships -- www.nrotc.navy.mil/ – Marine Officer NROTC Program -- www.marines.com/becoming-a-marine/commissioning-programs/four-year-colleges/nrotc • Veteran Service Organizations offer scholarships primarily to active duty military, veterans, and/or their families: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – American Legion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.legion.org/scholarships – AMVETS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.amvets.org/amvets-in-action/scholarships/ – Paralyzed Veterans of America <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.pva.org/site/c.ajIRK9NJLcJ2E/b.6305559/k.FBA1/Scholarship_Program.htm – Veterans of Foreign Wars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.vfw.org/Youth/ – There are also many smaller veteran service organizations around the country that may also offer scholarships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check with your local organization or try a scholarship search • Fisher House Foundation Scholarships for Military Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 2017 program details will be posted to the website in December 2016 – www.militaryscholar.org/sfmc/ • American Patriot Scholarship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Applications are accepted beginning in early November each year – Deadline to submit applications is March 1 – www.moa.org/Content/Benefits-and-Discounts/Education-Assistance/Scholarships-and-Grants/American-Patriot-Scholarship.aspx • Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Need-Based Scholarships – Heroes Tribute Scholarship Program for Children of the Fallen – New applications are available annually January 1 – March 1 – www.mcsf.org/scholarship • Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Education Assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Applications typically become available in November and are due May 1 prior to the year for which assistance is requested – www.nmcrs.org/pages/education-loans-and-scholarships • Other Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Military.com connects servicemembers, military families and veterans to benefit

	<p>information; not a U.S. government site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.military.com/benefits/spouse-family – Military Handbooks website provides the military community with a series of free (online) handbooks on topics related to planning and benefits; not affiliated with the U.S. government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hmilitaryhandbooks.com/view-military-handbooks/childrens-scholarship-handbook/ – Student Veterans of America’s (SVA) provides military veterans with resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • studentveterans.org • studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships – Student Veterans of America-Illinois (SVA-IL) is committed to improving veteran educational outcomes across the state of Illinois. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.svaillinois.org/ – Illinois Patriot Education Fund provides scholarships and educational opportunities for Illinois active duty and veteran military families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application portal for 2017 scholars will open in January 2017 • www.illinoispatrioteducationfund.org/ • Other College Planning and Financial Aid Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – FinAid website is a comprehensive source of student financial aid information and includes a page that focuses on military student aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.finaid.org/military/ • www.finaid.org/military/veterans.phtml – MoneyGeek provides consumer information on several financial topics and has a page devoted to resources uniquely available to veterans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.moneygeek.com/education/college/resources/financial-aid-guide-for-veterans/ – Center for Online Education provides information about the online learning experience and a college guide for servicemembers and their families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.onlinecolleges.net/for-students/college-guide-for-veterans/
<p>Avoiding Financial Aid Fraud</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Save Your Money, Save Your Identity Brochure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/save-your-money-and-identity.pdf – Don’t Get Scammed On Your Way To College Info Sheet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • studentaid.ed.gov/sa/sites/default/files/dont-get-scammed.pdf – Federal Trade Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0082-scholarship-and-financial-aid-scams • To report financial aid fraud, contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Federal Trade Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov • www.consumer.ftc.gov • 1-877-FTC-HELP – U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General Fraud Hotline at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.ed.gov/misused • 1-800-MIS-USED (1-800-647-8733)