

## **Illinois National Guard Grant** **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***What is the Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant?***

Authorized in Illinois statute by the Higher Education Student Assistance Act (110 ILCS 947/), the Illinois National Guard Grant pays college tuition and certain fees (registration, graduation, general activity, matriculation, and term fees) for eligible applicants.

### ***What if the state budget doesn't provide any money for the program? Will I still get my benefits?***

Yes. The ING Grant is an entitlement program, so benefits remain available to eligible applicants even if there is no state appropriation for the program. Illinois public universities and community colleges must provide tuition and certain fee benefits for qualified applicants without any condition other than the qualified applicant's maintenance of minimum grade levels and a satisfactory student loan repayment record. If the state does make an appropriation for the program, ISAC uses the funds to reimburse schools for grants provided through the program.

### ***Who is eligible for the Illinois National Guard Grant?***

To be eligible for the ING Grant, you must be in active status with the Illinois Army or Air National Guard and have served for at least one year.

Applicants who have completed *less than* 10 years of active duty ING service may receive benefits for the equivalent of four years of full-time enrollment. Tracked in units, recipients can accumulate up to 120 eligibility units. Applicants who have completed *at least* 10 years of active duty ING service may receive benefits for the equivalent of six years of full-time enrollment; tracked in units, recipients can accumulate up to 180 eligibility units.

### ***Can out of state residents who serve in the Illinois National Guard receive benefits?***

Yes, out of state residents who meet the eligibility requirements receive tuition and fee benefits equivalent to those received by in-state residents. They are not responsible for paying the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition rates.

### ***Can I use the ING grant for private schools?***

The ING Grant is only available for qualified applicants attending Illinois public universities and community colleges.

### ***Can I use the ING Grant for a community college outside of my district?***

Yes. Recipients attending out-of-district community colleges receive tuition and fee benefits equivalent to those at the in-district rate, and ING Grant recipients are not responsible for paying the difference between in-district and out-of-district tuition.

### ***Can I use the grant for graduate school as well?***

Yes, the ING Grant may be used at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

***Are there credit-hour requirements in order to use the grant?***

No. There is no minimum enrollment requirement and non-credit courses are eligible for the ING Grant.

***What if I qualify for the ING Grant and the Post-9/11 GI Bill Program? How do the two programs work together?***

Students who qualify for ING Grant and the Post-9/11 GI Bill program may choose to receive benefits from both programs during the same term. If veterans who are eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at less than 100% (based on length of service) choose to use those benefits with ING Grant benefits in the same term, the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits will be applied first, and any remaining eligible charges for tuition and fees will be covered by ING Grant benefits. The student could then also receive the housing allowance and book stipend benefits provided by the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Alternatively, students who qualify for the ING Grant and the Post-9/11 program may choose to not use their ING Grant benefits and use only their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

***What if I qualify for the ING Grant and the Montgomery GI Bill Program? How do the two programs work together?***

Students who qualify for the ING Grant and the Montgomery GI Bill may receive benefits from both programs during the same term for eligible educational expenses.

***Additional Questions?***

Contact ISAC at 800.899.4722 or [isac.studentservices@isac.illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@isac.illinois.gov).