An ISAC Update and An Overview of ISAC’s Military Programs

October 30, 2019
Agenda

- ISAC Update
- Illinois National Guard Grant
- Illinois Veteran Grant
- Combining Benefits
- Questions/Comments
2019-20 Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- Maximum annual award amount is $5,340
  - Additional funding for FY20 was used to increase the annual award amount and to release some records from suspense
    - Applicants with an initial FAFSA receipt date of April 29, 2019 through and including May 26, 2019 were released from suspended status
    - Released records are eligible for a full-year MAP award
  
- The current suspense date is May 27, 2019
  - Applicants whose initial 2019-20 FAFSA® was received by CPS on or after May 27, 2019 remain in suspended status

- Payment requests for the first semester/quarter are currently being accepted, and the fall term claim deadline date is December 6, 2019

- Payment reminders:
  - Review the Payment Results/Exceptions Report in the MAP system the day after submitting payment requests to confirm that all claims processed as expected
  - Colleges will receive MAP funds directly from the State Comptroller's Office
2020-21 MAP

- 2020-21 MAP Start-Up Formula was approved at the September Commission meeting
  - Maximum start-up annual award amount is $5,340
    - There is no reduction factor
  - Student eligibility information is available in GAP Access
- As part of the student notification process, schools are required to:
  - Announce MAP awards to the students enrolled at their institutions
  - Clearly identify the awards on the award notification as: State of IL MAP Grant (Est)
  - Include specific MAP award letter language on or with the school issued award letters
    - Please note that a few minor changes have been made to the language for 2020-21
    - Refer to the MAP Award Announcements page for details regarding college requirements, as well as samples of the required award letter language and ISAC-generated notifications
MAP Award Announcements

School Requirements
ISAC-Generated MAP Notifications

Students who apply for financial aid on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) and agree to share the information with ISAC are considered for a Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant. The announcement process begins with the college sending an award notification to eligible students indicating a calculated annual award amount. The inclusion of MAP Grant awards in financial aid packages is critical information for students to make informed enrollment decisions. Potentially eligible students are Illinois residents with an EFC under 9000 who indicated a MAP-approved school as one of their school choices on the FAFSA.

In order to ensure that all MAP students receive the same information about their award in a consistent manner, ISAC requires schools to announce MAP awards to the students enrolled at their institution - including the estimated amount of the award. Refer to the School Requirements section for details.

Links to various forms and notifications are available from the right-hand menu.

School Requirements

ISAC provides the specific language that is required to be included on or with the school issued award notification at the beginning of each processing cycle. Schools are required to announce MAP awards to the students enrolled at their institutions, including students who are only eligible for a 2nd semester/2nd and 3rd quarter MAP award. Schools are required to clearly identify the estimated awards on the award notification as: State of IL MAP Grant (Est).

Additional information may be communicated about MAP in the award notification as long as ISAC’s required language is included as written and the additional language does not conflict with it. For example, schools may want to provide students with the link to the MAP Rights & Responsibilities form, which includes pertinent student consumer information, or direct them to the MAP section in the Students & Parents area of ISAC’s website.
MAP Priority Deadline Date

- Beginning with the 2020-21 FAFSA/award year, ISAC will announce a MAP priority deadline date when the MAP start-up process begins
  - For 2020-21 MAP, the priority deadline date is December 1, 2019
- Provides priority access to MAP for returning students who complete the FAFSA by the announced priority deadline
  - “Returning students,” means those who received MAP in the previous award year
- MAP is still subject to appropriation, so filing by the deadline date is still not a guarantee for receiving a MAP award
MAP Administrative Rules

Section 2735.30 Program Procedures

a) An application for a MAP grant must be submitted annually. An applicant uses the form which the United States Department of Education (ED) designates as an application form for federal student financial aid. (See section 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 USC 1070a).)

b) Applicants, spouses and the parents of applicants are required to submit financial information on the application that will be kept confidential, regarding income, asset value and non-taxable income.

c) Priority Deadline Date for Renewing Applicants

No later than September 30, the Commission will annually publish a priority deadline date for renewing applicants. In this subsection (c), renewing applicant means a student attending an institution of higher learning who received a MAP grant during the prior academic year. [110 ILCS 947/35] Subject to appropriation, a renewing applicant who files by the published priority deadline date shall receive a grant if he or she continues to meet the program's eligibility requirements under this Section. A renewing applicant's failure to apply by the priority deadline date would not disqualify an applicant from receiving a grant if sufficient funding is available to provide awards after that date.

d) Awards will be announced concurrently, both to students who had not received a MAP award the previous regular school year and to students who did receive a MAP award during the previous regular school year. Award announcements will be made concurrently through the date of suspension of award announcements.

e) If it becomes necessary to suspend the processing of award announcements in order to remain within appropriated funding levels, the suspension will be applied concurrently to students who had not received a MAP award for the previous regular school year and to students who did receive a MAP award the previous regular school year.
Retention of Illinois Students & Equity (RISE) Act

- Signed into law with an effective date of January 1, 2020
  - Removes 75 MAP Paid Credit Hours (MPCH) cap, effective for MAP-eligible students in the Spring 2020 term
  - Will allow students who are not eligible for federal financial aid to apply for and possibly receive state financial aid.
    - ISAC will implement a RISE Act application process
      - Will use pre-screening questions to determine if student can file the FAFSA
- An information document is accessible at isac.org on the Home page
- Additional information and updates will be provided soon through a series of e-messages, webinars and at ILASFAA Fall Workshops
Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

- The first round of awarding has taken place for all timely and renewal applicants who have been certified as eligible.
- Payment functionality has been added to the MTI system in GAP Access and colleges may now submit fall term payment requests.
  - The MTI User Guide has been updated to include payment processing information.
- The priority application consideration date for the 2019-20 academic year was March 1, 2019, however, complete applications received after this date will continue to be considered as long as funding remains.
  - The date through which 2019-20 applications will be accepted is dependent upon application volume and available funding.
- Colleges should continue to certify eligibility for new applicants to ensure that they will be included in any rounds of future awarding that may take place.
Golden Apple (GA) Scholars

- Beginning with the 2019-20 academic year, the application, certification and award determination functions will be performed by the Golden Apple Foundation in GAP Access and payment processing will be completed by the colleges
  - The Golden Apple Foundation certifies recipients eligibility one term at time, and only term(s) that have been certified will be available for payment
- Payment functionality has been added to the GA system in GAP Access, and colleges may now submit fall term payment requests
  - Because the Golden Apple Foundation completes certification, any adjustment to a student’s academic level during the award year that would impact a student’s award amount must be reported to the Golden Apple Foundation so that they can update the student’s certification record.
  - Once the certification record has been updated, the school will be able to submit a payment request for the updated award amount.
- The contact person at the Foundation is Cheryl Flores at flores@goldenapple.org.
MTI & GA User Guides

GAP Access User Guides

User Guides for all GAP Access functionality are below. General questions, user name and password maintenance, and technical information about GAP Access are answered in the Activating and Authentication User Guides.

- Activating GAP Access User Accounts
- Activating Other GAP Access Administrators
- Activating Your GAP Access Primary Administrator Account
- FAFSA Completion Initiative – Access and Agreement
- GAP Access 2-Step Authentication Instructions
- GAP Access User Verification

- GA User Guide
- ING Benefits Usage Processing
- ING Eligibility User Guide
- IVG Program User Guide
- MAP Advising Data Collection User Guide
- MAP Eligibility User Guide
- MAP Payment User Guide

- MTI User Guide
- SSP File Upload Guide
- SSP GAP Access User Guide

If you have a question about information that is not addressed in the Guides, contact a School Services Representative.
Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers

- **Application**
  - The full-year consideration deadline date was October 1
  - For spring and summer-term consideration, the deadline date is March 1
  - For summer-term consideration only, applications must be received on or before June 15

- **Payment**
  - Fall term rosters have been e-mailed to financial aid directors.
    - Note that the Academic Level column replaces the Social Security Number column as a required field on the [Certification of Enrollment for Payment](#).
  - Rosters should be returned to ISAC on or before November 15, 2019
Sample - PFC Certification of Enrollment Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant's Name</th>
<th>Academic Level</th>
<th>Application Date</th>
<th>Max Term Amt. Awarded</th>
<th>Requested Amount</th>
<th>Total Hours Enrolled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

I certify that each student for whom payment is requested meets all the following:
- Enrolled on at least a half-time basis;
- Making satisfactory academic progress for the term in which payment is being claimed;
- Amount does not exceed the tuition and mandatory fees charged for this term; and
- Compliance with Selective Service requirements.

If not eligible, list reason: ______________________________

_________________________  __________________________
Signature & Title of Certifying Official          Date

_________________________
Telephone Number

_________________________
E-mail Address

* Key – Academic Level:
1 = Freshman
2 = Sophomore
3 = Junior
4 = Senior
5 = Graduate

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Grant Program for Exonerees

- 2019-20 applications are being accepted
  - Online application process is the preferred method
    - A PDF version is also available for printing
  - Funds are limited, so encourage students to submit their applications as soon as possible
    - Applications will be processed in date-received order
  - FY20 is the first time funds have been appropriated for the program
    - Program was created three years ago
  - Intended for individuals whom the Governor has issued a pardon on the grounds of innocence of the crime for which they had been imprisoned, or who have received a certificate of innocence from a circuit court
  - The grant provides assistance toward tuition and mandatory fees at Illinois public colleges and community colleges
  - Funds may also be used to reimburse students for costs associated with obtaining a high school equivalency certificate and/or an official transcript of high school equivalency test scores
Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant

- Application deadline dates:
  - October 1 – for full year
  - March 1 – for spring and summer terms
  - June 15 – for summer term only

- Benefit reporting function for the Fall 2019 term is available in GAP Access
  - The fall term deadline to submit benefit usage data is on or before December 6, 2019
  - Although ISAC did not receive an appropriation to reimburse institutions for 2019-20 ING Grant awards, benefit reporting must still take place so that benefit usage can be accurately assessed to students' accounts
Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)

- Benefit reporting function for the fall term is available in GAP Access
  - The fall term deadline to submit benefit usage data is on or before **December 27, 2019**
  - Although ISAC did not receive an appropriation to reimburse institutions for 2019-20 awards, benefit reporting must still take place so that benefit usage can be accurately assessed to students’ accounts
Effective July 2019, legislation went into effect that expanded the residency requirements for IVG eligibility:

- Emergency rules have been filed that are currently in effect.
- A proposed rule amendment has been filed, which will put the emergency rules into effect permanently once it goes through the typical rule cycle.
- This is the language that was added to existing residency requirements for the program:

  c) An applicant who does not meet the residency requirements in subsection (a) may be a qualified applicant if he or she resides in Illinois at the time of application, and while enrolled, and has been a resident of Illinois for at least 15 consecutive years since leaving federal active duty.
Upcoming Events & Activities

Monthly Webinars
- November 20, 2 p.m. -- ISAC Operational Update
- December -- Will offer a series of webinars to provide information about RISE Act Implementation
  - December 11, 2 p.m.
  - December 12, 10 a.m.
  - December 18, 2 p.m.
  - December 19, 10 a.m.

ILASFAA Fall Workshops
- Friday, November 8, Spoon River College Macomb Community Outreach Center, Macomb, IL
- Thursday, November 14, Waubonsee Community College, Sugar Grove, IL
- Monday, November 18, Rend Lake College, Ina, IL
  - Workshop registration fee is $50 for members and $75 for non-members (which includes membership dues for the remainder of the year).
  - To register and to view the agenda, visit the ILASFAA Training page at: [https://ilasfaa.org/docs/toc_training.html](https://ilasfaa.org/docs/toc_training.html)

Next Commission Meeting is December 5 in Chicago
An Overview of ISAC’s Military Programs
ISAC’s Military Programs

- Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Program and Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program
  - Entitlement programs
    - Exemption from paying tuition and some fees
    - Awarded to all eligible applicants regardless of funding level
  - Specified by Illinois statute
    - Chapter 110, Higher Education Student Assistance Act
    - Assistance to be granted as long as federal government provides educational benefits to veterans
  - Available at all four-year public universities and public community colleges
  - Can be used at the undergraduate and graduate level
ING Grant and IVG Eligibility Units

- Students receive 120 units of eligibility*
  - Equivalent to four academic years of full-time enrollment
  - Units are based on the enrolled hours for a term:

<table>
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<th># of Hours</th>
<th>Semester School</th>
<th>Quarter School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 or more</td>
<td>12 units</td>
<td>8 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 – 11.99</td>
<td>9 units</td>
<td>6 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 – 8.99</td>
<td>6 units</td>
<td>4 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 – 5.99</td>
<td>3 units</td>
<td>2 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 – 2.99</td>
<td>1 unit</td>
<td>1 unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Members of the Illinois National Guard who have served at least 10 years in the Guard may be eligible to receive up to 180 units (6 years) of eligibility for the ING Grant.
ING Grant Benefits

- No minimum enrollment requirement
- Academic year begins with fall term
- Pays “tuition and certain fees”
  - Fees specifically included in statute:
    - Registration
    - Graduation
    - General Activity
    - Matriculation
      - Typically charged only to new students when they have been both admitted and enrolled
    - Term
  - Students are not responsible for out-of-district or out-of-state tuition charges
ING Grant Benefits

- A student who withdraws after a school’s refund date can receive the grant for costs incurred up to the term award.

- If a recipient ceases to be an active member of the Guard during a term, benefits cease and the student is responsible for costs attributed to the remainder of the term.

- If a recipient becomes eligible during a term, benefits will be prorated for the remainder of the term
  
  Proration calculation: total tuition cost divided by total instructional days = cost per day x days of eligibility = total proration
ING Grant Eligibility

- Must have served at least one year with the Illinois National Guard
- Must be in active status
- Available to any enlisted member or officer
- Must maintain an acceptable grade point average
  - As determined by the institution
Applying for ING Grant

- Online application process at isac.org
  - Application deadlines dates:
    - October 1 — first term
    - March 1 — second semester, second and/or third quarter
    - June 15 — summer term
  - Students will receive a confirmation page upon completing the application
  - Student must re-apply each year
  - Application process involves certification from the Illinois Department of Military Affairs
  - Qualified applicants receive a notice of eligibility from ISAC by mail
Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant

Welcome to the online application process for the Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant.

Important information regarding this program including the eligibility requirements, may be accessed by selecting from among the options that appear in the menu at the right margin of the Application Certification Statement page. Be sure you read and understand this information prior to submitting an application.

Launching the ING application below will open the Student Portal, where you can either login if you already have an account, or create one for the future. If you create a personal profile, the system will automatically use that information to fill in part of your application, and then process it after you complete the rest.

Having an account will also give you a way to check on the status of your application, keep track of the number of eligibility units you have used and view and print your most recent ING Grant eligibility notification.

If you prefer not to create an account, you can proceed directly to the application by clicking on “National Guard” in the upper right corner of the Student Portal page.

Launch the Illinois National Guard Grant application
Apply now.

**ING GRANT APPLICATION**

**Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant Application**

Illinois National Guard member? You’re in the right place to apply for a grant that pays tuition and fees at Illinois 2- and 4-year public colleges.

First time here and want to learn more? Click to find out about the [ING Grant Program](#).

Remember to file an application each academic year before the term deadline dates.

Please note the ING Grant application cannot be completed and submitted through your mobile or tablet device. From a Wi-fi-enabled desktop or laptop, visit the Student Portal of isac.org to complete the application.

**START APPLICATION**
**ING GRANT APPLICATION**

### Personal Information

- **First Name**
- **Last Name**
- **Middle Initial**
- **Date of Birth**
- **Social Security Number**
- **Confirm Social Security Number**

- **Permanent Address**
- **City**
- **State**
- **ZIP Code**
- **E-mail**
- **Confirm E-mail**

---

### College Information

- **Academic Year I am applying for**
- **I will be attending...**
  - Same college for entire academic year

- **Different college for different terms**
  - **Fall Term College**
    - SELECT A SCHOOL
  - **Spring Term College**
    - SELECT A SCHOOL
  - **Summer Term College**
    - SELECT A SCHOOL

- **BACK**
- **NEXT**
ING Grant System in GAP Access

- GAP Access is the portal through which the ING Grant program is administered
  - A secure authentication process is required to access GAP Access
  - Each school's GAP Access Primary Administrator is responsible for authorizing GAP Access users
    - Refer to the GAP Access User Guide for general questions, user name and password maintenance, and technical information about GAP Access
  - The system is available each day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (CT)

- To access the ING Grant system:
  - Log in to GAP Access and select ING from the Program list
    - The GAP Access system is accessible at https://isacportal.isac.org/
  - Select the academic year and View Student List
  - To access functions within the ING Grant system, select the appropriate tab based on sorting and viewing needs and preferences
Accessing the ING Grant System

Welcome to the Internet application for processing the Illinois National Guard (ING) Program.
ISAC Gift Assistance Programs (GAP) Access

Assigning an Administrator

GAP Access User Verification

GAP Access User Verification is completed through the GAP Access portal. After receiving an e-mail from ISAC that the user verification process is underway, the school's Primary Administrator is responsible for checking, updating, and verifying GAP Access users at the school, then submitting a confirmation of the verification online to ISAC by the due date provided in the e-mail.

- GAP Access User Verification guide

Monetary Award Program (MAP)

All MAP electronic processing and management of information by colleges takes place through the GAP Access portal, including access to student eligibility data and submission of requests for payment.

- MAP User Guide
- Webinar PowerPoint Presentations

MAP Advising Date

The MAP Advising Date component of GAP Access provides a streamlined and standardized means of reporting course completion rates and descriptions of advising and support programs that are available for MAP recipients on college campuses.

- MAP Advising Data Collection User Guide

State Scholar Program (SSP)

The sixth semester data used to determine State Scholars must be submitted via the GAP Access portal. High schools may choose from two online options when submitting the required sixth semester data. Individual records may be submitted or Excel spreadsheets (following ISAC's formatting specifications) may be uploaded through the batch process. The Required Sixth Semester Data page contains information about the required data and using GAP Access for submissions.

- SSP GAP Access User Guide
- SSP File Upload Guide

Illinois National Guard Grant (ING) Program

All ING electronic processing and management of information by colleges takes place through the GAP Access portal, including access to student eligibility data and processing of benefit usage data. Details are available on the ING Grant Electronic Processing page.

- ING Eligibility User Guide
- ING Benefits Usage Processing

Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program

IVG Benefit Usage processing takes place through the GAP Access portal (replacing IVG claim processing that was previously done via the My Zone system). IVG Benefit Usage is similar to ING and MAP claim processing with the same reporting and file extraction capabilities. Specific details regarding the IVG Benefit Usage, including the IVG File Specifications and important reminders and
ING Grant Award Notification

- Qualified student applicants receive a Notice of Eligibility from ISAC
  - Ineligible applicants also receive written notification
- Schools receive eligibility information in the ING Grant system in GAP Access
  - When a student submits an ING Grant application to ISAC, a record is added to the school’s database in the ING system
    - Only the school listed on the student application receives the information
  - Data will be added whenever there is a new or updated eligible record for the school
  - It is recommended that schools check GAP Access at least once a week for new data that may have been posted for the award year
  - Can use online data to verify eligibility rather than requiring the student’s Notice of Eligibility
- Students can access their eligibility information and benefit history through the ISAC Student Portal at studentportal.isac.org
  - Must create an account and login to access their data
Student List Eligibility: View

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<th>#</th>
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<th>Set</th>
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<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>ISAC DRT</th>
<th>ING Units Used</th>
<th>Application Receipt Date</th>
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<td>73</td>
<td>04/11/2019</td>
<td>06/06/2019</td>
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Save Selected  View Report  Excel Report
**Student Detail: Eligibility**

### Person Details

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<tr>
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<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Appl Receipt Date</th>
<th>Certification Date</th>
<th>Last Update</th>
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### Details

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<th>Benefits</th>
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- **Branch:** 
  - Army
- **Base:**
- **Certified Eligible:** Y
- **Eligible Until:**
- **Eligible On or After:**
- **10 Year:**

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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**View History**
ING Grant Benefit Request Process

- The required benefit request process for the ING Grant is completed in the GAP Access portal.
- Even when ISAC does not receive appropriation to reimburse schools, the benefit request process must still take place so that benefit usage can be tracked and accurately assessed to students' accounts.
- Schools must report enrollment hours and benefit dollar amounts for initial, supplemental (adjustments), in-district and out-of-district claims.
- The benefit request process involves two distinct steps:
  - Creating the request, which involves identifying student records for benefit usage and indicating their enrollment hours/status.
  - Submitting the request, which sends the identified records to ISAC for processing.
- A cumulative list of benefit request records is available for the entire fiscal year.
Student Detail: Benefits
Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)

- Covers tuition and mandatory fees
  - Students attending out-of-district community colleges receive in-district rates and are not responsible for the difference
  - Mandatory fee definition:
    - The charges assessed by an institution to each and every full-time student for each term. Application, graduation, laboratory, breakage, add/drop fees, and program administrative fees for out-of-state or foreign study are specifically excluded. For the purposes of ISAC's rules, tuition is not a mandatory fee.
- No minimum enrollment requirement
- Available to undergraduate and graduate students
- Academic year begins with summer term
IVG Eligibility Requirements

- Served at least one year federal active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States
  - Includes the Illinois National Guard and Reserve component of the Armed Forces
  - If less than one year, veteran may qualify if:
    - Service was in a foreign country in a time of hostilities in that country
    - Separation was for medical reasons directly connected to such service
    - Service was prior to August 11, 1967

- Separation characterized as honorable
  - If still in the Armed Forces, veteran must verify continued eligibility upon discharge
IVG Eligibility Requirements

Legislation that took effect in July 2019 amends the Illinois residency requirements for this program. The amended requirements are reflected in #4 of the following:

- To be considered eligible to receive IVG benefits, a student must satisfy Illinois residency requirements by meeting the below qualifications as outlined in either #1, #2 and #3, or in #4:
  1. currently reside in Illinois unless you are serving federal active duty service at the time of enrollment in college or residing with a spouse in continued military service who is currently stationed outside of Illinois.
  2. were a resident of Illinois at the time of entering federal active duty service or within six months prior to entering the service or were a student at an Illinois public 2- or 4-year college at the time of entering federal active duty service.
  3. established, or if on federal active duty service, plan to establish Illinois residency within six months after leaving federal active duty service, or if married to a person in continued military service:
     a. apply for this grant within six months after and including the date the spouse was stationed within Illinois, or
     b. if the spouse was stationed outside Illinois, established, or plan to establish, Illinois residency within six months after and including the date the spouse was separated.

  OR

  4. Reside in Illinois at the time of application and at the time of receiving benefits for enrollment and, at some point after leaving federal active duty service, have been a resident of Illinois for at least 15 consecutive years.
Applying for IVG

- ISAC application available at isac.org
- Can be submitted anytime during academic year
- Only need to submit one time
  - Does not include school choice on the application
- Applicants must also submit a copy of their Department of Defense Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD214 Member 4 copy) or its equivalent for all periods of active service
Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program

Because this is an entitlement program, eligible recipients will receive their awards regardless of annual appropriations by the Illinois General Assembly and the Governor. Illinois public 2- and 4-year colleges are required to waive any eligible tuition and allowable fees that are not covered by state appropriations.

You may either scroll through this page, or click on any of the following links to go directly to a specific topic:

- Program Description
- IVG FAQs
- Eligibility
- Eligibility Units
- Using IVG with Other Tuition/Fee Benefits

IMPORTANT: Individuals who are eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at less than the full tuition waiver rate may be required to make a contribution to the cost of tuition and fees (or an alternative service) and choose to use those benefits.

How to Apply

How to Apply (and Obtaining the Application)
How Funds Are Disbursed
Program Updates

How to Apply

The Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) application is available online as an interactive application via the Student Portal. The online application has many benefits, including program information which is available at your fingertips, online edits which prevent errors, elimination of mailing time, and immediate confirmation that your application has been received at ISAC.

In order to ensure that your application is processed in a timely manner, be sure to carefully read the instructions, submit all required documentation (part of the interactive application process), and contact an ISAC Call Center Representative if you are uncertain about what documentation is needed.

For an equivalent copy of a DD Form 214 Member-4, contact the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, P.O. Box 19432, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9432 or phone 217.782.4652, or the National Personnel Records Center.

Applications for the IVG Program can be submitted any time during the academic year for which assistance is being requested, and need to be submitted only once to establish eligibility. Fully completed applications (including all required documentation) must be received at ISAC allowing sufficient time to complete necessary verification.

Paying For College
Applying For Financial Aid
Types Of Financial Aid
Illinois And Federal Financial Aid Programs
Work-Study Programs
Grants
Monetary Award Program (MAP)
Applying for IVG

- An applicant who is a member of the Armed Forces at the time of application must submit a letter from the commanding officer indicating:
  - that the applicant is a member of the Armed Forces
  - character of service
  - applicant’s home of record at the time of enlistment
  - length of time in each period of federal active duty
  - expiration date of current enlistment

- The student will be subject to verification of continued eligibility after each period of federal active duty service.
IVG Online Application

- Accessible through the ISAC Student Portal
- Edit checks have been built into the application
  - Will present required questions based on answers provided
- Provides the ability to submit electronic copies of DD214s and any required residency documentation
  - Acceptable formats are PDF, JPEG, DOC, DOCX files
  - If an electronic copy is not available, the applicant can mail the supporting documentation to ISAC
IVG Application

- The paper application is still available at isac.org as well
  - The current version has the date of 6/18 in the footer
  - An updated version with information about the expanded residency requirement will be available soon.
COLLEGE PLANNING MADE EASY.

Planning for college can seem pretty overwhelming, but it can be a lot easier with the right tools just a click away. Remember, it’s never too early to start planning! Use the ISAC Student Portal to help you choose a college, learn about college options, apply for scholarships, simplify the financial aid process, budget your money, and much more. You can even chat with one of our ISACorps counselors for one-on-one guidance.
Apply now.

IVG GRANT APPLICATION

Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program Application

Welcome to the online Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program application.

Please read this important information about the program and how to make sure your application is completed correctly before it is submitted. If you have a Student Portal profile, some of the application information will be prepopulated for you. If you need to create a new profile, go to the Student Portal and click on Login.

The Illinois Veteran Grant covers tuition and mandatory fees at any community college.

**Program Eligibility Requirements**

- **Service Requirement** – you must have:
  - at least one year of honorable federal active duty service in the Armed Forces (includes those currently serving), or
  - honorably served on federal active duty in a foreign country during a period of war or incident to a war

5. The mailing address on the DD Form 214 Member-4 (at time of separation) must be in Illinois. If other than Illinois, you are required to submit documentation as proof of Illinois residency.

- **Were you medically discharged?** You must provide a copy of the U.S. Medical Board Statement, Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) Proceedings, DA Form 199, stating discharge was due to a medical reason directly connected to your federal active duty service.

**Notification to your college**

You must notify your college’s financial aid office of your eligibility status as soon as possible, but no later than the last scheduled day of classes of the term for which a grant is requested.

**Confidential Information**

Because you will be providing confidential information about yourself while completing this application, be sure to protect your personal data by closing the browser when you are finished. In addition, do not set a bookmark for application pages.

**Subscribe for updates**

Get updates about the IVG Program and other service-related information by subscribing to our Military Service Members/Veterans e-Messaging service.
Personal Information

First Name
Middle Initial
Last Name
Prior Last Name
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)
County if in Illinois
Phone Number

Permanent Address
City
State
ZIP Code
E-mail
Confirm E-mail
Social Security Number
Confirm Social Security Number

Service Information

Use the information from your Department of Defense Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) Member-4 copy(ies) to complete information in this section. You will be given the opportunity to scan and upload the required documentation. If you are unable or prefer not to submit your documentation electronically, you may instead send it via U.S. mail to ISAC Dept. D, 1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, IL 60015-5209.

Current Service

Are you currently serving on federal active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered ‘No’ above you must submit a DD Form 214 Member-4 or equivalent Department of Defense (DOD) documentation for your most recent period of federal active duty service.
# Breaks in service

If you had breaks in service you must list each period of federal active duty service and submit a DD Form 214 Member-4 or equivalent Department of Defense (DOD) documentation for each period of federal active duty service.

Please enter a valid From Date, To Date and then upload a file.

**From:** [ ]  [ ]

**To:** [ ]  [ ]

## Total Prior Active Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Month(s)</th>
<th>Day(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## DD Form 214 Member-4 Prior Years of Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date Received (MM/DD/YYYY)</th>
<th>From Date (MM/DD/YYYY)</th>
<th>To Date (MM/DD/YYYY)</th>
<th>Prior Years</th>
<th>Prior Months</th>
<th>Prior Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please Upload documents after selecting file. Allowed formats are (PDF, JPG, JPEG, DOC, DOCX)

[Upload File]

**ADD AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF FEDERAL ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE**
IVG Notification

- Student receives Notice of Eligibility from ISAC
  - Students can also access information about their eligibility in the ISAC Student Portal
  - Applicant must notify the school of his/her eligibility no later than the last day of classes for the term for which the grant is requested

- Schools can access eligibility records via GAP Access
  - Your IVG system program privileges must be set to:
    - IVG "View" to be able to view IVG eligibility and benefits used information
    - IVG "Update" to request, edit or update IVG benefit usage data
  - Once you have successfully logged in to GAP Access, the IVG information can be accessed by selecting IVG from the list of programs
Student Benefit List: View

![Student Benefit List: View](image)

### ING Student Benefit List: View

**Select School and ING Code**

**Benefits**

- List
- Filter
- Sort
- Columns
- Benefit Request Entry
- Submit Benefit Requests

**Entries displayed** 100

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Sel</th>
<th>Req</th>
<th>Sel</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Current SSN</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>ING Code</th>
<th>Request Code</th>
<th>Enrollment Hours</th>
<th>In Dist Tuition</th>
<th>Out of Dist Tuition</th>
<th>Eligible Fees</th>
<th>Requested Amount</th>
<th>Post 9/11 GI Bill</th>
<th>Benefit Amount</th>
<th>Adjusted Amount</th>
<th>Units Used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The initial student list that you will see when logging in to the IVG system will be a list of all students who have received an IVG benefit at your institution in the last three academic years.

You will then have the ability through the Add Student screen to search ISAC’s database for new, additional students who may want to use their IVG benefits at your school.

Once you’ve added a student to your list, you will be able to see an eligibility detail screen for them and create a benefit request for them.

The academic terms are numbered in the IVG system as follows:

- 3 = Summer term
- 1 = Fall term
- 2 = Spring term
IVG Student Lists in GAP Access

- To add a student to your school list, you must enter at least two of the three student identifiers.
- If your search does not provide a result, that means either the student is not eligible or is not in ISAC’s database:
  - For example, you will not be able to add a student whose IVG application is in process and has not yet been determined to be eligible or an applicant whose status may have changed from eligible to ineligible.
- If you are unable to locate a student who you believe should be in ISAC’s IVG database, please contact ISAC’s School Services Department for assistance at 866.247.2172 or isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov.
IVG Benefit Request Process

- Schools complete the benefit request (claim) process online in GAP Access
- Requests can also be submitted using the File Transfer Protocol (FTP) process
  - See the Electronic Tools page in the E-Library at isac.org
  - Contact School Services for set up information
- A User Guide and FTP File Specifications have been posted to isac.org for your reference
Request options:

- “Benefit” to create a benefit request
- “Cancel” to cancel a previously-submitted request
- “Delete” to delete a request that has been created but not yet submitted.

Be sure click on the Save Changes button before navigating to another screen.
Benefit Usage History

- An enhancement made in GAP Access allows colleges to view a student’s history of IVG units used at all colleges that reported benefit usage.
- The historical information is accessible via a “Units Used” tab on the Student Eligibility: Detail screen.
- Students may view their IVG benefit usage history by logging into the ISAC Student Portal and checking their status via the IVG link on the ISAC Programs page.
### Units Used

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>School Code</th>
<th>IVG Code</th>
<th>Benefit Amount</th>
<th>Enrollment Hours</th>
<th>Units Used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>6116.02</td>
<td>17.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>6121.02</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>6297.52</td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>6297.52</td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>6364.02</td>
<td>19.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>2789.21</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>6393.02</td>
<td>16.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>6446.02</td>
<td>18.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>1652.72</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Showing 1 - 10 out of 11
Crediting Student Accounts and Tracking Benefit Usage for ING & IVG

- Compliance reminders
  - Be consistent
    - Ensure that the amounts reported on student account is consistent with data reported to ISAC
      - Dollar amounts
      - Enrollment hours
  - Report benefit usage correctly
    - Report actual number of enrollment hours
    - Be sure to make all necessary adjustments
  - Do not include or combine institutional or other waiver programs with ING Grant or IVG benefit amounts on student or institution records
Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Electronic Processing

Overview
The Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) program benefit usage data is processed through ISAC’s Assistance Program (GAP) Access Portal replacing My Zone beginning February 2018. Students for whom the college has reported benefit usage data within the past three years on the Student Benefit List View screen. Colleges can create and submit benefit records to applicants in the same manner as MAP and ING claims. Refer to the IVG Program User details regarding Benefit Usage Processing.

Access the IVG System
Due to the confidential nature of the student-specific data involved, a secure authenticated login is required before access to the IVG system can be granted. All users, not just those within the financial aid office, need a valid GAP Access ID and password (for example, users who

IVG User Guide
Details about navigation, student eligibility, benefits request processing and results, reports and file extractions can be found in the IVG User Guide that can be viewed online, printed or saved to your computer for future reference. The user guide provides detailed information about IVG functions and processing routines.

IVG File Specifications
The IVG File Specifications, describing the file layout to be used to send data for the IVG Program to ISAC via File Transfer Protocol (FTP), are available within the Electronic Tools section of the e-Library. Please make sure all files conform to this new format. To activate participation in the IVG FTP process, or to schedule the transmission of an IVG FTP test file, colleges must contact School Services.

File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
Enhanced security for ISAC’s File Transfer Website, requires a valid GAP Access user ID and password in order to submit benefits used files via transfer.isac.org. Additional information and instructions are provided in the FTP Process Using GAP Access Credentials Guide.

Helpful Hints
- The IVG system via GAP Access works best using Internet Explorer 8.0 or higher.
- Adjust the screen resolution if needed.
- For optimum printing of screens, set the printing option to landscape.
- Schedule reports to run when IVG is not needed for other functions (for example, at the end of the day or during off-peak hours).
Combining Veteran Education Benefits
When Veterans Are Eligible for Multiple ISAC Programs

- Students eligible for MAP and IVG or ING must use IVG or ING benefits instead of MAP
  - A student cannot decline IVG or ING to use MAP
- Students eligible for IVG and ING can choose which program they would like to use
- Students can use IVG and ING together
  - The same amount of eligibility units will be charged to each program regardless of the amount of benefits paid
- Students can decline IVG, ING and/or MAP to use federal benefits that also provide tuition and fee benefits
Combining Post-9/11 GI Bill Program with State Benefits

- For veterans who are eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at less than 100% and who use those benefits with the IVG or ING Grant programs in the same term, the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits should be applied first (VA will be first payer), and any remaining eligible tuition and fee charges would be covered by the IVG and/or ING Grant.

- The number of IVG and ING Grant units used will be prorated accordingly, based on the student’s eligibility level for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.
Length of Service Percentage (38 CFR 21.9640)

Eligible students receive a percentage of the Chapter 33 benefit for tuition and fees, monthly housing allowance, and book stipend based on their length of service. The percentage is determined by the student’s aggregate active duty service after September 10, 2001. All creditable active duty and qualifying call-up service are combined to determine the aggregate service.

Length of service percentages are described in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Requirements (Aggregate Active Duty after 9/10/01)</th>
<th>% of Maximum Benefit Payable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least 36 months</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 30 continuous days on active duty (Must be discharged due to a service-connected disability)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarded the Purple Heart</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 30 months, but less than 36 months (1)</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 24 months, but less than 30 months (1)</td>
<td>80(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 18 months, but less than 24 months (2)</td>
<td>70(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 12 months, but less than 18 months (2)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 06 months, but less than 12 months (2)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 90 days, but less than 06 months (2)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prorating IVG or ING Units When Combined with Post-9/11 GI Bill

- When IVG or ING Grant is used with the Post-9/11 GI Bill as “last payer,” ISAC will prorate eligibility units
  - Using the Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility level reported in GAP Access, ISAC will calculate the remaining percentage to be used for proration purposes
  - The system will multiply the number of credit hours the student is enrolled in by the system-calculated IVG or ING percentage and the result will be converted to eligibility units using the chart found in the program rules

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Hours</th>
<th>Semester Term</th>
<th>Quarter Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 or more hours</td>
<td>12 units</td>
<td>8 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 - 11.99 hours</td>
<td>9 units</td>
<td>6 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - 8.99 hours</td>
<td>6 units</td>
<td>4 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - 5.99 hours</td>
<td>3 units</td>
<td>2 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 - 2.99 hours</td>
<td>1 units</td>
<td>1 units</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Sample Scenarios

Enrollment status of 12 credit hours for a semester
Tuition & mandatory fees are $10,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>80% eligibility level for Post-9/11 GI Bill combined with IVG</th>
<th>40% eligibility level for Post-9/11 GI Bill combined with ING Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 x .80 = $8,000 of tuition and fees covered by Post-9/11 GI Bill (VA is first payer)</td>
<td>$10,000 x .40 = $4,000 of tuition and fees paid by Post-9/11 GI Bill (VA is first payer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,000 (20%) covered by IVG</td>
<td>$6,000 (60%) covered by ING Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.20 x 12 credit hours = 2.4%</td>
<td>.60 x 12 credit hours = 7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 converts to 1 unit</td>
<td>7.2 converts to 6 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student would use 1 IVG unit and 4 months of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits</td>
<td>Student would use 6 ING Grant units and 4 months of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Sample Scenarios

Enrollment status of 12 credit hours for a semester
Tuition & mandatory fees are $10,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>100% eligibility level for Post-9/11 GI Bill combined with IVG</th>
<th>100% eligibility level for Post-9/11 GI Bill combined with ING Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If student chooses to use both programs, IVG should be applied first</td>
<td>If student chooses to use both programs, ING should be applied first</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 of tuition and fees covered by IVG</td>
<td>$10,000 of tuition and fees covered by ING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA-eligible fees not covered by IVG, as well as monthly housing allowance and book stipend provided by Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits</td>
<td>VA-eligible fees not covered by ING, as well as monthly housing allowance and book stipend provided by Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No proration of IVG units</td>
<td>No proration of ING units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student would use 12 IVG units and 4 months of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits</td>
<td>Student would use 12 ING units and 4 months of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample Scenarios

Enrollment status of 12 credit hours for a semester
Tuition & mandatory fees are $10,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>100% eligibility level for Post-9/11 GI Bill combined with IVG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only 9 of the 12 credit hours are eligible to be covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill program because one of the classes is not required for the student’s degree program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVG would be first payer since the student’s eligibility level for Post-9/11 GI Bill is 100% and IVG would cover $10,000 in tuition and fees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student could receive other Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits (housing allowance and book stipend) for the eligible 9 hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If student uses both programs, the student would use 12 IVG units and 4 months of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample Scenarios

Enrollment status of 12 credit hours for a semester
Tuition & mandatory fees are $10,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>80% eligibility level for Post-9/11 GI Bill combined with IVG Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Only 9 of the 12 credit hours are eligible to be covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill program because one of the classes is not required for the student’s degree program.

Post-9/11 GI Bill program would be first payer since the student’s eligibility level for Post-9/11 GI Bill is 80% and IVG would cover any remaining tuition and fees, including the 20% not eligible for Post-9/11 Bill benefits AND 100% of the tuition and mandatory fees for the three credit hours that are not eligible to be covered by VA benefits.

The student would receive other Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits at the 80% level (housing allowance and book stipend) for the eligible 9 hours.

In GAP Access, schools would report enrollment of 12 hours for IVG, an eligibility level of 80% for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, and the amount of tuition and mandatory fee benefits covered by IVG (including the amount of the three credit hours not covered by the VA).

The IVG system will calculate the IVG benefit as being at 20% (regardless of the dollar amount of the benefit reported) and the student would be charged with using 1 IVG unit.

- .20 x 12 credit hours = 2.4%
- 2.4 converts to 1 unit

Please note: The school should not attempt to calculate a percentage based on the dollar amount of the IVG benefit or on the percentage of charges that the VA did not pay. The percentage that should be reported in GAP Access should always be the Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility level that’s been confirmed by the VA. The only exception to this is the 100% level, which does not have to be reported in GAP Access.
VA Education and Training Benefits

VA education benefits help Veterans, Servicemembers, and their qualified family members with needs like paying college tuition, finding the right school or training program, and getting career counseling. Learn how to apply for and manage the education and training benefits you’ve earned.

On This Page
- Get GI Bill and Other Education Benefits
- Manage Your Veterans Education Benefits
- More Information and Resources
Compliance

Welcome to the IACRAO compliance page. This page provides links to information that can have an impact on Admission and Records professionals in Illinois.

Click a topic below to view the contents of that section.

- [AACRAO Advocacy Listserv](#)
- [General Provisions (5 ILCS 160) Records Act](#) – Impacts Public Universities. It is about records retention and disposal
- [Identity Protection Act (Public Act 096-0874)](#) – Impacts State and Local Government such as Public Universities. It is about using Social Security numbers
- [Voter Registration (Public Act 094-0492)](#) – Impacts public institutions of higher learning in Illinois. Sec. 1A-30 states that Voter Registration Information and forms are to be distributed as part of in-person student registration
- [Illinois Residency (110 ILCS/675/20-88)](#) - Guidelines for in-state tuition charge and residency
- [Higher Education Veterans Service Act (Public Act 096-0133)](#) – Requires all public colleges and universities to conduct a survey of the services and programs provided for veterans, active duty military and their families. The survey is to be available on the institution homepage
- [Students called to active military service (Public Act 094-0587)](#) outlines the expectations on how public universities and community colleges will treat currently enrolled students that are called to active service. Includes withdraw and registration information.
ISAC Contact Information

School Services
866-247-2172
isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

ISAC Call Center – Student Services
800-899-4722
isac.studentservices@illinois.gov

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Questions/Comments?

Thank you for attending today!