

Illinois Veteran Grant **Frequently Asked Questions**

What is the Illinois Veteran Grant?

A state program since 1967, the Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) is authorized in Illinois statute by the Higher Education Student Assistance Act (110 ILCS 947/) to cover all tuition and mandatory fees for qualified applicants attending public universities or community colleges in the state for a period that is equivalent to 4 years of full-time enrollment, including summer terms.

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

Yes. IVG 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 mandatory 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 Veteran Grant?

To be eligible for the IVG, you must have served for at least one year of federal active duty service in the Armed Forces of the United States, a Reserve component of the Armed Forces, or the Illinois National Guard. Or, regardless of length of service, you may be eligible if you have served in a foreign country in a time of hostilities in that country; have been medically discharged for service related reasons; or have been discharged prior to August 11, 1967.

Members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and those whose only service has been attendance at a service academy are not eligible.

You must also meet a set of additional qualifications, including Illinois residency requirements, that are more specifically explained on the ISAC website at isac.org.

Can I use the grant for private schools?

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

Can I use the 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 IVG 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, IVG may be used at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

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

No. There is no minimum enrollment requirement and non-credit courses are eligible for IVG. IVG benefits do not expire. It is the student's responsibility, however, to notify the college of his or her eligibility status for IVG by the last scheduled day of classes for the term for which the student would like to utilize the benefits.

What fees are covered by the IVG?

IVG covers mandatory fees, defined for this grant as a fee that an institution assesses 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.

Please note that military benefit programs vary with respect to fees eligible for benefits. The federal Post-9/11 GI Bill, for example, covers fees such as health premiums, freshman fees, graduation fees, and lab fees, among others. Consult with your college or university's financial aid office to learn more about which fees would be covered by IVG or other programs for which you may be eligible.

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

Students who qualify for IVG 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 IVG 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 IVG benefits. In such instances, the number of IVG eligibility units assessed will be prorated, based on the percentage of charges paid by IVG 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 IVG and the Post-9/11 program may choose to not use their IVG benefits and use only their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

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

Students who qualify for IVG 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@illinois.gov.