

CHAPTER 17

IOWA NATIONAL GUARD MASTER’S SCHOLARSHIP

The Iowa National Guard STEM Master’s Scholarship (NGM) provides funds for eligible members of the Iowa National Guard to help with the cost of attending STEM master’s programs at Iowa colleges and universities. Please see the [Historical Appropriations Summary](#) for a history of state appropriations.

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. College/University

The Code of Iowa limits NGM eligibility to Iowa colleges/universities that are accredited by a national accrediting agency recognized by the United States department of education. Students attending the colleges/universities listed on the following table are eligible to receive NGM awards.

Regent Universities

University	Location
Iowa State University	Ames
University of Iowa	Iowa City
University of Northern Iowa	Cedar Falls

Private Colleges and Universities

University/College	Location
Allen College	Waterloo
Briar Cliff University	Sioux City
Buena Vista University	Storm Lake
Clarke University	Dubuque
Dordt University	Sioux Center
Drake University	Des Moines
Faith Baptist Bible College	Ankeny

Graceland University	Lamoni
Grand View University	Des Moines
Loras College	Dubuque
Mercy College of Health Sciences	Des Moines
Morningside University	Sioux City
Mount Mercy University	Cedar Rapids
Northwestern College	Orange City
St. Ambrose University	Davenport
Simpson College	Indianola
University of Dubuque	Dubuque
Upper Iowa University	Fayette
Waldorf University	Forest City
Wartburg College	Waverly
William Penn University	Oskaloosa

2. Student

Service Members must meet the following prerequisites:

- Be an active member of the Iowa Army or Air National Guard.
- Eligible Service Members must meet all of the following:
 - Be a resident of Iowa as determined by The Adjutant General (TAG) and a Service Member of the Iowa National Guard.
 - Service Members have satisfactorily completed the required Initial Entry Training (IET).
 - Maintains satisfactory performance of duty throughout the program's use (i.e. not flagged, has satisfactory drill and A.T. attendance, current passing physical fitness test and satisfies height/weight requirements).
 - Has applied for NGM by the application deadline date(s), unless accepted by policy or law. No exceptions to this policy will be authorized for late applications, unless out of state on Title 10 orders under training or deployment status. The NGM application deadlines are:
 - July 1st for fall semester.
 - December 1st for spring and summer semesters.
 - Apply for Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) for all courses (until the fund or credit cap is exhausted, Air Guard members not eligible for FTA are exempt).

- Maintains satisfactory academic progress toward a STEM graduate degree at an eligible Iowa college/university. Satisfactory academic progress is determined by the institution for which benefits are utilized or applied. The standards each institution must publish are outlined in CFR § 668.34.
- Provide notice of National Guard status to the college/university at the time of registration.
- Has not utilized 36 semester hours of assistance or equivalent.
- Service members of the Iowa National Guard who are awarded NGM funds and then become ineligible or are discharged from the Iowa National Guard during the semester or term of their award may have their awards removed or reduced at the discretion of the Guard.
- Approved traditional (M-Day) Soldiers and Airmen will be funded first. Title 5 Federal Technicians are eligible to receive NGM, as they are considered to be M-Day applicants. AGRs and dual status technicians are ineligible, but are encouraged to apply - the ability to fund these awards will be based on availability of funds and an approved ETP.
- Be enrolled in an eligible STEM master's degree program. You can find the list of eligible programs [here](#). Scroll down to the sections titled "Fields of study". Students must be enrolled in a master's program that matches a CIP code on the list.

B. STUDENT APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are required to complete both the Iowa Financial Aid Application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Fall 2025 awards are not available. Spring and summer applications should be submitted on or before December 1, 2025.

Applicants who are eligible to apply for Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) are required to complete funding requests for each course on the ArmyIgnitED website. The funding request window for FTA opens 60 days, and closes 7 days, prior to the start of the course.

C. SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

The Adjutant General of Iowa determines Iowa residency for NGM applicants, and selects eligible recipients. These students are placed on the NGM Designated Roster in the Iowa College Aid Processing System (ICAPS®), and college/university officials verify their enrollment and FTA award. Students may not be awarded under this program until their names appear on the NGM Designated Roster.

Iowa college/university officials can access a designated roster of NGM recipients by logging into the ICAPS and clicking on rosters. Only students on a Designated Roster can receive an NGM payment. College/university officials should use the awarding instructions in this chapter in conjunction with general guidance in Chapters 1 - 3, to award NGM.

The Iowa National Guard will ensure the NGM applications approved and designated are for applicants who have also applied for FTA (if required). Therefore, the Designated roster in ICAPS is the definitive source of INGSS approvals. However, before calculating an NGM award for an approved student, financial aid offices will need to coordinate with the office responsible for FTA at their institution to identify which students on their NGM roster are eligible for FTA and ensure that any FTA received in that semester is deducted from the NGM award.

It is important to verify the semesters that a Service Member is eligible to receive NGM funds. Service Members will be certified for eligibility separately for the fall, spring and summer semesters. Certification for fall will happen following the July 1 application deadline (no fall awards will be made during the 2025-26 year), spring and summer certification will happen following the December 1 application deadline. Be sure to check the Designated Roster for each term separately.

College/university officials can view the total number of aggregate NGM credit hours the applicant has received. To view the report in ICAPS go to 'Standard Reports' and select 'NG Grant History' and 'NGM' for the program. No designated NGM applicants can be awarded more than 36 semester hours, or the equivalent.

Automatic email notification is built into ICAPS and the college/university is notified when a Service Member is added to their roster. College/university staff should compare the list of Service Members that have disbursements reported for in ICAPS at the end of the year to ensure all have been reported. Individual email notifications are sent in August, after the Iowa National Guard Education Office staff has approved the majority of applicants (to reduce the number of individual emails college/university administrators will receive through this process).

CUMULATIVE INGSS RECEIPT LIMITS AND GUIDANCE:

Only credits that count toward the student's STEM master's degree program should be included in the calculation of the NGM award, and only those corresponding credit hours should be reported in ICAPS. If a student is taking a class that will not be accepted toward the required credits for their STEM master's degree program, those

credits should not be included in the calculation of the NGM award, and those credits should not be reported in ICAPS.

Regarding the treatment of credit hours from which an NGM recipient withdraws, receives an incomplete, etc., NGM paid credit hours should be regulated by the college/university refund policy. If a student is paid a partial NGM award (according to the college/university refund policy, as a result of withdrawing from a course or set of courses), those paid NGM credit hours would contribute to the 36 semester hour, or the equivalent threshold, and should be reported in ICAPS with that term's associated NGM disbursement. If the student is paid no NGM funds as a result of withdrawing from a course or set of courses (again, according to the institution's refund policy), no credit hours should be reported in ICAPS for that course or set of courses for which no NGM was paid.

Service Members who are deployed during a period of enrollment should be counseled on the military refund policy as detailed in Iowa Code section 256.183. Decisions made regarding the Service Members withdrawal may affect the Service Member's cumulative NGM receipt limit.

Students can only receive up to 36 semester hours, or the equivalent of NGM. Therefore, if a student enrolls in more credit hours than they have remaining eligibility for, they can only be paid for their remaining eligibility.

Members of the Iowa National Guard may use NGM in conjunction with federally funded programs such as the Army National Guard Federal Tuition Assistance program (ARNG-FTA). Members receiving federal benefits which pay tuition benefits directly to the institution are eligible to receive NGM. Caution must be used, however, in the event a Service Member is receiving a Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill benefit. A Federal Tuition Assistance award is first applied to tuition charges and the Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill pays the remaining tuition based on their tiered percentage. NGM should not impact this final total (guidance established 8/2011).

D. AWARDING

National Guard officials have determined that they will be able to pay 100% of the cost of tuition up to \$5,728/semester or the quarter equivalent, or 100% of the cost of tuition minus FTA, whichever is lower, for spring 2026 semester. NGM awards may be used only to pay for educational expenses included in the Cost of Attendance.

Students are eligible to receive NGM during the summer term. Summer awards are limited to half-time or 6 credit hours. Summer award amounts mirror the proration

table below up to 6 credit hours. Awards will be calculated based on the students' charged tuition minus any FTA received up to the corresponding semester/quarter amount, not to exceed \$2,864. When reporting credit hours in ICAPS do not report more than 6 credit hours for the summer semester even if the student is enrolled in more credit hours.

2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR AWARDS:

The following chart provides the maximum Iowa National Guard STEM Master's Scholarship award allowed per credit/quarter hour of enrollment based on a maximum award of \$5,728/semester or the quarter equivalent. Summer awards are capped at the 6 credit hour amount of \$2,864.

Enrollment Level	Credits	Semester	Quarter
Full-time (F)	12+	\$5,728	\$3,819
Three-quarter time (P)	11	\$5,270	\$3,513
	10	\$4,754	\$3,169
	9	\$4,296	\$2,324
	8	\$3,838	\$2,559
Half-time (H)	7	\$3,322	\$2,215
	6	\$2,864	\$1,909
	5	\$2,406	\$1,604
Less-than-half-time (L)*	4	\$1,890	\$1,260
	3	\$1,432	\$955
	2	\$974	\$649
	1	\$458	\$305

If the award breakdown in the chart above results in different amounts per term, the higher dollar award(s) should be provided in the first term(s) of enrollment.

In order to determine amounts for students enrolled less than full time, use enrollment intensity percentages. For example, if a student is enrolled in 11 credits for a semester they would be eligible for 92% (rounding to the nearest percent) of the maximum award making the student eligible for \$5,270 (round awards to the nearest

dollar). $(5,728 \times (11/12)) = (5,728 \times .92) = \$5,270$). Total awards cannot exceed the annual maximum.

Awards must be made on an accurately calculated SAI.

These awards are not need-based; the award can cover a recipient's Student Aid Index (SAI).

E. AWARD NOTIFICATION

College/university officials must provide financial aid offers to all Iowa NGM recipients. Financial aid offers must clearly indicate award amounts and the state programs from which students will benefit. All notices concerning state grants must include the following award notification statement:

“The amount of grant money you receive from the Iowa Department of Education may change based on state funding.”

F. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

Chapter 3 provides a complete description of the payment process.

G. IOWA COLLEGE AID RESPONSIBILITIES

Iowa College Aid provides the NGM Designated Roster through ICAPS. The Designated Roster is updated each time the Adjutant General adds a recipient.

H. CERTIFICATION

College/university officials must verify the following information for each Iowa NGM recipient:

- The student is eligible for NGM in a given term of enrollment (verified by checking NGM Designated Roster for that term of enrollment);
- The student is meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress outlined in CFR § 668.34;
- The student has not met the requirements for a master's degree;
- The student is enrolled in a STEM master's degree program that is Title IV eligible;
- The student is not in default on a Federal student loan;
- Ensure that NGM funds are applied to components of the cost of attendance;

- Ensure that cumulative NGM semester hours total is less than 36 prior to calculating an award
- Ensure awards are calculated correctly according to the specifications listed in section D and credit hours are reported accurately according to the specifications in section C.

I. CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Any changes in awards must be provided to Iowa College Aid electronically via ICAPS by the reporting deadlines established in Chapter 3 of the Iowa Student Financial Aid Guide.

J. VERIFICATION/COMPLIANCE

College/university officials are responsible for coordinating all aid to ensure compliance with student eligibility (Section H. Certification) allowable award amounts.

One disbursement of state-funded student financial aid may be made prior to completing the verification process as long as college/university officials have no reason to believe application information is inaccurate. If verification indicates that students are ineligible for aid, refunds must be made to state-funded programs.