



# Chapter 8 –Iowa National Guard Professional Qualification Scholarship

The Iowa National Guard Professional Qualification Scholarship (NGQ) provides funds for eligible members of the Iowa National Guard to help with the cost of attending Iowa colleges and universities. A [Historical Appropriations Summary](#) can be found on the Iowa Department of Education’s Higher Ed and Postsecondary Readiness Reports site.

## A. Eligibility

### 1. College/University

The Code of Iowa limits NGQ eligibility to Iowa colleges/universities accredited by a national accrediting agency recognized by the United States department of education. Students attending these colleges/universities are eligible to receive NGQ if they are enrolled in a [eligible postsecondary certificate or other competency-based credential](#) that is not authorized for federal title IV financial aid.

## Participating Colleges

NGQ Participating Colleges	College/University Sector	Location
Des Moines Area Community College	Community College	Des Moines
Eastern Iowa Community College	Community College	Clinton, Muscatine, Bettendorf
Hawkeye Community College	Community College	Waterloo
Indian Hills Community College	Community College	Ottumwa, Centerville
Iowa Central Community College	Community College	Fort Dodge
Iowa Lakes Community College	Community College	Estherville
Iowa Valley Community College	Community College	Ellsworth, Marshalltown
Iowa Western Community College	Community College	Council Bluffs
Kirkwood Community College	Community College	Cedar Rapids
North Iowa Area Community College	Community College	Mason City
Northeast Iowa Community College	Community College	Calmar, Peosta

<b>NGQ Participating Colleges</b>	<b>College/University Sector</b>	<b>Location</b>
Northwest Iowa Community College	Community College	Sheldon
Southeastern Community College	Community College	Burlington
Southwestern Community College	Community College	Creston
Western Iowa Tech Community College	Community College	Sioux City
Allen College	Private College/University	Waterloo
Briar Cliff University	Private College/University	Sioux City
Buena Vista University	Private College/University	Storm Lake
Central College	Private College/University	Pella
Clarke University	Private College/University	Dubuque
Coe College	Private College/University	Cedar Rapids
Cornell College	Private College/University	Mount Vernon
Dordt University	Private College/University	Sioux Center
Drake University	Private College/University	Des Moines
Emmaus Bible College	Private College/University	Dubuque
Faith Baptist Bible College	Private College/University	Ankeny
Graceland University	Private College/University	Lamoni
Grand View University	Private College/University	Des Moines
Grinnell College	Private College/University	Grinnell
Loras College	Private College/University	Dubuque
Luther College	Private College/University	Decorah
Mercy College of Health Sciences	Private College/University	Des Moines
Morningside University	Private College/University	Sioux City

NGQ Participating Colleges	College/University Sector	Location
Mount Mercy University	Private College/University	Cedar Rapids
Northwestern College	Private College/University	Orange City
St. Ambrose University	Private College/University	Davenport
St. Luke's College	Private College/University	Sioux City
Simpson College	Private College/University	Indianola
University of Dubuque	Private College/University	Dubuque
Upper Iowa University	Private College/University	Fayette
Waldorf University	Private College/University	Forest City
Wartburg College	Private College/University	Waverly
William Penn University	Private College/University	Oskaloosa
Iowa State University	Regent University	Ames
University of Iowa	Regent University	Iowa City
University of Northern Iowa	Regent University	Cedar Falls

## 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 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 NGQ 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 NGQ application deadlines are:
    - July 1st for fall semester.
    - December 1st for spring semester.
    - April 1st for the summer semester.

- Maintains satisfactory academic progress toward an eligible credential at an eligible Iowa college/university. Satisfactory academic progress for these credentials is defined as passing the credential.
- Provide notice of National Guard status to the college/university at the time of registration.
- Service members of the Iowa National Guard who are awarded NGQ funds and then become ineligible or are discharged from the Iowa National Guard while enrolled in the credentialing program 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 NGQ, 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.

## B. Application Process

Applicants are required to complete the Iowa Financial Aid Application. Applications for the 2026-27 academic year should be submitted on or before July 1, 2026. Spring applications should be submitted on or before December 1, 2026 and summer applications should be submitted on or before April 1, 2027. An applicant who meets the fall July 1, 2026 deadline has also met the spring and summer deadline and does not need to apply for spring or summer separately.

## C. Selection of Recipients

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

Iowa college/university officials can access a designated roster of NGQ recipients by logging into the ICAPS and clicking on rosters. Only students on a Designated Roster can receive an NGQ payment. College/university officials should use the awarding instructions in this chapter to award NGQ.

It is important to verify the semesters that a Service Member is eligible to receive NGQ 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, spring certification will happen following the December 1 application deadline and summer certification will happen following the April 1, 2027 deadline. Be sure to check the Designated Roster for each term separately. These programs do not likely follow a traditional semester schedule please report the award in the term that the majority of the course takes place.

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 July, 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 NGQ RECEIPT LIMITS AND GUIDANCE:**

There is no lifetime limit for NGQ.

## D. Awarding

National Guard officials have determined that they will be able to pay up to \$5000 annually or \$2500 per semester for the 2026-2027 NGQ. Awards are determined based on the actual charge for the course, books and any board-certified tests up to \$2500 per semester. There is no maximum number of credentials a student can enroll in per semester. If the credential has a board certified test that is part of the credential then the amount charged for the test is also eligible for NGQ funding as long as the test is billed through the college.

Payments are credited to student accounts on a per term basis by college/university officials. For purposes of this scholarship the academic year will run fall, spring, then summer with summer always being a trailer to the academic year.

Students must successfully pass the credential they are enrolled in or they are not considered to be maintaining satisfactory academic progress. If a credential is not passed then any funds the student received for that credential must be returned. If a student passes the credential course but not the accompanying test for the course only the amount of the award that was for the board certified test must be returned.

## Maximum 2026-27 Award

The annual maximum award is \$5000. Awards are based on actual charges for the credential program, books and any board-certified tests that are associated with the course up to \$2500 per semester.

When reporting the award in ICAPS enrollment status has no effect on the award. If the student is receiving other state funded programs in a semester that NGQ is awarded then use the enrollment status of the other programs for which they are receiving state grants or scholarships. If NGQ is the only state fund that the student is receiving in a semester it is suggested that you leave the enrollment status as full-time.

## E. Award Offer

Institution officials should provide financial aid offers to all NGQ recipients. Award offers must clearly indicate award amounts and the state programs from which students will receive funding. 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. Renewal and Lifetime Eligibility

There are no lifetime limits for the NGQ Scholarship.

## G. Disbursement of Funds

Chapter 3 provides a complete description of the payment process.

## H. Iowa College Aid Responsibilities

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

## I. Certification

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

- The student is eligible for NGQ in a given term of enrollment (verified by checking NGQ Designated Roster for that term of enrollment);
- The student is meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (passing the credential).
- The student is enrolled in an [eligible professional credential program](#)
- Ensure awards are calculated based on tuition charged for the course, books and board-certified tests charged through the college

## J. 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.