

# An Overview of the Illinois National Guard Grant & Illinois Veteran Grant Programs

November 12, 2024



# Agenda

- Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant
- Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)
- Combining Programs
- Q & A

# Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant

- The ING Grant is an entitlement program
  - Eligible applicants are exempt from paying eligible tuition and certain fees
    - Awarded to all eligible applicants regardless of funding levels
    - Specified by Illinois statute
      - Chapter 110, Higher Education Student Assistance Act
      - <https://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1161&ChapterID=18>
  - Benefits are available at all Illinois 2- and 4-year public colleges
  - May be used at the undergraduate and graduate levels
  - Eligible applicants may receive:
    - Equivalent of four academic years of full-time enrollment (120 units)
    - Equivalent of six academic years of full-time enrollment (180 units) if completed 10 years or more of active duty ING service
  - No minimum enrollment requirement
    - Non-credit courses are eligible

# ING Eligible Fees

- Pays tuition and certain fees
  - Fees eligible students are exempt from paying:
    - Registration fees
    - Graduation fees
    - General Activity fees
    - Term fees
    - Matriculation fees
      - Typically charged only to new students when they have been both admitted and enrolled
  - Fees that are not exempt:
    - Book rental fees
    - Laboratory and Supply fees
    - Air Flight fees
    - Hospital and Health Insurance fees
    - Room and Board fees
    - Parking fees
    - Student Union fees
    - Athletic fees
    - Proficiency or Placement Exam fees and other similar fees
    - Service fees

# ING Grant Eligibility Criteria

- To be eligible for the ING Grant program, a student must:
  - Be an Illinois National Guard member, meeting one of these two criterion:
    - be active in the Illinois National Guard **or**
    - have been active in the Illinois National Guard for at least five consecutive years and have been called to federal active duty for at least six months and be within 12 months after their discharge date from the Illinois National Guard
  - Have completed one full year of service in the Illinois National Guard
  - Be an enlisted member or an officer (Public Act 94-583)
  - Be enrolled at an Illinois public 2- or 4-year college
  - Maintain an acceptable grade point average (GPA) according to the policy determined by your college
  - Not be in default on any student loan, nor owe a refund on any state or federal grant

# ING Grant Eligibility Criteria

- ISAC General Provisions - 2700.40 General Applicant Eligibility Requirements
  - i) Except for grants pursuant to 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2730 (Illinois National Guard Grant Program) (ING Grant) and 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2733 (Illinois Veteran Grant Program) (IVG Grant), an applicant must be maintaining satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the institution's policy.
- Illinois National Guard Grant Rules - Section 2730.20 Applicant Eligibility
  - d) Recipients must maintain an acceptable grade point average as determined by the institution pursuant to a published policy.

# ING Grant 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
- 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

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

# ING Grant Eligibility Units

- Full program benefits may be extended for one additional term if the recipient has accumulated fewer than the maximum number of eligibility units but does not have enough units remaining for the number of hours in which they are enrolled for that term
- If the recipient withdraws from enrollment after the tuition refund/withdrawal adjustment period, the recipient will receive a grant for costs incurred up to the term award provided the institution's tuition refund policy indicates the recipient has incurred charges in the amount of the claim
- If a recipient ceases to be an active member of the Guard during a term, benefits stop, and the student is responsible for costs attributed to the remainder of the term
- If a recipient meets the one year IL National Guard requirement to become eligible during a term, benefits should be prorated for the portion of the term for which the student meets the eligibility requirement
  - Proration calculation:  $\text{total tuition cost} \div \text{total instructional days} = \text{cost per day}$   
 $\text{cost per day} \times \text{days of eligibility} = \text{total proration}$



# ING Residency Policies

- Out-of-state residents who meet the eligibility requirements receive tuition and fee benefits equivalent to those received by in-state residents at the Illinois institution.
- Recipients attending out-of-district community colleges will receive tuition and applicable fee benefits equivalent to those at the in-district rate.
- Recipients shall not be responsible for paying the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition nor will they be responsible for paying the difference between in-district and out-of-district tuition.
- Institutions are permitted to require documentation of residency in order to determine in-district or out-of-district payment.

# ING Grant Application Process

- Students must re-apply each year
  - There are no longer application deadline dates for each term
    - However, applications must be submitted in time for ISAC to determine eligibility and for the applicant to be able to notify the college *no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the term for which the student would like to use benefits*
      - This went into effect beginning with the 2023-24 academic year,
- The ING Grant interactive application can be accessed via from the ISAC Student Portal
  - Applicants must have a profile in the Student Portal to complete and submit the application
  - Once a profile is created, applicants can return to the Student Portal to check their application status, verify the number of ING Grant eligibility units remaining, or print copy of ING Grant eligibility notification
  - Students will receive a confirmation page upon completing the application
  - Students should allow at least 4 weeks for processing of the application
- Qualified applicants will receive a notice of eligibility from ISAC and colleges can see eligibility information in the ING Grant system in GAP Access

# ING Grant Administration Process

- ISAC
  - Determines compliance with application requirements
  - Monitors benefit usage (units) to ensure that applicants have not exceeded the maximum benefits
- Illinois Department of Military Affairs (DMAIL)
  - Certifies (in GAP Access) that the applicant is on active status with the Illinois National Guard
  - If applicable, provides date for when one-year service requirement will be met or when active status will end
  - Confirms 10 years or more of service, which allows recipient to receive two additional years of benefits
- ISAC sends:
  - Notice of Eligibility to qualified applicants
  - Notice of Ineligibility to individuals who do not meet eligibility criteria

# ING Grant Administration Process

- Colleges report enrollment hours and benefit dollar amounts for initial, in-district and out-of-district requests and to make adjustments in the ING Grant system in GAP Access
- ING Grant benefit usage data can be submitted by either File Transfer Protocol (FTP) or the GAP Access portal
- New data for students eligible for benefits will be available whenever there is a new or updated eligible record for the college
- New data could potentially be available on a daily basis, the college may not have students that appear in the system each day
- Although ISAC will not be able to reimburse colleges for the ING Grant, reporting of enrollment hours must still take place so that benefit usage (eligibility units) can be accurately assessed to student's accounts

# ING Grant Benefit Usage Reporting

- To report benefit usage, colleges must provide the number credit hours enrolled and the tuition and fee amounts
- When combining benefits with the Post-9/11 GI Benefit, the eligibility percentage (as determined by the VA) should also be provided
  - The system will multiply the number of credit hours the student is enrolled in by the percentage being covered by the ING Grant to prorate units

Term	1-Fall	2-Spring	3-Summer
ING Code			
Request	Benefit ▾	Benefit ▾	▾
Enrollment Hours	8.0	12.0	
In District Tuition	\$ 3,592.00	\$ 5,388.00	\$
Out of District Tuition	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$
Eligible Fee Amount	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$
Requested Amount	\$3,592.00	\$5,388.00	\$0.00
Post 9/11 GI Bill%	▾	▾	▾

A drop-down list includes percentage values to report an ING recipient's eligibility level for Post-9/11 GI Bill, ranging from 40% to 90%

- Schools should select the Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility level confirmed by the VA.
- For ISAC purposes, this is only used to determine the percentage for the ING proration calculation to determine the number of ING units being used when combining benefits with the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- There is not a 100% option; units are not prorated for students at the 100% eligibility level.

40  
50  
60  
70  
80  
90

In the **Tuition & Eligible Fee** fields, schools should enter the amount of tuition and fees eligible to be covered by ING after Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits have been applied by the school.

# ING Grant Reminders

- It is recommended that colleges check the ING Grant system at least once a week for new student applicant data that may have been added to your school's list
- Schools may rely on the eligibility information provided by ISAC in GAP Access
  - Colleges do not have to require that the student provide a copy of their eligibility letter
- Submit benefit usage by term priority dates so they are considered timely and eligible to be reimbursed ICCB or ISAC funding

# 2024-25 ING Grant Program News

- ING Grant benefit usage data for the fall term must be submitted on or before **Tuesday, December 31, 2024 to be considered timely**
- Even though ISAC may not be able to fully reimburse institutions for ING Grant awards, reporting of benefits used must still take place so that usage can be accurately reflected on student accounts
- Colleges are encouraged to check their Benefits Results report after submitting benefit usage to ensure all processed as expected
- The 160-byte file specifications, describing the file layout that can be used to send data to ISAC via the File Transfer Protocol (FTP) process, can be found in the Electronic Tools section of the e-Library

# Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)

- IVG is an entitlement program
  - Eligible applicants are exempt from paying eligible tuition & mandatory fees
    - “Mandatory fees” is defined as: The charges assessed by an institution that are required to deliver educational services to students for each term, regardless if a student is attending on- campus or through distance education. 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.
  - Benefits are available at all Illinois 2- and 4-year public colleges
  - May be used at the undergraduate and graduate levels
  - Eligible applicants may receive the equivalent of four academic years of full-time enrollment (120 units)
  - No minimum enrollment requirement
    - Non-credit courses may be eligible



# 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.
  - Full program benefits may be extended for one additional term if the recipient has accumulated fewer than 120 eligibility units but does not have enough units remaining for the number of hours in which the recipient is enrolled for the term.

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

# IVG Eligibility Criteria

- To be eligible, a student must:
  - Satisfy Illinois residency requirements by meeting the below qualifications as outlined *either* in #1, #2 and #3, *or* in #4:
    1. Currently reside in Illinois unless the student is 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:

**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.

# IVG Eligibility Criteria

- To be eligible, a student must:
  - Meet one of the following two criteria:
    - have served at least one year of federal active-duty service in the Armed Forces of the United States, which may include the Illinois National Guard and the Reserve component of the Armed Forces, or
    - regardless of length of service:
      - have served in a foreign country in a time of hostilities in that country (as recognized by the issuance of a Presidential proclamation or a Presidential executive order and in which the Armed Forces expeditionary medal or other campaign service medals are awarded according to Presidential executive order);
      - was medically discharged for service-related reasons; or
      - was discharged prior to August 11, 1967.

# IVG Eligibility Criteria

- To be eligible, a student must:
  - Have received an honorable discharge for the most recent period of federal active-duty service, and/or be honorably serving
    - Effective July 1, 2022, an honorable discharge may include a discharge under other than honorable conditions or a general discharge under honorable conditions if only due to a person's sexual orientation or gender identity but does not include a bad conduct discharge or a dishonorable discharge
  - Not be a current member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)
    - Applicants are not eligible if their only service has been attendance at a service academy
    - Time served attending military schools or for Initial Active Duty for Training, in the Delayed Entry Program, National Guard, Reserve or any other time that was not federal active duty is not considered equal to federal active-duty service
    - Drill time (weekend and summer drills) by Guard members and Reservists is not equivalent to federal active-duty service

# IVG Eligibility Criteria

- To be eligible to receive benefits, an eligible student must:
  - Be enrolled at an Illinois public 2- or 4-year college.
  - Maintain an acceptable grade point average (GPA) according to the policy determined by your college.
  - Not be in default on any student loan, nor owe a refund on any state or federal grant.

# IVG Eligibility Criteria

- From ISAC General Provisions - 2700.40 General Applicant Eligibility Requirements
  - i) Except for grants pursuant to 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2730 (Illinois National Guard Grant Program) (ING Grant) and 23 Ill. Adm. Code 2733 (Illinois Veteran Grant Program) (IVG Grant), an applicant must be maintaining satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the institution's policy
- From IVG Rules - Section 2733.20 Applicant Eligibility
  - e) A recipient must maintain an acceptable grade point average as determined by the institution pursuant to a published policy

# IVG Residency Policies

- Legislation went into effect in July 2019 that amended the Illinois residency requirements for IVG, allowing for veterans who have resided in Illinois for at least 15 years to qualify, based on these requirements --
  - The veteran must:
    - reside in Illinois at the time of application
    - have been a resident of Illinois for at least 15 consecutive years after leaving federal active
    - reside in Illinois at the time of receiving benefits for enrollment
- Documentation to confirm 15 consecutive years of residency will be needed to establish eligibility

# IVG Application Process

- Student only needs to complete the IVG application once; it does not have to be submitted every award year
  - Students should allow at least 4 - 6 weeks for processing
  - If there's a need to make changes/updates after submission, students should contact ISAC
- The online application can be accessed from the ISAC Student Portal
  - Applicants who are unable to access the online application, may download and print a PDF version and submit the completed application to ISAC
- ISAC will send an acknowledgement e-mail when the application is received
- Eligible applicants will receive a Notice of Eligibility letter from ISAC
  - If an application is incomplete or missing information, the applicant will receive a Notice of Incomplete Application letter
    - Missing information/documents must be submitted to ISAC within 60 days of the letter or the application will be canceled and the student will need to reapply
- Qualified applicants must notify their college's financial aid office of their eligibility status no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the term for which a grant is requested



# IVG Residency Policies

- Regardless of how a student has qualified for the Illinois residency component of the program's eligibility criteria, the student veteran must reside in Illinois while enrolled to use IVG benefits
  - An IVG independent student does not have to be verified to have resided in Illinois for 12 continuous months prior to the start of the award year... the student just has to be currently residing in Illinois while enrolled to use IVG benefits
- Students who may have left Illinois after establishing their eligibility for the program may maintain their IVG eligibility, but must return to Illinois to continue to use benefits
- Students who are not residing in Illinois while enrolled cannot use IVG benefits unless:
  - federal active duty is being served during the time of enrollment, or
  - the qualified applicant is residing with a spouse in continued military service who is currently stationed outside of Illinois

# IVG Residency Policies

- For schools that have a process requiring student veterans to provide information on which veteran benefits they want to use, they may collect confirmation that the student is residing in Illinois as part of that process
- Best practice would be to have a certification statement as part of the form that the student is signing each term, allowing the student to confirm benefit choices and provide Illinois residency information
  - This would be sufficient documentation to confirm that the student meets the IVG requirement to reside in Illinois while using benefits
- Other documentation to confirm residency may include:
  - FAFSA/ISIR data indicating an Illinois address
  - Documentation used to confirm residency for other ISAC programs with dates applicable to the term/award year
- If an institution has information on file for a student (student billing address, transcript request, etc.) indicating an out-of-state address, the institution is expected to verify residency by collecting documentation to confirm that the student is currently residing in Illinois while enrolled in order to provide IVG benefits

# IVG Benefit Usage Reporting

- IVG benefit usage reporting process is done in the IVG system in GAP Access
- Colleges must report enrollment hours and tuition and fee benefit amounts for initial, supplemental (adjustments), in-district and out-of-district claims
- If combining benefits with the Post-9/11 GI Benefit, the eligibility percentage (as determined by the VA) should also be provided
  - The system will multiply the number of credit hours the student is enrolled in by the percentage being covered by IVG to prorate units

Terms	3-Summer	1-Fall	2-Spring
IVG Code	001	001	001
Request	<input type="text"/>	Benefit <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Enrollment Hours	<input type="text"/>	12.00	<input type="text"/>
In District Tuition and Fees	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ 2218.64	\$ <input type="text"/>
Out of District Tuition	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
Requested Amount	\$	\$2218.64	\$
Post 9/11 %	<input type="text"/>	60 <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

A drop-down list includes percentage values to report an IVG recipient's eligibility level for Post-9/11 GI Bill, ranging from 40% to 90%

In the Tuition & Fees fields,

# Student Benefit List: View screen

- Because the IVG application does not collect information about the student's school choice, ISAC does not generate an IVG student eligibility list that is specific to each school.
- The initial student list that colleges will see when logging in to the IVG system will be a list of all students who have received an IVG benefit at their institution in the last three academic years.
- Colleges 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 their school.
  - Once a student has been added to the school's list, FAAs will be able to see an eligibility detail screen for the student and create a benefit request.
- The academic terms are numbered in the IVG system as:
  - 3 = Summer term
  - 1 = Fall term
  - 2 = Spring term

**IVG Student Benefit List: View**

Select School and IVG Code:

Home Application **Benefits** Budget Reports File Extractions

List Filter Sort Columns Add Student Benefit Request Entry Submit Benefit Requests

Entries displayed 100

#	Sel	Req	Term Number	Current SSN	Last Name	First Name	IVG Number	IVG Code	Request Code	Enrollment Hours	In Dist Tuition	Out of Dist Tuition	Requested Amount	Post 9/11 GI Bill	Benefit Amount
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1-Fall												
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2-Spring												

# Benefit Add IVG Student screen

- In order to add a student to your school list, at least two of the three student identifiers must be entered
- If the search does not provide a result, that means either the student is not eligible or is not in ISAC's database
  - For example, a school would 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 a college is unable to locate a student that should be in ISAC's IVG database, colleges may contact ISAC's School Services Department for assistance at 866-247-2172 or [isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov)

Administration School Programs

IVG Benefit Add IVG Student

Home Application Benefits Budget Reports File Extractions

List Filter Sort Columns Add Student Benefit Request Entry Submit Benefit Requests

SSN:

IVG Number:

Last Name:

# 2024-25 IVG Grant Program News

- No changes to the program or application process
- Benefit request processing for summer and fall terms is now available
  - IVG award year starts with the summer term
- In order for IVG benefit usage data to be considered timely:
  - For the summer term, it must have been submitted by September 30, 2024
  - For the fall term, it must be submitted by December 31, 2024
- Even though ISAC may not be able to fully reimburse institutions IVG awards reporting of benefits used must still take place so that usage can be accurately reflected on students' accounts
- Colleges are encouraged to regularly check their Benefits Results report
- The 160-byte file specifications, describing the file layout for sending data to ISAC via the File Transfer Protocol (FTP) process, can be found in the Electronic Tools section of the e-Library

# Fiscal Year 2025 News for ING Grant and IVG

- The FY25 state budget includes funding for ISAC to reimburse public universities for some of the tuition fees waived for ING Grant & IVG recipients
  - Unlike in years past, when IVG and ING each had a separate line item and ISAC used the funds to pay both public university and community college claims, this appropriation is for \$6 million and is written as applying to both IVG and ING, but only at the state's public universities.
- As has been the case for several years, a separate FY25 appropriation of \$4,264,200 is being provided to the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to reimburse community colleges for ING Grant and IVG benefits provided
- More information about when and how the ISAC funding will be disbursed to universities will be provided soon
  - Similar to the process for ICCB, reimbursements will first be made for **timely claims**, so it's important to meet the term priority dates

# ING & IVG: Non-Credit or Non-Degree Courses

- Students may use IVG and ING benefits:
  - for non-credit or non-degree courses
  - for courses offered through contractual or consortium agreements
  - at the public university or community college as the institution of record
- Attempted/completed courses must appear on a student's record and/or transcript at the ISAC-approved institution.
  - From a tracking and auditing standpoint, there would need to be a record of the type of program or coursework for which a student has received IVG or ING benefits.
- IVG/ING eligible tuition and fee charges would need to be reflected on the student's account, indicating the amount of the charges that IVG/ING benefits are covering.
- IVG/ING benefits can be used for programs that involve a contractual agreement with a provider outside of the institution (i.e. truck driving schools)
  - the key is that the student has to be enrolled at the public community college, not directly enrolled in the third-party provider.
  - the tuition and fee data reported in the school's IVG budget would have to be high enough to cover eligible tuition and fee charges.



# Non-Credit or Non-Degree Courses

A few relevant excerpts from ISAC rules for reference which are important factors that apply to being eligible to use IVG and ING program benefits.

## From ISAC's [General Provisions](#), Section 2700.20 Definitions --

"Contractual Agreement" – The written agreement between an eligible institution and a school or organization that is not eligible for participation in ISAC-administered programs whereby the non-eligible institution provides part of the education program of students enrolled at the eligible institution, as codified in Section 2700.80. A contractual agreement differs from a consortium agreement, which is an agreement among 2 or more eligible institutions only.

"Enrolled" – The status of a student who has completed the institution's registration requirements and is attending classes.

"Distance Education" – A learning and teaching mode characterized by the separation of place or time between instructor and student, which includes programs and courses offered by correspondence and telecommunications.

"Institution of Record" – The postsecondary institution at which a student is enrolled and seeking a degree or certificate. This institution assumes primary responsibility for certification of eligibility for ISAC-administered programs and for requesting payment from ISAC.

## From [IVG Rules](#) -- Section 2733.30 Program Procedures

c) Benefits are applicable to both undergraduate and graduate enrollment. There are no minimum credit hour enrollment requirements and benefits are applicable for noncredit courses.

## From [ING Rules](#) -- Section 2730.30 Program Procedures

c) Benefits are applicable to both undergraduate and graduate enrollment. There is no minimum credit-hour enrollment requirement. Benefits are applicable for noncredit courses.

# Non-Credit or Non-Degree Courses

- When submitting a benefit request in the IVG/ING System schools need to report the number of credit hours for both credit courses and non-credit courses.
- ISAC does not provide instructions on converting continuing education hours to credit hours however the FSA Handbook has some guidance.
- Schools should have procedures in place to consistently convert the continuing education hours to credit hours.

# Guidance on Combining ING Grant & IVG Benefits With Other Programs

# ING Grant, IVG, and the Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- If a student who is eligible for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) is also eligible for ING Grant and/or IVG benefits, all ING Grant and IVG benefits that are available for the term(s) must be used first
  - A student cannot decline ING Grant or IVG benefits in favor of using MAP benefits
  - After all applicable ING Grant benefits have been used for a term, then a partial MAP award may be applied to any outstanding eligible tuition and fees
  - IVG and MAP are not able to be combined
    - Once a student is determined eligible for IVG, it must be used instead of MAP

# Using the ING Grant or IVG with Other Tuition and Fee Benefits

- ING members who have been called to federal active duty may be eligible for the IVG program
- Applicants who meet all eligibility requirements for both the IVG and ING Grant programs may have the option of receiving benefits from both programs during the same term(s) and/or academic year
  - A recipient's assessment of eligibility unit usage is based on enrolled hours per term, not the dollar amount paid by the benefits
    - This means that the number of eligibility units charged will be the same for each program, even though the dollar amount of benefits received from each program may be different
      - For example, if benefits from the IVG and ING Grant programs are used for full-time enrollment, 12 eligibility units will be charged to each program.
- Applicants should consult with the college's financial aid office prior to receiving benefits for both programs

# Combining Post-9/11 GI Bill Program with State Benefits

- Students can decline IVG, ING and/or MAP to use federal benefits that also provide tuition and fee benefits
  - **Federal benefits will be applied first** and any remaining eligible charges for tuition and fees may be covered by ING Grant or IVG benefits
- If a student chooses to use their federal benefits with ING or IVG benefits, eligibility units assessed will be prorated based on the percentage of charges paid by ING or IVG
  - The percentage of charges covered by ING or IVG benefits will be multiplied by the number of credit hours in which the student is enrolled for the term, and that converted number of credit hours will determine the number of eligibility units to be assessed

# Combining Post-9/11 GI Bill Program with State Benefits

- For veterans who are eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and who choose to use those benefits with the IVG or ING Grant programs in the same term, the **Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits may 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.
- IVG and ING rules allow the VA to be first payer for any level of Chapter 33 eligibility, **including the 100% level.**
  - For example, students at the 100% level who don't have enough VA benefits for a full term could use up remaining Chapter 33 benefits first and then use IVG or ING to cover remaining charges.
- When combining IVG and/or ING benefits with the Post-9/11 GI Bill:
  - The number of IVG and ING Grant units used will be prorated for students at the 50-90% eligibility levels.
  - IVG and ING units are not to be prorated for students at the 100% eligibility level.

# ISAC Resources

- ISAC e-messaging
  - Subscription-based service
  - Messages archived in the E-Library
- ISAC Administrative Rules
- FAA section of [isac.org](http://isac.org)
  - Program news
- User guides
- Partner Training page in the E-Library
  - Monthly webinar presentations
  - Illinois residency FAQ



# isac.org/students/during-college/military-service

The screenshot shows the ISAC website page for Military Service during college. The page has a navigation bar at the top with links for 'Before College - Planning', 'During College - Paying', 'After College', 'Parents', and 'Español'. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Students & Parents > During College - Paying > Military Service'. The main content area is titled 'Military Service' and contains an introductory paragraph, three sections of programs (ISAC Programs, State of Illinois Programs), and a list of resources. A sidebar on the right contains a list of navigation links, with 'Military Service' highlighted by a red box.

Before College - Planning **During College - Paying** After College Parents Español

Home > Students & Parents > During College - Paying > Military Service

## Military Service

If you're interested in entering the military, are currently serving, or have completed your service, the information on this page is intended to help you learn more about the education benefits and resources that may be available to you. Be sure to research both state and federal programs to find the resources that best match your military experience and educational goals. Additionally, you'll find links to other resources that may be helpful to you as you pursue your educational goals.

### ISAC Programs

[Illinois National Guard \(ING\) Grant Program](#) – Covers tuition and certain fees at Illinois public institutions for active members of the Illinois National Guard who meet program eligibility criteria.

- [View a recording of "A Review of the ING Grant Application Process"](#)

[Illinois Veteran Grant \(IVG\) Program](#) – Covers tuition and mandatory fees at Illinois public institutions for veterans who meet program eligibility criteria.

- [View a recording of "A Review of the IVG Application Process"](#)

### State of Illinois Programs

[Illinois Department of Veteran Affairs \(IDVA\)](#) – General Information and diverse resources for Illinois veterans

- [MIA/POW Scholarship](#) – For dependents of veterans who are either Missing In Action, a Prisoner of War, died while on active duty, 100% disabled due to service connected disabilities, or died as a result of a service connected disabilities
- [Educational Opportunities Grant for Children of Veterans](#) – Financial aid provided to each child, between the ages of 10 and 18 years, of a veteran who died or became totally disabled as

**Paying For College**  
**Applying For Financial Aid**  
**Types Of Financial Aid**  
**Advanced Degree**  
**Medical Professions**  
**Military Service**  
College Planning & Financial Aid  
Resources For Illinois  
Servicemembers, Veterans And  
Their Families  
**Teaching**

# isac.org/students/during-college/military-service

## Federal Resources

[U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs](#) – Information and resources for all veterans on the GI Bill, health care, and disability support.

- [VA Crisis Hot Line](#) – 1-800-273-8255 or [www.veteranscrisisline.net/](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/) Available 24/7.
- [GI Bill Benefits](#) – Learn about the GI Bill benefits that can help you pay for college, graduate school, and training programs.

[U.S. Department of Education](#) – Provides information and access for all levels of education.

- [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) – Apply for federal student aid programs administered by the U.S. Department of Education.
- [Aid for Military Families](#) – A compilation of financial aid resources and information for service members and their families.
- [Student loan repayment, forgiveness, cancellation and discharges](#) – Information on managing student loans and qualifying for programs to help eliminate student loan debt
  - [Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#)

## Other Military-Connected Resources

[Military OneSource](#) – Offers practical information and resources for pursuing education goals, and also provides a wide range of support and confidential services to Department of Defense service members and immediate family members.

[Illinois Veterans Assistance Commissions \(VACs\)](#) – Access these local resources in your county that provide services to veterans and their families and can help with benefit claims, advocacy, financial assistance and legal resources.

## Illinois Postsecondary Institutions

Most colleges have a resource page on their website specifically for military-connected students and families. Below are links to resource pages for the public universities in Illinois, followed by resources to learn more about all postsecondary institutions in the state.

### Illinois Public Universities

- Chicago State University – [csu.edu/veteransaffairs/](http://csu.edu/veteransaffairs/)
- Eastern Illinois University – [eiu.edu/veterans/](http://eiu.edu/veterans/)
- Governors State University – [govst.edu/vrc/](http://govst.edu/vrc/)
- Illinois State University [veterans.illinoisstate.edu/financial\\_aid/](http://veterans.illinoisstate.edu/financial_aid/)

# ISAC's Student Engagement and Support Services

For inquiries from students, parents,  
and the general public

Phone: 800-899-ISAC (4722)

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: [isac.studentservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@illinois.gov)

Spanish-speaking counselors are available  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT

# ISAC's Partner Services Department

Provides training, program information and support to schools  
and other ISAC partners

Partners with ILASFAA and other professional organizations

Responds to school inquiries, both colleges and high schools

Phone: 866-247-2172

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: [isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov)

## Partner Services Staff

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# Questions/Comments

