

# Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant -- Frequently Asked Questions

## ***What is the Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant?***

Authorized in Illinois statute by the Higher Education Student Assistance Act (110 ILCS 947/), the Illinois National Guard Grant pays college tuition and certain fees (registration, graduation, general activity, matriculation, and term fees) for eligible applicants.

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

Yes. The ING Grant 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 certain 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 National Guard Grant?***

To be eligible for the ING Grant, you must be in active status with the Illinois Army or Air National Guard and have served for at least one year.

Applicants who have completed *less than* 10 years of active duty ING service may receive benefits for the equivalent of four years of full-time enrollment. Tracked in units, recipients can accumulate up to 120 eligibility units. Applicants who have completed *at least* 10 years of active duty ING service may receive benefits for the equivalent of six years of full-time enrollment; tracked in units, recipients can accumulate up to 180 eligibility units.

## ***Can out of state residents who serve in the Illinois National Guard receive benefits?***

Yes, out of state residents who meet the eligibility requirements receive tuition and fee benefits equivalent to those received by in-state residents. They are not responsible for paying the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition rates.

## ***Can I use the ING grant for private schools?***

No. The ING Grant is only available for qualified applicants attending Illinois public universities and community colleges.

## ***How do I apply?***

The interactive online application is available at [isac.org](http://isac.org) and collects all the information needed to determine eligibility for the program. ISAC works with the Illinois Department of Military Affairs to confirm eligibility.

## ***Can I apply for the ING Grant at any time during the academic year?***

There are application deadline dates for the ING Grant. To receive full-year consideration, your application must be received on or before October 1 of the academic year for which you're requesting assistance. 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. ***Please note: you must re-apply each year.***

### ***Can I make changes to my ING application data?***

If you need to change or update any information after the application has been submitted, you will need to provide the information to ISAC. Changes can be submitted to ISAC using one of the following methods: in an e-mail to [isac.studentservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@illinois.gov), by FAX to 847.831.8549, and in a letter to ISAC Dept D, 1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, IL 60015-5209. Changes cannot be done over the telephone.

The request must include the last four digits of your Social Security number (for identification purposes) and clearly state what change(s) need to be made. These changes will not affect the application "received date". In order to allow adequate processing time and prevent a loss of benefits, changes to your college of record should be reported prior to the beginning of the applicable term(s).

### ***Can I use the ING 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 ING Grant 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, the ING Grant may be used at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

### ***Are there credit-hour enrollment requirements in order to use the grant?***

No. There is no minimum enrollment requirement and non-credit courses are eligible for the ING Grant.

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

Students who qualify for the ING Grant and the Montgomery GI Bill may receive benefits from both programs during the same term for eligible educational expenses. For veterans who are eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and who choose to use those benefits with ING Grant program 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 ING Grant. In most cases, ING Grant units used will be prorated when combined with Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits; the exception to that is for those at the 100% eligibility level for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

### ***What if I qualify for the IVG and the Illinois National Guard Grant (ING)? How do the two programs work together?***

Students can use IVG and ING together. However, students are encouraged to keep in mind that they will use the same amount of eligibility units for each program regardless of the amount of benefits paid. Students are encouraged to consult with the financial aid office at their institution for guidance.

### ***Additional Questions?***

Contact ISAC at 800.899.4722, [isac.studentservices@illinois.gov](mailto:isac.studentservices@illinois.gov) or visit ISAC's Military Service page: <https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/military-service/index.html>.