

Federal Tuition Assistance

What is Department of Defense Tuition Assistance?

Department of Defense Tuition Assistance (TA) is a **tuition** reimbursement program for Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve services members. TA is administered by the Department of Defense (DOD). TA is not the GI Bill®. The GI Bill® is for veterans and their dependents and it is administered through the Veterans Administration. ***Military Tuition Assistance is a benefit paid to eligible members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Congress has given each service the ability to pay up to 100% for the tuition expenses of its members.*** TA is not a loan; it should be viewed as money you have earned just like your base pay.

Can I use Tuition Assistance and the GI Bill® at HCU?

Students on active duty should work with their education center counselor to determine specifically which options are available for their specific circumstance. In general, an active duty student who is a recipient of the Montgomery GI Bill® or Post-9/11 GI Bill® program may qualify for both the GI Bill® and TA. Education counselors are available at each virtual education center by branch (see the links to those websites below).

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

How do I apply for Department of Defense Tuition Assistance?

A student using TA must be pre-approved prior to enrolling in a course. Once TA has been approved by the student's military branch, the student should enroll in the course. This must be done prior to the first day of class or TA will not be approved by the Department of Defense. Each service has its own criteria for eligibility, obligated service, application process and restrictions. This money is usually paid directly to the institution by the individual services.

The Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force have their own TA application forms and procedures and students should apply for TA through their specific branch education center.

Virtual Education Centers by Branch:

- **Army** (There are eight steps, outlined [here](#), to the process for a **non-LOI school** (which HCU currently is))
- **Marine Corps**
- **Navy**
- **Air Force** (There are six steps, outlined [here](#), to the process.)

What other information is there that will help?

Click on the following detailed pages explaining the program regulations for each service:

- [Air Force Tuition Assistance](#)
- [Army Tuition Assistance](#)
- [Navy Tuition Assistance](#)
- [Marines Tuition Assistance](#)
- [Coast Guard Tuition Assistance](#)
- [National Guard Tuition Assistance](#)
- [Reserve Tuition Assistance](#)

Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018

In compliance with Section 103 of the Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018, Heritage Christian University will not impose the following penalties to covered individuals due to the delayed disbursement of funding from the Department of Veteran Affairs:

- preventing or delaying the student’s enrollment,
- the assessment of late fees,
- the denial of access to any resources available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fees bills to the institution, including but not limited to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or
- require the student to secure alternative or additional funding

Such students are required to:

- Produce a Certificate of Eligibility;
- Provide written request to be certified;
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as required by the Primary School Certifying Official.

This provision ends on the earlier of the following dates:

- The date on which payment from the VA is made to the institution
- 90 days after the date the institution certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the Certificate of Eligibility

IMPORTANT: It is recommended that you print of a copy of your confirmation notification and bring it to the HCU Office of Financial Aid (Mechelle Thompson) mthompson@hcu.edu phone: 256.7665.6610 x 303, P.O. Box HCU, Florence, AL 35630. Also, if you have any questions about the using tuition assistance at HCU, please use the contact information above as well.

Recap of program

Service	Amount Covered	What is Covered	Who is Eligible
Air Force	100% tuition & fees, not to exceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$250 per semester hour • \$166 per quarter hour • \$3,750 per fiscal year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition • Lab Fees • Enrollment fees • Special Fees • Computer Fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active duty • Reserves
Army	100% tuition & fees, not to exceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$250 per semester hour • \$166 per quarter hour • 16 semester hours per year • \$4,000 per fiscal year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition • Lab Fees • Enrollment fees • Special Fees • Computer Fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Duty • ARNG on Active Duty • Army Reserves
Navy	100% tuition & fees, not to exceed:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition • Lab Fees • Enrollment fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Duty • Naval Reserves in AD status

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$250 per semester hour • \$166 per quarter hour • \$3,000 per fiscal year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Fees • Computer Fees 	
Marines	<p>100% tuition & fees, not to exceed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$250 per semester hour • \$166 per quarter hour • \$4,500 per fiscal year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition • Lab Fees • Enrollment fees • Special Fees • Computer Fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Duty only
Coast Guard	<p>100% tuition & fees, not to exceed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$250 per semester hour • \$166 per quarter hour • \$2,250 per fiscal year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuition • Lab Fees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Duty • Reserves in AD status