

Florida National Guard Educational Dollars for Duty EDD

The Florida National Guard (FLNG) Educational Dollars for Duty (EDD) program is a State of Florida, legislatively directed and funded, education tuition assistance resource, that is exclusively available to qualified FLNG Servicemembers for pursuing authorized postsecondary educational opportunities that include vocational/technical programs, industry certifications and licenses, continuing education, and academic degrees (Associates, Bachelors, and Masters) and Certificate programs. Additionally, the EDD program pays for authorized professional licensing and industry certification exams, provides for reimbursement of eligible licenses/certifications that were paid for up-front by Servicemembers, and may even be able to refund textbook and instructional material costs if funds are remaining at the end of the fiscal year. The EDD program is a State of Florida privilege, not an entitlement, which is available to qualifying FLNG Servicemembers. Program availability is always limited to the availability of program funds.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Establish a student profile and submit all required information in the FLNG automated system, called the Virtual Education Center (VEC) located at:

EDD Website: edd.dma.myflorida.com

EDD pays up to:

\$218.71 per credit for Undergraduate courses

\$532.52 per credit for Graduate level courses

\$15.00 per clock hour for Technical courses

CONTACT INFORMATION

The quickest & most effective way to reach EDD with questions, comments or to request assistance is to email to the EDD Group Mailbox:

ng.fl.flarng.list.edd-office@army.mil

Email EDD



PROGRAM REFERENCE

FNG Pamphlet 621-5-2, Dated 1 June 2024

“One great benefit of being a member of the Florida National Guard is the state- funded Educational Dollars for Duty program. Over 20,000 Soldiers and Airmen have taken advantage of this valuable incentive which includes coverage of Associate’s, Bachelor’s, and Master’s degrees as well as numerous certifications and licensing programs.”

Major General Haas, Adjutant General.

You can reach us at:

Kristal Lohr - EDD Program Coordinator
(904) 823-0339

Sara Lloyd - EDD Program Coordinator
(904) 823-0352

Crystal Seals - EDD Program Coordinator
(904) 823-0223

Glenn O’Brien - EDD Program Director
(904) 823-0351

INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- At least Seventeen Years of Age
- Domiciled in the State of Florida
- Active Drilling Member of the Florida National Guard
- Complete Required Documentation
- Maintain Academic Responsibilities
- Maintain Financial Responsibilities
- No Unexcused/Unauthorized Absences
- Meet AWCP/AFWMP Standard
- Meet APFT/AFFT Standard
- Not Under UCMJ/FCMJ Proceedings
- Not Tested Positive for Illegal Drugs/Medications
- Must have Common Access Card (CAC) to Access System

SCHOOL/PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must Have Physical Location in the State of Florida
- Regional/National Accreditation
- State of Florida "MyFloridaMarketplace" vendor number
- Licensed with the Commission for Independent Education (Only Applicable to Private Schools)
- Adhere to EDD Program and System Requirements

HOW TO APPLY FOR EDD BENEFITS

Create Profile

- Create a profile on the EDD website (edd.dma.myflorida.com) using your CAC

Education Goal

- Submit your Education Goal
- Your Education Goal must include your name, name of your school, credits needed and credits earned

Funding Request

- After your Education Goal has been approved, you may submit your funding request
- Your funding request will include the break down of class(s) you will be taking during that semester

Pending Unit

- Once you have submitted your funding request, it will be sent to your Unit for approval
- Make sure the Unit listed on your profile is correct

Pending EDD

- Upon Unit Approval, the EDD office will review your funding request and make any required changes
- You may check the status of your funding request by logging in to your profile at any time

Approval

- You must submit your approved application to your school to ensure EDD is invoiced properly

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **How early can I apply for EDD benefits?**

You can apply for benefits starting 60 days before the start date of your course.

- **How do I know if I have been approved for benefits?**

The EDD system, called Virtual Education Center (VEC), is a self-service system. You can check the status of your application by logging into your EDD profile. Once you have signed in, go to the Enrollments tab and your funding request will indicate either "Pending Unit Review" or "Unit Concurs", and either "Pending Review", "Approved" or "Denied".

- **How will my school know I am using EDD?**

Once your funding request has been approved, you will have the option to print your approved application (also known as Form 704) and, as a best practice, you should provide it to your school's billing office. Most schools will not invoice EDD until they receive the Form 704 from the student.

- **The Unit on my EDD student profile is incorrect. How can I change it?**

You own the responsibility of ensuring that your Unit is properly reflected in your student profile on the Virtual Education Center (VEC). You have the ability to update the Unit in your student profile. If, for some reason, you are not able to update your Unit in the VEC, you can send an email to the EDD group email address (ng.fl.flarng.list.edd-office@army.mil) requesting that your Unit be updated and provide the correct Unit.

- **The ETS date on my profile is incorrect. How can I change it?**

You will need to send an email to the EDD email address (ng.fl.flarng.list.edd-office@army.mil) requesting an ETS update. You MUST attach a copy of your most recent LES or Re-enlistment forms.

- **I have received a missing grades notification from the system, how can I update my grades?**

You must send an email to the EDD email address (ng.fl.flarng.list.edd-office@army.mil) with proof of grades. All attachments must include your name, name of school, courses dates along with the courses and grades.

- **Am I permitted to combine Federal Tuition Assistance with EDD?**

Yes, Federal Tuition Assistance can be combined with EDD up to 100% of the tuition rate. Benefits are tuition-based only and Federal TA pays first and then EDD will pay the balance up to the allowable amount.

- **How long will it take for my Funding Request to be approved?**

Once your Unit has approved your good standing status, the Funding Request moves to the EDD queue. During peak volume periods (near start of semester), it may take up to 5-7 business days to review and process your Funding Request.

- **How will my school be paid?**

Your school will invoice EDD after the course begins via the A.I. Portal and will receive payment approximately 4-8 weeks after EDD receives the invoice from the school.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **What happens if I fail a course?**

EDD must recoup for any courses that do not receive a passing grade.

- **What if I applied for benefits, but then decided to take a different course instead? The new course has the same number of credits and cost for the course on my approved funding request.**

Any changes to your course schedule must be updated on your EDD funding request. The courses funded by EDD must reflect on your transcript. If there are differences, EDD is required by State Statute to recoup for that course and any associated fees.

- **Can my EDD benefits be transferred to a spouse or child?**

EDD benefits are non-transferable.

- **What if I want to attend a private school.....will my tuition be paid at 100%?**

If you choose a private school, you will be required to pay the difference between the EDD max per-credit amount and what the school charges.

- **Are Book Packs covered by EDD?**

Book Packs cannot be paid up-front as tuition payments. Book packs are eligible for a Book Refund Request. Per State Statutes, book refunds can only be paid if there are funds remaining after all tuition and fees for the fiscal year have been paid. There is no guarantee that book pack refunds will be paid. Requests can be submitted for a book pack refund after the semester concludes and grades have been entered. All courses in the funding request associated with a book pack refund request must be complete, and have a passing grade (no drops, incompletes, missing, or non-passing grades) for any courses on the funding request entered in the VEC. EDD will not pay additional charges related to non-returned Book Packs or late-return Book Packs

- **Can EDD benefits be used for flight school?**

EDD covers the ground portion of flight school. The ground portion of flight school generally represents approximately 50% of flight school cost. Uniforms, fuel, and flight packs are not covered by EDD. Costs vary greatly by school. It is highly recommended that Servicemembers research various flight schools/programs to ensure the most effective and economical route to achieve their flight school goals.

MYTH BUSTERS

- **I was told that EDD would not permit me to take only one course per semester. Is that true?**

Myth BUSTED. There is no minimum amount of credits required to use EDD benefits

- **I was told that EDD won't pay for courses at year-end due to lack of funding. Is that correct?**

Myth BUSTED. EDD has a budget of almost \$6.2 million, and pays all approved funding requests. EDD can use next fiscal year funds for classes that extend into the next fiscal year.

- **I was told that I do not qualify for EDD benefits until I go to drill. Is that correct?**

Myth BUSTED. Per FL Statutes, service members are eligible for benefits at enlistment.

- **I was told that EDD guarantees payment of my book refund requests. Is that true?**

Myth BUSTED. Book reimbursements are NOT guaranteed. Per State Statutes, book refunds are reviewed at the end of the State fiscal year (1 July – 30 June), and *if* there are funds remaining after all tuition, fees, and certifications are paid, then EDD will process book reimbursement requests.

- **I was told that I could combine EDD with my ROTC Tuition Scholarship and I could pocket the extra money. Is that correct?**

Myth BUSTED. EDD cannot be combined with an ROTC Tuition Scholarship (i.e. the cadet selected the "Tuition & Fees" option for the ROTC Scholarship). FL State Statutes dictate that EDD be used for tuition and fees only. If the tuition has been paid by a tuition- specific scholarship, there is no tuition for EDD to pay. Conversely, if the ROTC cadet selects the "Room & Board" option for their ROTC Scholarship, EDD may be used in conjunction with the ROTC Scholarship.

- **I heard that EDD's funding budget was cut. Is that true?**

Myth BUSTED. There was no EDD budget cut. The State of Florida supports the EDD program by appropriating approximately \$6.2 million in fiscal year 2027.....that's an increase of \$1 million over the prior year (FY2026) appropriation.

In the past two years, demand for EDD benefits, and the increasing cost of the education benefits were higher than the prior appropriation. As a result, program benefits were reduced to remain within budget. We are happy to report that the State of Florida legislature provided the \$1 million dollar increase to enable EDD to restore benefits to at the "Best in the Nation" level.