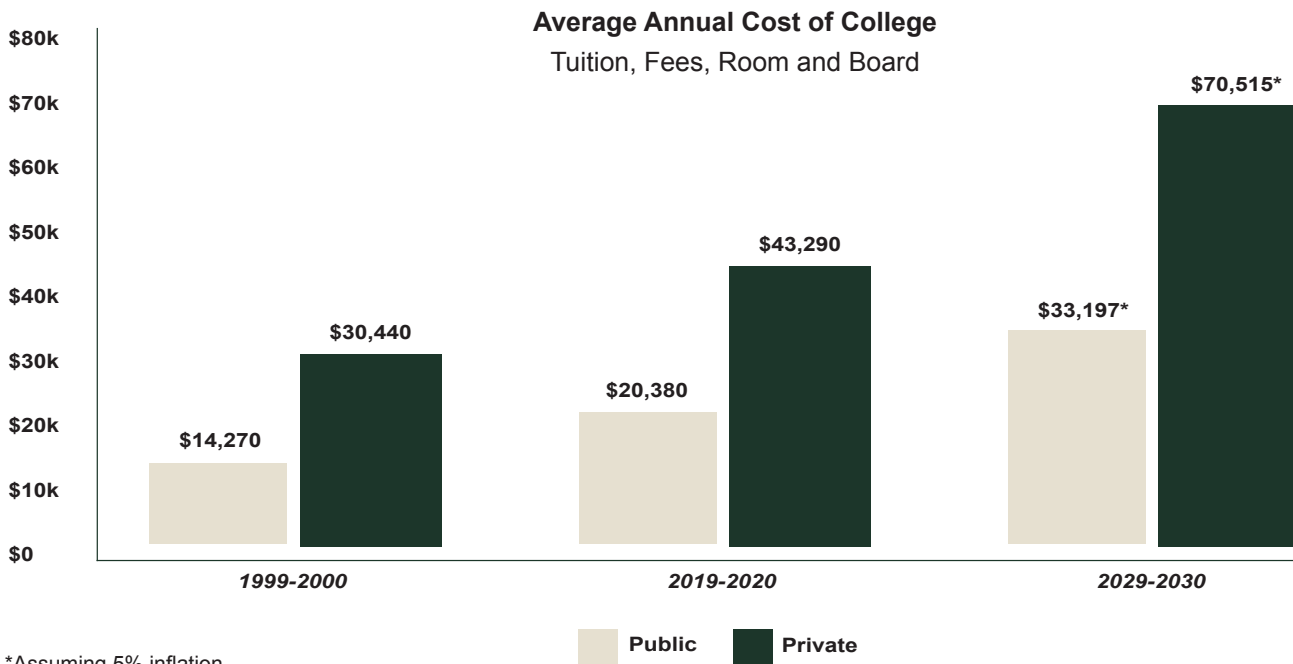


★ FUNDING FUTURE EDUCATION

College can be expensive, but don't be discouraged if you can't save enough to cover the entire cost. For perspective, consider another major purchase, like a house. Most buyers can't afford to pay cash. Instead, they make a down payment and borrow the rest. College is no different. While many want to save enough to pay for college, it may require a combination of savings, income, scholarships and student loans to get the job done. As a future Soldier, you will most likely be eligible to use one of the GI Bill programs (Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (MGIB-AD) or Montgomery GI Bill-Select Reserve (MGIB-SR)) to help fund your education. Let's take a look at the cost and available options to help you fund your education.

RISING COST OF COLLEGE

According to data reported by collegeboard.org, the average annual cost for an undergraduate degree (tuition, fees, room and board) has increased significantly since 1989. For the 2019-20 school year, full-time students are expected to pay an annual average of \$23,190 at a public four-year school and \$51,110 for a private one. Using these estimates, it may cost as much as \$92,760 (public) and \$204,440 (private) over four years. This chart illustrates the potential annual cost in just 10 years with 5% inflation.



<https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/tuition-fees-room-and-board-over-time>

★ SOLDIER EDUCATION BENEFITS

One of the benefits of serving in the Army is the wide range of education benefits. Many of the education benefits apply to Soldiers still in uniform, and others are also available after you transition to the civilian world, such as the MGIB-AD and the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

POST-9/11 GI BILL

Once you complete initial training and serve 90 more qualifying active duty days, you may be eligible for this program. The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides up to 36 months of education benefits, which may include:

- Tuition
- Monthly housing allowance
- Annual books and supplies stipend
- One-time rural benefit payment

Qualified Soldiers may transfer unused GI Bill benefits to their dependents. For more information about the GI Bill Program, visit benefits.va.gov/gibill or call (888) 442-4551.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL

The Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (MGIB-AD) provides education benefits to active duty Soldiers and, in some cases, drilling Guard and Reserve Soldiers. Active duty Soldiers require three years service obligation and contributions. The Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) provides benefits to Guard/Reserve Soldiers and requires a six year service obligation and does not require contributions.

COMPARING GI BILLS

The VA provides a comparison tool that helps you choose which benefit is best for you, visit www.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool.

POST-9/11 GI BILL

Determination of Benefits

- Based on service completed (50%-100%)

Types of Training Covered

- Provides benefits for a variety of degree certificate granting and other assistance programs

Housing Stipend

- Veterans may qualify (not authorized for AD)

Book Stipend

- Pays an annual book stipend

Pay Restrictions

- No pay reduction

MONTGOMERY GI BILL - ACTIVE DUTY

Determination of Benefits

- Fixed amount regardless of education program
- Adjusted annually

Types of Training Covered

- Pays benefits for degree granting and a variety of other programs

Housing Stipend

- Not authorized

Book Stipend

- Does not pay a separate book stipend

Pay Restrictions

- \$100 per month for 12 months (\$1,200 total)
- Plus, you can 'buy-up' your benefit to a higher rate, by paying an additional, non-refundable \$600

POST-9/11 GI BILL, (CONT.)

Service Requirement

- Serve 90 days to 3+ years of cumulative AD service
- Must complete Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT)
- Must have served honorably

Time Limit to Use Benefits

- Does not expire if your Service ended on or after January 1, 2013

Tax Benefit

- Tax-free benefit

Tutorial Assistance

- You receive extra money for this benefit

MONTGOMERY GI BILL - ACTIVE DUTY, (CONT.)

Service Requirement

- 3+ years of continuous AD or
- 2 years if that is your enlistment or
- 2 years continuous AD, +4 years in the Selected Reserve
- Must complete Basic Training and AIT
- Must have served honorably

Time Limit to Use Benefits

- 10 years from last discharge or separation date

Tax Benefit

- Tax-free benefit

Tutorial Assistance

- You receive extra money for this benefit

IN-STATE TUITION FOR VETERANS

There can be a huge difference between the tuition charged to residents versus non-residents at public colleges and universities.

As a veteran, you may qualify for the resident rate, even if you haven't established residency in that state thanks to a provision in the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act. This applies to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty and the GySgt John D. Fry Scholarship. Learn about time limits and other details at benefits.va.gov.

ADDITIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

The Army may offer its own scholarships, college funds, credentialing opportunities, tuition assistance, work-study programs, loan repayment programs, and other forms of assistance.

Anyone who enters Service in the Army (and their dependents) may be eligible for one of the following education assistance programs:

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program:

This program provides education and training to dependents of vets who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition, or vets who die on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

Marine GySgt John David Fry Scholarship:

This program provides benefits to children and surviving spouses of Soldiers who died in the line of duty, while serving after September 10, 2001.

Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarships:

Offered at hundreds of colleges nationwide, ROTC allows students to attend school full time while preparing for a career as a commissioned military officer. Some ROTC cadets qualify for scholarships that are awarded based on merit only — not financial need.

★ GUARD AND RESERVE

Members of the Guard and Reserve in a drilling status receive the same entitlements listed on this handout. Here are some specific points that you should be aware of:

- **MGIB-SR:** If you agree to serve in the Selected Reserve for six years or more, you are eligible to receive up to 36 months of benefits, which expire when you are no longer in a drilling status. Benefits are paid monthly and depend on enrollment status and type of training. An additional “kicker” is paid if you hold a critical Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). For more specific information visit: [https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal-Benefits/Montgomery-GI-Bill-\(MGIB\)](https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal-Benefits/Montgomery-GI-Bill-(MGIB)).
- **Post-9/11 GI Bill:** If you are not already eligible to receive 100% of the benefits, the Post-9/11 GI Bill provides different percentages of benefits (50% - 100%) based on the amount of active duty service you accumulate. Under Title 10 most active duty orders qualify, whereas Inactive Duty Training and Annual Training do not. Duty performed under Title 32 qualifies if the purpose is organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the National Guard, or responding to a national emergency. For more specific information, visit <https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal-Benefits/Post-9/11-GI-Bill>.

For more information regarding education benefits, contact your active duty Army Education Center, State Headquarters Education Services Office, or visit the Veterans Affairs/Services Office on your university or college campus. If you served previously, you may be eligible for other benefits so check with your recruiter for more information.

You can find more information about VA education and training programs and relevant application forms at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/handouts_forms.asp.

★ UNDERSTANDING ACCREDITATION

It's very important to pay close attention to accreditation when evaluating an educational institution. When a school is accredited, it means an outside organization has conducted an evaluation and determined the school meets certain standards for providing a quality education.

- Whether other schools will allow you to transfer credits from that school
- Whether employers will be impressed by the work you've done
- Whether licensing boards will accept your education

Not all accreditation is the same. There are two major types: national and regional. It may seem counter-intuitive, but regional accreditation is much more valued than national accreditation.

- You also want to make sure that the school not only has the right accreditation, but that the specific program you're considering is accredited too.

★ RESOURCES

- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) — <https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/>
- VA GI Bill comparison tool — <https://www.va.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool>
- MyArmyBenefits — <https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal-Benefits>
- Military OneSource — <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/military-life-cycle/veterans-military-funeral-honors/which-gi-bill-is-best-for-you>
- US Army Reserves: <https://www.go.army.com/reserves>
- National Guard: <https://www.nationalguard.com>



SECURING THE
FINANCIAL
FRONTLINE