GENIUS GUIDE
Military & Post-Traditional Student Services

Holmes Student Center, room 23K
(basement level near the orientation office)
Campus Life Building Room 240

Phone: 815-753-9999/0691
Fax: 815-752-9999
E-mail: ocntss@niu.edu
Like us on Facebook @ NIU MPTSS
Introduction

Greetings! Welcome to the Genius Guide, presented by Military & Post-Traditional Student Services of Northern Illinois University. This guide was created to serve as a quick reference for Military and Post-Traditional students. The information compiled presents a variety of offices and services offered on and off campus that are available for students, but are sometimes underutilized. Use this guide for yourself or feel free to share it with a friend. If you have any questions or suggestions for the Genius Guide, please contact Military & Post-Traditional Student Services at (815) 753-9999 or via e-mail at OCNTSS@niu.edu. If you are in need of Military Benefits Counseling, please contact us at (815) 753-0691 or via e-mail at MSS@niu.edu

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Hello Huskies!

Welcome to NIU. We are excited that you are a part of our community and the new Office of Military and Post Traditional Student Services!!!!

Established in August of 2005, Off-Campus & Non-Traditional Student Services was formed in order to serve the needs of off-campus (any off-campus or commuter student) and non-traditional students. Ten years later, the office merged with Military Student Services to become the new Office of Military and Post Traditional Student Services. A post traditional student may identify as any of the following: is 24 years old or older, has a dependent or children, is a military or veteran student, is married/divorced/widowed, is enrolled part-time, commutes, transferred, is an online learner, or lives off-campus. We understand that the life of a post traditional student can be very different from that of the typical college student. We realize that you have many more responsibilities outside of your role as a student. Many of you work, have families, and have other obligations you have to balance. You certainly have unique challenges, and we are here to help make your college career a little smoother.

We cannot succeed at our job if you are not successful. You represent one of the most difficult student populations to connect to campus due to your unique challenges. We want to provide you with the space, programming, and services necessary to help with your success. Please stop in and visit our office and lounge space located in Holmes Student Center, rooms 023J and 023K (lower level near the Orientation office), call us at 815-753-9999.

Take time to check out our web site and the many programs and support services we provide. As more veterans and post traditional students become aware of our office, we would like to create additional programs and services to meet your needs. If you have any ideas that would improve the life of veteran and post traditional student, please feel free to contact our office so that we may develop different resources to assist you.

We look forward to working with you.

Military & Post-Traditional Student Services is designed to be a one-stop shop for our student population that provides support, resources and a place to call home. In the basement of the Holmes Student Center, students can access the MPTSS Lounge with computers and kitchen area as well as touch base with staff members waiting to assist with transition and academic support.

While the MPTSS resources can be accessed year round with many available online, the office is also a home for programming meant to assist students whether it be academically with tutoring, job-networking, off-campus housing assistance or social engagement. Please check the MPTSS website and Facebook pages for all updates regarding programming throughout the calendar year.
NIU Commuter Parking Tips

This section will provide you with valuable tips to assist you in your pursuit of successful and positive parking experiences on campus.

- Typically, parking is more difficult in the first two weeks of each semester. Parking is strictly on a first-come, first-served basis. Arrive on campus early. We suggest allowing at least 15 minutes to locate a spot and to walk to class.
- Do not park in reserved spaces; you face a $100 fine, and may have your vehicle towed.
- Report non-working parking meters to Campus Parking Services at (815) 753-1045.
- Parking lots close to classrooms are typically full 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Read the NIU parking regulations you received with your permit.
- If you have car trouble while traveling NIU’s DeKalb campus, call the Department of Public safety at (815) 753-1212.
- Keep a parking map in your car at all times.
- You may purchase reserved parking spaces around campus, or temporary and visitor permits as well.

Rates

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<thead>
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<th>Geared Toward</th>
<th>Price (Annual)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Faculty &amp; Staff</td>
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<td>Orange</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motorcycles</td>
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More information can be found at: http://www.niu.edu/parking/permits/index.shtml

Toll Free Weather Status Hotline

For the latest information regarding weather closings at NIU’s DeKalb, Hoffman Estates, and Rockford campuses, you also can call the NIU Toll-Free Weather Status Hotline:

- Local residents, dial (815) 752-OPEN (815-752-6736)
- Long distance callers, dial 1-888-4NIU-OPEN (1-888-464-8673)
- Local TDD callers, dial (815) 753-9703
- Long distance TDD callers, dial 1-888-NIU-WTHR (1-888-648-9847)

Text Alerts

You may also receive text alerts to your cellphone by entering your mobile number into your MyNIU student system. Receive notifications about emergency situations and campus closings, as-well-as nearby police situations.

Directions To DeKalb

From the West via I-88: exit I-88 at Annie Glidden Road. Look for the NIU sign!

From the East Via I-90: exit at Rt. 47 South to Rt. 38 West to Annie Glidden Road. Via I-88: exit at Annie Glidden Road.

From the North or South: exit off I-39 onto I-88 East to Annie Glidden Road exit.

From Midway Airport: exit North on Cicero Avenue. (Il Rt. 50) to I-55 South (Stevenson expressway) to I-355 North (North-South Tollway) to I-88 West (East-West Tollway) exit at Annie Glidden Road.

From O’Hare Airport: exit I-190 to I-294 South (Tri-state Tollway) to I-88 West (East-West Tollway) to Annie Glidden Road.
Late Night Ride

The Late Night Ride service provides free, route based rides to NIU students on a nightly basis, 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. The service is run by the Department of Public Safety and is staffed by members of our Security Guard Division. The Late Night Ride van is wheelchair accessible and can seat up to seven passengers. A second Late Night Ride vehicle can seat up to six passengers and is available on nights when staffing and demand permits.

Call the Late Night Ride service at (815)753-2222, or use the NIU app for quick route specifics.

Freedom Mobile

The Freedom Mobile is also run by Veolia Transportation via the NIU Disability Resource Center. For information on this service please contact Disability Resource Center at (815) 753-04802

The bus runs Monday - Friday 7:10 a.m. to 11:45 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9:10 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.

TransVAC and MedVAC

The Voluntary Action Center provides transportation for medical appointments throughout DeKalb County and some farther points through TransVA and MedVac. These services are provided for people with low-incomes, those with disability, senior citizens and those in need. The bus travels to out-of-town medical facilities and has a suggested $1 donation per ride, but will not deny service to any individual in need.

For more information on this service contact the Voluntary Action Center at (815) 758-0818, or visit http://vacdk.com/transportation/.

Huskie Line Bus System

The Huskie Line bus system is a collection of 15 buses that transport students to on-campus/off-campus housing, campus classrooms, DeKalb shopping centers, and the Kishwaukee hospital. The NIU Huskie Line bus system is one of the largest transit systems in the state of Illinois and also represents one of the largest student-run systems in the country.

For more information on this service, contact Veolia Transportation at: (815) 758-6900 or visit http://www.huskieline.com/.

Elburn Shuttle (to Elburn Train station)

The Elburn Shuttle bus is run by the Huskie bus service, and charges a student rate of $5.00 for all current NIU students who carry an NIU OneCard.

The shuttle runs:
Monday-Friday 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Huskie Patrol

The NIU Department of Public Safety instituted the Huskie Student Patrol in 1996. The Huskie Patrol works week nights, from 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m., and is operated by student employees organized into teams and zones. Members working out of the Department of Public Safety facility are supplied for duty with radios that carry both their own service channel and the University Police channel for instant communication. The members are also distinctly attired as they make their rounds. The Huskie Patrol routinely tests the emergency call boxes on campus and surveys the exterior lighting.

The Huskie Student Patrol provides a “Walk Safe” service to those who do not wish to walk alone during those hours. To arrange a “Walk Safe” escort to a destination, a student need only call (815) 753-9658 during the hours of operation, and give the necessary information to the Huskie Patrol dispatcher.

Rates

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<td>$50.68</td>
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</table>

*Affiliates are students or staff members

Log In and Wireless Connection

Logging in to the NIU campus computers or connecting to the NIUwireless is as easy as entering your Z-ID and password. If it is your first time logging in or you have forgotten your log in credentials, please follow the steps below.

Z-ID:

You are assigned a Z-ID when you are enrolled at NIU. It will look similar to z9#####, and is permanent. You may look up your Z-ID in the student directory, located at the top of NIU’s main web page. All student email addresses begin with your Z-ID and look similar to z9#####@students.niu.edu.

Password:

Your initial default password will be the year of your birth followed by the first three letters of your birth month (first letter capitalized) and the day of the month. It will resemble the following:

January 1, 1993 = 1993Jan01

This initial password will expire after 3 logins.

If you have forgotten your password or would like to change your password, visit password.niu.edu/ or call ITS at (815) 753-8100.
NIU Library

The Northern Illinois University libraries system consists of the Founders Memorial Library, branch libraries that include Faraday Library, the Map Library, the Music Library, NIU Hoffman Estates Library, NIU Naperville Resource Center, NIU Rockford Library, and the Regional History Center/University Archives.

The university libraries contain over two million volumes as well as periodicals, government publications, microforms, maps, recordings, audiovisual materials, and electronic databases.

NIU libraries are participants in the I-share online catalog system, a network involving 71 academic institutions throughout Illinois. Using computer workstations in the libraries, via dial-up, or the internet, users may immediately determine which libraries own desired research materials. Materials not owned by NIU can be obtained quickly from other I-share member libraries.

Founders Memorial Library, the main library, has six levels with 314,000 square feet of space and seating capacity for 1,600 students. The first floor houses key library services including the circulation desk, the reference desk, services to students with disabilities, library instruction, the information desk, document delivery services, the reserves collection, periodicals collection, and the newspaper reading room. Microforms and government publications are located on the second floor; rare books and special collections and the Southeast Asia collection are on the fourth floor. The upper three floors house circulating books and non-print materials.

Faraday Library serves faculty and students in the disciplines of chemistry and physics. Similarly, the music library serves the music curriculum, and the map library contains maps and atlases for research in geography. NIU Hoffman Estates Library, NIU Naperville Resource Center, and NIU Rockford Library service the needs of library users at those sites. Regular, interim, and holiday hours are posted near the entrance to each library.
**NIU OneCard**

Do you know what your OneCard can do for you? The OneCard is a student’s ID card for Northern Illinois University. It is completely free to you as a student. To receive or replace a OneCard, bring a valid ID and a smile to the OneCard office in the Holmes Student Center lower level across from the Huskies Books & Gear.

The NIU OneCard Allows You To:

- Take books out of the library.
- Obtain tickets to athletic events for free or for a discounted price.
- Charge up to $750 for books and supplies to your bursar account at the beginning of the semester!
- Access the Recreation Center on campus and the Chick Evans Field House.
- Obtain entrance to campus events.
- You may also deposit money on your OneCard, which will serve as ‘Huskie Bucks’.
- Printing on campus is easier than ever with the new Anywhere Printing stations, all you have to do is swipe your OneCard to call up your sent prints. [Anywhere Printer Locations](http://www.niu.edu/onecard/)

The OneCard is very beneficial and can make your time at NIU much easier.

For more information and for a list of off-campus vendors who accept huskie bucks visit [http://www.niu.edu/onecard/](http://www.niu.edu/onecard/) or call (815) 753-9569.

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**Student Fees**

The following is a listing of all standard student fees. Not all fees will apply to every student and it is recommended you speak with the bursars office should any confusion arise.

- Academic Program Enhancement Fee
- General Fee (DeKalb Campus Only)
- Outreach Delivery Fees (Regional/Off-Campus Program Locations Only)
- Regional Course Charges (Special Off-Campus Courses Only)

**THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS FOR WAIVERS FOR THE FEES LISTED ABOVE**

- Student-to-Student Program Free
- Student Medical insurance
- Material Fees
- Bookstore Charges
- Late Immunization Fee
- Parking
- Pharmacy Charges
- Room and Board Charges

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**Huskie Bucks**

A Huskie Bucks Account is a pre-paid debit account that can be used to make purchases with your NIU OneCard ID at participating locations on and near Northern Illinois University. The Huskie Bucks program facilitates life on campus by freeing students from carrying cash. Huskie Bucks are accepted at an array of restaurants within the DeKalb community. They may also be used at vending machines, print & copy machines, to obtain transcripts, to purchase a parking permit on campus, and anywhere else cash is regularly accepted on campus.

For more information about Huskie Bucks, please visit [http://www.niu.edu/onecard/huskiebucks/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/onecard/huskiebucks/index.shtml) or for a complete list of vendors that accept huskie bucks, please visit [http://www.niu.edu/onecard/vendors/](http://www.niu.edu/onecard/vendors/)
Campus Child Care

Part-time and full-time child care is available to NIU students, faculty, and staff. NIU Campus Child Care offers quality care to children ages 3 months to 5 years (along with a summertime school-age program for children ages 6 to 8).

The program is licensed through the state of Illinois and accredited through the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs. The program is housed in Gabel Hall.

For more information, please call (815) 753-0125 or visit the website at [http://www.niu.edu/ccc/](http://www.niu.edu/ccc/).

Counseling & Consultation Services

Counseling & Consultations Services is a powerful, free service for all students. They have a range of programs including: addiction and habit control, crisis and grief counseling, and individual counseling. The also employ licensed psychologists. A listing of services is provided below:

**Walk-In Services**

Students needing assistance with personal concerns or crisis situations can walk-in for a consultation appointment with a CCS counselor.

**Individual Counseling**

If individual counseling at CCS is recommended, the student will discuss the goals and length of counseling with her/his assigned counselor. Counseling at CCS is based on a short-term model.

Veterans can feel free to make appointments with Dr. Mark S. Matuszewski.

**Group Counseling**

Students whose personal concerns can best be addressed in group counseling are scheduled for an initial appointment with a group facilitator (or co-facilitators). The CCS offers a variety of groups to meet student needs. Follow the link to a list of available groups. [http://www.niu.edu/csd/counseling/docs/Fall2013Groups.pdf](http://www.niu.edu/csd/counseling/docs/Fall2013Groups.pdf)

For more information on the Counseling & Consultation Services and their resources, please visit the Campus Life Building 200, or call (815) 753-1206.

Students’ Legal Assistance

The Students’ Legal Assistance staff is composed of two full-time licensed attorneys, an office manager/staff secretary, three law students from the NIU College of law who serve as law clerks, and three undergraduate students on work-study. All current fee-paying students are eligible for their services, which is pre-paid through allocation of the student activity fees.

Clients are responsible for all court fees, litigation expenses, fines, and judgments.

Students’ Legal Assistance was opened in the fall of 1972 as a result of the leadership of the NIU student association and progressive support of the NIU administration. The program was born of the idea that it is vitally important to make legal assistance available to the thousands of NIU students who, because of economic inability, would otherwise be unable to participate in the due process system.

For over twenty years, the attorneys worked as independent contractors, becoming University employees in 1993 pursuant to a “shared Governance agreement” entered into between the University and the student association. The shared Governance agreement created the Students’ Legal Assistance Review Committee composed of the students and university administrators who provide programmatic oversight. Students’ Legal Assistance is funded entirely by student activity fees as allocated by the student association and is part of the Division of Student Affairs, which provides administrative support and guidance.

The Students’ Legal Assistance attorneys provide consultation, advocacy, and court representation services, as appropriate, to students in a wide variety of cases including:

- Landlord/tenant
- Criminal misdemeanor
- Traffic and ordinance violations
- Consumer (debt collection, contracts, etc.)
- Domestic relations
- Insurance
- Discrimination
- Public benefits
- Employment.

Students’ Legal Assistance also provides notary and voter registration services. For more information, please call (815) 753-1701 or visit their website at: [http://www.niu.edu/legal/](http://www.niu.edu/legal/).
University Writing Center

The University Writing Center, located in the basement of the Stevenson South Tower, is a place designed for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff members to discuss and receive editing on their papers, applications, presentations, and resumes from trained consultants, on a one-on-one basis. When you work with a consultant, you can:

- Discuss topics and ideas
- Develop strategies in planning, organizing, and developing drafts
- Discover effective uses of sources and correct documentation
- Understand your professors’ writing assignments more clearly
- Identify better ways to use language
- Learn appropriate methods of persuading readers
- Integrate critical reading and thinking skills in your written work
- Become more aware of the different types of writing that various disciplines require
- Prepare resumes and applications for internships, scholarships, or jobs

Please bring the following materials:

- Your written notes and/or your essay
- Two (2) copies of your paper/presentation
- A copy of the assignment your professor gave you
- The sources or textbooks you’re using, if appropriate.

The University Writing Center is open Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. and Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. An appointment can be made by calling (815) 753-6636. You can get more information at http://uwc.niu.edu/uwc/index.shtml.

Tutoring

Engineering Tutoring Center

The College of Engineering offers a tutoring center to all students and focuses on math, physics, chemistry, and lower level engineering courses. They are open Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. They are located in Engineering Building 141.

The A+ Program

The A+ program, run by the ACCESS office, focuses on helping students master study techniques and control test anxiety. They target the following areas:

- Effective Reading
- Efficient Textbook Reading
- Speed Reading
- Learning Styles
- Testing Strategies
- Test Anxiety
- Time Management
- Note-Taking Skills

For more Information please visit http://www.niu.edu/access/aplus/index.shtml.

PAL Services

PAL offers free one-on-one tutors at a range of locations and subjects. They have tutors by appointment and on a drop-in basis.

- **Appointment**
  You will be matched with a trained peer tutor for weekly sessions. Sign up early in the semester as tutors may be limited. For more information please email: PAL@niu.edu or visit: http://www.niu.edu/access/pal/index.shtml.

- **Drop-In**
  PAL offers Supplemental Instructors and Study Groups. They have locations in Founders Library, The New Residence Hall, and Douglas Residence Hall. For specific courses or locations please call (815) 753-0203 or visit: http://www.niu.edu/access/tutoringcenters/index.shtml.
Link Card

Anyone approved to receive cash assistance or SNAP (Food Stamps) benefits will be issued an Illinois Link card. The Illinois Link card is a plastic card that looks and works like a debit card. If you are eligible for cash and SNAP benefits, you will access both with the same card. Only one Illinois Link Card is issued per case.

http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=30371

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Trio

Student Support Services is a federally-funded program that serves the needs of first-generation college-students. We strive to provide the necessary academic and educational resources that our participants need to take advantage of all educational and career-related options. Their specific mission is to assist, support, and empower, participants in developing a successful collegiate experience leading to graduation while fostering a campus climate supportive of all races and cultures. Participation in Student Support Services is open to any NIU undergraduate student who:

- is from a family in which neither parent is a college graduate,
- is from a limited income household,
- and/or has a documented physical or learning disability.

Eligible students are admitted to the program upon completion of an application form, a personal interview, and academic and career assessment.

http://www.niu.edu/studentsupport/trio/index.shtml

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4-C

4-C is a private not-for-profit social service agency that for more than 40 years has helped families and child care providers by offering resources and services that include Child Care Financial Assistance, Resource & Referral for Child Care, Parent and Provider Education, the Child Care Food Program as well as Nursing, Social Work, Mental Health, QRS and Infant/Toddler Specialists. The agency also advocates on behalf of children, families and Early Care and Education Providers.

http://www.four-c.org/
Off-Campus Housing

Military and Post-Traditional Student Services

MPTSS offers a variety of off-campus housing resources for NIU students, such as:

- Housing Guides
- Apartment Listings
- Subleasing Advertisement
- Roommate Matching Services
- Off-Campus Housing Consultations

Come visit us in the basement of the Holmes Student Center room 23k. Give us a call at (815) 753-9999 or look us up at www.niu.edu/mptss

Northern Star-Housing Guide

The Northern Star Housing Guide is a booklet detailing many of the DeKalb apartments and townhomes. This guide includes a street by street break down of the rental properties surrounding the campus. For more information please visit http://northernstar.info/housing_guide/.

Third Party Resources

Along with many of the powerful resources offered at NIU, many local companies and entrepreneurs have also created tools for students to utilize:

- **The Apartment Hunter’s Guide**
  This booklet, created by residents of DeKalb, is a powerful starting point for anyone new to the DeKalb area. Swing by OCNTSS to pick up a copy.

- **Websites**
  - NIUPads.com
    - This website has been tailor made for the DeKalb area and offers possibilities for both subleasing and roommate needs.
  - DeKalbRent.com
    - This website is not affiliated with NIU or OCNTSS, but it is a strong resource focused specifically to DeKalb housing.
  - PlaceofMine.com
    - Similar to above, this site offers a beautiful user interface while giving users a powerful platform to post available subleases.

NIU Roommate Finder

The NIU Roommate Finder is a Facebook page that is managed by MPTSS. This page helps connect NIU students who are looking for roommates, and is a great resource for students who are trying to sublease their apartment or room. NIU Roommate Finder can be found at www.facebook.com/NiuRoommateFinder
Places Of Interest

United States Postal Service:
78455 North Street, DeKalb, IL (815) 758-6677
Drop boxes shown in blue and main office shown in red.

Egyptian Theatre:
135 North 2nd Street, DeKalb, IL (815) 758-1215
Constructed in the early 1930’s, the theatre was one of over 100 theatres across the country to decorate itself in an Egyptian style. Of all the Egyptian theatres, the DeKalb theatre is one of only 5 remaining, and is the only Egyptian Theatre east of the Rocky Mountains. Check their website regularly for event updates and scheduling.

Mid-West Museum of Natural History:
425 West State Street, Sycamore, IL (815) 895-9777
This Museum is home to over 100 mounted exotic animals, including one of the few-and one of the largest elephants on display in the country. The museum also houses a geology collection, interactive children's area, and temporary exhibits in the Rotary Exhibit Gallery and Oasis Room. Additionally, the Museum is home to a wide range of live reptiles, amphibians, fish, and arthropods.

Tom & Jerry’s:
215 West, Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL (815) 758-1675
The quick casual restaurant, based off of authentic Greek style cuisine, is a perfect place to bring the family, grab a late-night munch or even sit back and relax and let them bring the business to you; they deliver all day. Tom & Jerry’s has been a DeKalb favorite for over 35 years!

Ellwood House Museum:
509 N 1st Street, DeKalb, IL (815) 756-4609
The Ellwood House Museum has a visitor’s center, which includes a barbed wire gallery, and gift shop. The museum offers tourists a chance to glimpse what life was like for the Ellwoods. As part of the DeKalb Park District, the grounds are open to the public, and available for rental for use on public and private events. The DeKalb Area Garden Club hosts an annual Flower Show, community members hold weddings in the garden or visitors center, and the Ellwood House Association holds an annual Art Show, Ice Cream Social, and other events.
Illinois Veterans Grant:
The IVG program pays in-state tuition and fees for either undergraduate or graduate study at all Illinois public colleges and universities. **Recipients may use their grant assistance up to a maximum of 120 eligibility units.**

**Overview:**
- This program pays eligible in-state tuition and mandatory fees; eligible fees are defined as fees that all students pay. Fees **not covered** include but are not limited to resource fees, lab fees, online fees, regional course charges and outreach delivery fees.
- Benefits are limited to use only at Illinois public colleges or community colleges.
- Qualified applicants may use this grant at the undergraduate or graduate level for the equivalent of four academic years of full-time enrollment.
- IVG Program eligibility units are based on the enrolled hours for a particular term, not the dollar amount of the benefits paid.
- Charges for noncredit courses that meet the definition of tuition and mandatory fees may be covered by IVG benefits.
- If you qualify for IVG and the Montgomery or Post-9/11 G.I. Bills, you are able to receive benefits from both programs during the same academic year for eligible educational expenses.
- If a student who is eligible for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) is also eligible for IVG benefits, all IVG benefits available for the term(s) must be used first. A student cannot decline IVG benefits in favor of using MAP benefits.
- In order to receive benefits, qualified applicants must be enrolled at an Illinois public 2- or 4-year college and maintain the minimum grade point average (GPA) required by that college.

**Eligibility:**
To be a qualified applicant, you must:
- 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; have been medically discharged for service related reasons; or have been discharged prior to August 11, 1967.
- Have received an honorable discharge (general discharge under honorable conditions is not eligible) for each period of federal active duty service, and/or be honorably serving.
- Not be a member of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).
- Have been a resident of Illinois at the time of entering federal active duty service or within six months prior to entering the service, or
- Have been a student at an Illinois public 2- or 4-year college at the time of entering federal active duty service.
- Have established, or plan to establish, Illinois residency within six months after leaving federal active duty service

**How to Apply:**
- Obtain a copy of the IVG application from myzone.isac.org
- Follow instructions on application
- Attach a certified copy of DD-214
- Mail application and DD-214 to ISAC at the address given on application
- ISAC will send a notice of eligibility to a qualified applicant

**Application:** [http://www.eiu.edu/veterans/IVG%20Form.pdf](http://www.eiu.edu/veterans/IVG%20Form.pdf)
Illinois National Guard Grant:

The ING program pays for eligible tuition and certain fees for undergraduate or graduate study for actively drilling members of the Illinois National Guard.

Overview:

- At NIU this program pays eligible in-state tuition and the activity fees.
- Benefits are limited to use only at Illinois public colleges or community colleges.
- Qualified applicants may use this grant at the undergraduate or graduate level for the equivalent of four academic years of full-time enrollment.
- ING Program eligibility units are based on the enrolled hours for a particular term, not the dollar amount of the benefits paid.
- Charges for noncredit courses that meet the definition of tuition may be covered by ING benefits.
- If you qualify for ING and the Montgomery or Post-9/11 G.I. Bills, you are able to receive benefits from both programs during the same academic year for eligible educational expenses.
- If a student who is eligible for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) is also eligible for ING, all ING benefits that are available for the term(s) must be used first. A student cannot decline ING benefits in favor of using MAP benefits.
- In order to receive benefits, qualified applicants must be enrolled at an Illinois public 2- or 4-year college and maintain the minimum grade point average (GPA) required by that college.

Eligibility:

To be a qualified applicant, you must be an Illinois National Guard member, defined as meeting one of these two criterions:

- Be active in the Illinois National Guard or
- Have been active in the Illinois National Guard for at least five consecutive years and had his/her studies interrupted by being called to federal active duty service for at least six months and be within 12 months after your discharge date from the Illinois National Guard. (These applicants may be eligible to receive an additional year of ING Grant Program eligibility.

Eligibility under this provision is determined by the Education/Incentives Branch of the Military Personnel Office in Springfield, Illinois. Questions regarding your individual eligibility status under this provision should be directed to your chain of command, or to the Education/Incentives Branch of the Military Personnel Office at 217.761.3782.)

- Have completed one full year of service in the Illinois National Guard.
- Be an enlisted member or an officer.
- 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.
- Submit your complete application on or before the deadline date, based on the first term for which you wish to receive funds each academic year.

How to Apply:

- Eligible persons apply online via the interactive Illinois National Guard Grant Application.
- Applicants will receive a notice of eligibility from ISAC once approved, allow for 4 weeks of processing.
- Eligible individuals must reapply for the ING every year.


Application: [https://studentportal.isac.org/web/guest/student/?p_p_id=Student_WAR_Studentportlet&__Student_WAR_Studentportlet_f__facesViewIdRender=%2Fviews%2Fing%2Fing.xhtml](https://studentportal.isac.org/web/guest/student/?p_p_id=Student_WAR_Studentportlet&__Student_WAR_Studentportlet_f__facesViewIdRender=%2Fviews%2Fing%2Fing.xhtml)
Veteran Benefits Breakdown

MIA/POW Scholarship

The MIA/POW Scholarship is available to the dependents of Illinois veterans who have experienced exceptional hardship as a result of the veterans' military service.

Overview:
- Is a needs-based/merit-based scholarship
- Who? A dependent of an Illinois resident at the time he/she entered active duty and has been declared to be a prisoner of war, missing in action, dead as a result of a service-connected disability, or disabled with a 100 percent disability as the result of a service-connected cause as recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or the U.S. Department of Defense.
- This scholarship may be used at public colleges in Illinois, and is administered by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- The educational opportunities for the children of qualifying veterans under this program allow cash-strapped military families to provide a quality college education to their children.

This Benefit May Be Used For:
- Full payment of tuition and certain fees to any state supported Illinois institution of higher learning consisting of the equivalent of 4 calendar years of full-time enrollment including summer terms

Requirements:
- Must be a dependent of a Illinois veteran who has been declared to be a prisoner of war, missing-in-action, to have died as the result of a service-connected disability; or be permanently disabled from service-connected causes with 100% disability
- Must be a dependent of a veteran who was an Illinois resident, or was an Illinois resident within six months of entering service

How to Apply
- Download and complete an application by visiting https://www.illinois.gov/veterans/benefits/Documents/IL497-0472.pdf
- Mail the completed application to address listed on form.
- Send appropriate paperwork with the application such as a birth certificate, marriage license, form DD214, adoption papers, guardianship documentation, and proof of any developmental or mental disability.
- Include proof of the service-connected disability or service-related death.
Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606):

The MGIB SR program may be available to you if you are a member of the Selected Reserve. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, and Air National Guard. **You may be entitled up to 36 months of education benefits.**

**This benefit may be used for:**
- Degree and certificate programs
- Flight Training
- Apprenticeship and on the job training
- Correspondence courses
- Remedial, deficiency and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances

**Eligibility:**
- Have a six-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve signed after June 30, 1985. If you are an officer, you must have agreed to serve six years in addition to your original obligation. For some types of training, it is necessary to have a six-year commitment that begins after September 30, 1990;
- Complete your initial active duty for training (IADT);
- Meet the requirement to receive a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before completing IADT. You may not use 12 hours toward a college degree to meet this requirement;
- Remain in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit. You will also retain MGIB - SR eligibility if you were discharged from Selected Reserve service due to a disability that was not caused by misconduct. Your eligibility period may be extended if you are ordered to active duty.

**How to apply:**
- Your unit will give you a DD Form 2384-1, Notice of Basic Eligibility, when you become eligible for the program.
- Your unit will code your eligibility into the Department of Defense personnel system so that VA may verify your eligibility.
- Apply via mail with VA form 22-1990 or online via VONAPP


**Rates:** [http://www.gibill.va.gov/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.html#Ch1606](http://www.gibill.va.gov/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.html#Ch1606)
Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (Chapter 30):

The MGIB program is available to all active duty service members who’ve received an honorable discharge and **provides up to 36 months of educational benefits**. Generally, benefits are payable for 10 years following your release from active duty.

**This benefit may be used for:**

- College
- Technical or Vocational Courses
- Correspondence Courses
- Apprenticeship/Job Training
- Flight Training
- High-tech Training
- Licensing & Certification Tests
- Entrepreneurship Training
- Certain Entrance Examinations

**Buy Up Program:**

- Active duty personnel may contribute up to an additional $600 to the GI Bill to receive increased monthly benefits.
- May receive up to $5400 in increased benefits with additional contribution.
- Must be currently serving on active duty (this includes terminal leave) in order to pay into the buy-up program.

**Eligibility:**

- You may be eligible to receive MGIB benefits while you’re on active duty or after you’re separated from active duty.
- Completed High School, obtain an equivalency certificate, or complete 12 hours toward a college degree, before you apply for benefits.
- Category 1: for those who first entered active duty after June 30, 1985, and didn’t decline the MGIB in writing upon entry into active duty.
- Category 2: for those with remaining entitlement under the Vietnam Era GI Bill (Chapter 34, title 38, U.S. Code).
- Category 3: for those who were involuntarily separated for certain reasons or those who were separated under the VSI (Voluntary Separation Incentive) or SSB (Special Separation Benefit) program.
- Category 4: for former Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) participants who elected to convert to MGIB during the open window periods, and for a small group of National

**How to apply:**

- Make sure you have your DD Form 2384-1
- Apply Online through the VA website using VONAAP, or via mail with VA form 22-1990

**VONAPP (online application):** [http://www.gibill.va.gov/apply-for-benefits/application/](http://www.gibill.va.gov/apply-for-benefits/application/)

**VA MGIB webpage:** [http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/montgomery_gibill/active_duty.html](http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/montgomery_gibill/active_duty.html)


**Rates:** [http://gibill.va.gov/resources/benefits_resources/rates/CH30/ch30rates100111.htm](http://gibill.va.gov/resources/benefits_resources/rates/CH30/ch30rates100111.htm)
Veteran Benefits Breakdown

Vocational (Chapter 31):

The mission of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program is to help veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs. Also, VR&E services provide vocational-educational counseling to veterans and certain dependents.

Benefits:

- Comprehensive rehabilitation evaluation to determine abilities, skills, and interests for employment.
- Vocational counseling and rehabilitation planning for employment services.
- Employment services such as job-training, job-seeking skills, resume development, and other work readiness assistance.
- Assistance finding and keeping a job, including the use of special employer incentives and job accommodations.
- On the Job Training (OJT), apprenticeships, and non-paid work experiences.
- Post-secondary training at a college, vocational, technical or business school.
- Supportive rehabilitation services including case management, counseling, and medical referrals.
- Independent living services for Veterans unable to work due to the severity of their disabilities.

Eligibility:

Active Duty

- Expect to receive an honorable discharge upon separation from active duty.
- Obtain a memorandum rating of 20% or more from the VA.
- Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) VetSuccess services.

Veterans

- Have received, or will receive, a discharge that is other than dishonorable.
- Have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10%, or a memorandum rating of 20% or more from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA).
- Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) VetSuccess services.

VONAPP (online application): http://www.gibill.va.gov/apply-for-benefits/application/

VA website link: http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/index.htm

Rates: http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/sa.htm
Veteran Benefits Breakdown

Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33):

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is available as a new education benefit program that provides financial support for education and housing for service members and veterans who served on active duty after September 10, 2001.

Overview:
- This benefit provides up to 36 months of education benefits, generally benefits are payable for 15 years following your release from active duty. If you were released for a service-connected disability after at least 30 days of continuous service, you will also be eligible for benefits for 15 years.
- This can be used for many different types of educational programs
- Benefits received are based on the amount of active duty served.

This benefit may be used for:
- Graduate and undergraduate degrees
- Vocational/technical training
- On-the-job training
- Flight training
- Correspondence training
- Licensing
- National testing programs
- Tutorial assistance
- Non-college degree problems

Benefits of the Chapter 33
- Your full tuition & fees paid directly to the school for all public school in-state students, there is no cap to in-state benefits. For those attending private or foreign schools tuition & fees are capped at $21,084.89 per academic year.
- Your school will receive a percentage, as determined by your length of active duty service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individuals serving an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001:</th>
<th>Percentage of maximum benefit payable:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least 36 months</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 30 continuous days and discharged due to service-connected disability</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 30 months &lt; 36 months</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 24 months &lt; 30 months</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 18 months &lt; 24 months</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 12 months &lt; 18 months</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 6 months &lt; 12 months</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 90 days &lt; 6 months</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public School</th>
<th>All Tuition and Fee Payments for an in-State Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private or Foreign School</td>
<td>Up to $21,084.89 per academic year National Maximum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) (Continued):

A monthly housing allowance (MHA) based on the Basic Allowance for Housing for an E-5 with dependents at the location of the school. For those enrolled solely in distance learning the housing allowance payable is equal to ½ the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents ( $1,461 for the 2016 academic year). For those attending foreign schools (schools without a main campus in the U.S.) the BAH rate is fixed at $1,566 for the 2016 academic year. (Active duty students & their spouses cannot receive the MHA).

- An annual books & supplies stipend of $1,000 paid proportionately based on enrollment.
- A one-time payment of $500 paid to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas.

Eligibility:

- To be eligible, the service member, or veteran must serve at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after September 10, 2001, and remain on active duty, or be honorably:
  - Discharged from active duty status
  - Released from active duty and placed on the retired list, or temporary disability retired list
  - Released from active duty and transferred to the Fleet Reserve, or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve
  - Released from active duty for further service in a reserve component of the Armed Forces
  - You may also be eligible if you were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability and you served 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001.

NOTE: If you are eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill- Selected Reserve, or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program, and you qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, you may make an irrevocable election to receive benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Once you elect to receive benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, you will no longer be eligible to receive benefits under the program from which you elected the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

ILLINOIS VETERANS: Most Illinois veterans who have served on active duty for at least 3 years with a portion of that time after September 10, 2001 are able to use their Active Duty GI Bill (CH. 30) and IVG concurrently for 36 months and then switch to the Post 9/11 GI Bill for an additional 12 months. Veterans eligible for multiple programs can maximize their Montgomery GI Bill benefits for up to 48 months but no more than 48 months.

Link: http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/index.html

MHA Calculator: http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm
Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (Chapter 35):

Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits.

This benefit may be used for:
- Degree programs (majors & minors) & Certification Programs
- Apprenticeship
- On the job training

Eligibility:
You must be the son, daughter, or spouse of:
- A veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability. The disability must arise out of active service in the Armed Forces.
- A veteran who died from any cause while such permanent and total service-connected disability was in existence.
- A service member missing in action or captured in line of duty by a hostile force.
- A service member forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.
- A service member who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability. This change is effective December 23, 2006.

Period of Eligibility:
- If you are a son or daughter and wish to receive benefits for attending school or job training, you must be between the ages of 18 and 26.
- Marriage is not a bar to this benefit.
- If you are in the Armed Forces, you may not receive this benefit while on active duty.
- To pursue training after military service, your discharge must not be under dishonorable conditions.
- If you are a spouse, benefits end 10 years from the date VA finds you eligible or from the date of death of the veteran.
- If the VA rated the veteran permanently and totally disabled with an effective date of 3 years from discharge a spouse will remain eligible for 20 years from the effective date of the rating.
- For surviving spouses (spouses of service members who died on active duty) benefits end 20 years from the date of death.

How to apply:
- Obtain and complete VA Form 22-5490, Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance.
- Send it to the VA regional office with jurisdiction over the State where you will train.
- If you are a son or daughter, under legal age, a parent or guardian must sign the application.
- If you have started training, take your application to your school or employer. Ask them to complete VA Form 22-1999, Enrollment Certification, and send both forms to VA.
- If you have started training, take your application to your school or employer. Ask them to complete VA Form 22-1999, Enrollment Certification, and send both forms to VA.

Link: http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs/dea.html
Pay rates: http://www.gibill.va.gov/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.html#Ch35
Student Affairs Departments

The following are departments within the Division of Student Affairs:

**Asian American Center**
429 Garden Road DeKalb, IL 60115
(815) 752-1177
asianamericanCenter@niu.edu
http://www.niu.edu/aac/

**Campus Child Care**
East side of Annie Glidden Rd.
behind Gabel Hall
(815) 753-0125
http://www.niu.edu/ccc/

**Career Services**
Campus Life building,
Room 220
(815) 753-1641
http://www.niu.edu/Careerservices/

**Counseling & Consultation Services**
Campus Life Building,
Room 200
(815) 753-1206
http://www.niu.edu/csdc/

**Disability Resource Center**
Health Services Building, Fourth Floor
(815) 753-1303
http://niu.edu/disability/

**Gender & Sexuality Resource Center**
105 Normal Road
(815) 753-0320 OR (815) 753-5428
gsrc@niu.edu
http://niu.edu/gsrc/

**Health Services**
Lucinda Ave & Wirtz Drive
(815) 753-1311
Healthservices@niu.edu
http://www.niu.edu/healthservices/

**Housing & Dining**
Neptune Hall East
(815) 753-1525
housingdining@niu.edu
http://www.niu.edu/housing/

**Judicial Affairs**
Campus Life Building,
Room 280
(815) 753-1571
http://www.niu.edu/judicial/

**Latino Resource Center**
515 Garden Rd.
(815) 753-1986
lrc@niu.edu
http://www.niu.edu/lrc/

**Military & Post-Traditional Student Services**
Holmes Student Center, Room 023
(815) 753-9999
OCNTSS@niu.edu
http://www.niu.edu/mptss

**Orientation & Huskie Family Connections**
023 Holmes Student Center (basement level)
(815) 753-1535
orientation@niu.edu
http://www.niu.edu/ofc/

**Recreation Services**
Student Recreation Center
(815) 753-0231
http://www.niu.edu/campusrec/

**Student Involvement & Leadership Development**
Campus Life Building, Suite 150
(815) 753-1421
student_involvement@niu.edu
http://www.niu.edu/studentinvolvement/

**Students’ Legal Assistance**
Campus life building,
Room 120
(815) 753-1701
http://www.niu.edu/legal/
GENIUS GUIDE
Military & Post-Traditional Student Services

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Military & Post-Traditional Student Services
Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management