Introduction

Greetings! Welcome to the Genius Guide, presented by Military and 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 and Post-Traditional Student Services at 815-753-9999 or via email at ocntss@niu.edu or mss@niu.edu. If you are in need of Military Benefits Counseling, please phone us at 815-753-0691 or fax 815-753-0943.

Contents

3 Hello Huskies!
4 Annual Events and Special Programming
6 NIU Commuter Parking Tips
6 Toll-Free Weather Status Hotline
6 Text Alerts
6 Directions to DeKalb
7 Forms of Transportation
8 Holmes Student Center Guest Rooms
8 Login and Wireless Connection
8 Huskie Patrol
9 NIU Libraries
10 NIU OneCard
10 Anywhere Printing
10 Huskie Bucks
11 Campus Child Care
11 Counseling and Consultation Services
11 Students’ Legal Assistance
12 University Writing Center
12 Tutoring
13 Public Services
14 Off-Campus Housing
15 Places of Interest
16 Illinois Veterans Grant
17 Illinois National Guard Grant
18 MIA/POW Scholarship
19 Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)
20 Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (Chapter 30)
21 Vocational (Chapter 31)
22 Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)
24 Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (Chapter 35)
25 Important Phone Numbers
Hello Huskies!

The Office of Military and Post-Traditional Student Services welcomes you to NIU. We are excited that you are part of our community!

The purpose of our office is to serve the needs of post-traditional students. 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 an international 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 than the life of a 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. We understand all of that, so we are here to help make your college career a little smoother.

We have a variety of resources available for you, from having a dedicated lounge and study space, to a peer mentoring program, to a roommate finding service, to bimonthly workshop sessions. Please come down and visit us in the Holmes Student Center, rooms 023J and 023K, if you ever have any questions about our services. Additionally, you can call us at 815-753-9999.

Again, we welcome you to NIU and we look forward to working with you.

Eric Armstrong, MBA
Director, Military and Post Traditional Student Services
Annual Housing Fair
Students have the opportunity to speak with various property managers in the DeKalb/Sycamore area, connect with Students’ Legal Assistance about leasing agreements, connect with MPTSS staff about roommate or sublease assistance and can enter a prize drawing.

Veterans Job Fair (Veterans Week)
This event is open for NIU student veterans as well as guardsmen, active duty and veterans from the surrounding communities and features public and private sector employers who are looking to speak with those who have served our country.

Military Student Open House
Open to all incoming and returning military students held the Saturday before fall classes start.

Facts and Snacks Workshop Series
A series of workshops designed to best help students who identify as military veteran, adult learner, commuter and/or transfer student. Lunch and refreshment items are provided at each workshop.

Start NIU BBQ
Our annual BBQ for all post-traditional students held the Saturday before fall classes commence.

Transfer-2-Transfer Tips
Transfer students will share their experiences about their campus involvement and adjustment to NIU. This is an excellent opportunity for new transfer students to meet with other transfer students, and become acquainted with the resources available.
Celebration Ceremony

Our Celebration Ceremony is the climax of our Post-Traditional Student Appreciation Week. This annual celebration honors our graduating military and post-traditional students as well as our featured staff and adult learners from this year’s monthly newsletters. We have special recognitions for one student veteran and one post-traditional student in the form of our Four-Star and Eli Whitney Awards. Also, we distribute commencement cords to our graduating student veterans. All who are part of the campus community are invited to honor our student population’s accomplishments.

Veteran and Post-Traditional Student Appreciation Weeks

Each November, we celebrate all our student veteran population has done for our country and our campus in the week leading up to Veterans Day. We host social activities and do a pair of job/career-focused events. The traditional NIU Flagpole Ceremony, in conjunction with the Student Veterans Association, is another highlight of the week. In the spring semester, we honor all of our post-traditional students. We have BBQs, events in the lounge, bowling night and in the past year added our Celebration Ceremony as our capstone event.

Breaking Barriers

Breaking Barriers is a support group for first-generation college students. We partner with Counseling and Consultation Services along with the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning. This group looks to support and connect first-generation student with each other and resources on campus that are most pertinent to their experience.

Orientation Breakout Sessions

MPTSS is present at all NIU Orientation and Family Connections events throughout the summer. We host specific breakout sessions for student veterans, guardsmen and active duty service members prior to the daily Orientation Program kickoff. Throughout the day, you’ll be able to choose to attend our sessions aimed at commuter and transfer students.

The MPTSS Lounge

The MPTSS Lounge is located in the lower level of the Holmes Student Center, Room 023J, across from the computer lab. As “your home away from home,” the Lounge is a great place to study, eat a meal and meet other students.

Hours

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Features

• Couches, tables and chairs.
• Computer lab.
• Mini-kitchen with full-sized refrigerator.
• 40-inch TV.
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 nonworking parking meters to Campus Parking Services at 815-753-1045.
- Parking lots close to classrooms are typically full 9 a.m. to 2 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 Police and 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.
- Purchase parking pass online and avoid a $10 surcharge.

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 cell phone 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 Interstate 88: Exit I-88 at Annie Glidden Road. Look for the NIU sign!

From the east via I-90: Exit at Route 47 south to Route 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 the Annie Glidden Road exit.

From Midway Airport: Exit north on Cicero Avenue. (Illinois Route 50) to I-55 South (Stevenson expressway) to I-355 North (North-South Tollway) to I-88 West (East-West Tollway) and 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.

Rates

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Forms of Transportation

Elburn Shuttle (to Elburn Train Station)
The Elburn Shuttle bus is run by the Huskie Bus Service, and charges a student rate of $6.25 for all current NIU students who carry an NIU OneCard.

The shuttle runs:
Monday through Friday, 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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 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 huskieline.com.

TransVAC and MedVAC
The Voluntary Action Center provides transportation for medical appointments throughout DeKalb County and some farther points through TransVAC 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 vacdk.com/transportation.

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 through Friday, 7:10 a.m. to 11:45 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 9:10 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.

Late Night Ride
The Late Night Ride service provides free, route-based rides to NIU students on a nightly basis from 10 p.m. to 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.
Holmes Student Center
Guest Rooms

If there is ever a time when you are not able to commute back to your home late at night or just want to get some rest while on campus, the Holmes Student Center offers guest rooms for reasonable rates. The rooms are conveniently located in the Holmes Student Center Tower.

For reservation information, please call 815-753-1444.

The standard rate for a room with either a king-sized bed or two twin-sized beds is $65 plus tax. The standard rate for a suite is $80 plus tax. If you are an NIU alumni, discounts are available for room reservations. Be sure to inform the hotel desk when making reservations. There are also further discounts available if you need a room for seven or more days.

Rates

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*Affiliates are students or staff members.

Login and Wireless Connection

Logging in to the NIU campus computers or connecting to the NIU wireless 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 z1#####, and is permanent. You may look up your Z-ID in the student directory, located at the top of NIU’s main webpage. All student email addresses begin with your Z-ID and look similar to z1#####@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 three logins.**

If you have forgotten your password or would like to change your password, visit password.niu.edu or call DoIT at 815-753-8100.

Huskie Patrol

The NIU Department of Police and Public Safety instituted the Huskie Student Patrol in 1996. The Huskie Patrol works week nights, from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m., and is operated by student employees organized into teams and zones. Members working out of the Department of Police and Public Safety facility are supplied 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.
NIU Libraries

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, 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 nonprint 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 your 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 Recreation and Wellness 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.”

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 [niu.edu/onecard](http://niu.edu/onecard) or call 815-753-9569.

Anywhere Printing

All you need is your OneCard and funds in your Huskie Bucks account. Here are couple of quick facts about printing on campus.

- Printing costs five cents (black and white) and 12 cents (color).
- Mobile printing is available. Start by registering your email address at anywhereprints@niu.edu.
- They’ll email you back. Just make sure you check your email from an NIU wireless-connected device.
- Read the instruction in the email and then click the link provided to register your email address.
- Enter your Z-ID and password and click Log on.
- Return to your email and look for new message title Confirmation Required. Read the email and click the link provided to confirm email registration.
- Anywhere printers are located throughout campus, including the MPTSS Lounge.
- To print, all you have to do is swipe your OneCard at any printer to call up your sent prints.

Visit [go.niu.edu/anywhere](http://go.niu.edu/anywhere) to download the app and to learn more.

Huskie Bucks

A Huskie Bucks Account is a prepaid debit account that students, faculty and staff may open with the university to use for various services such as laundry, copying/printing and food purchases at designated locations on and off of the DeKalb NIU Campus. This account is accessed with the OneCard ID.

The Huskie Bucks program facilitates life on campus by freeing students and employees from carrying cash, speeding checkout lines and helping parents provide flexible food spending for their students.

For more information about Huskie Bucks, please visit [niu.edu/onecard/huskiebucks](http://niu.edu/onecard/huskiebucks).
Campus Child Care

niu.edu/ccc

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.

Counseling and Consultation Services

niu.edu/counseling

Counseling and Consultations Services is a free service for all students. They have a range of services for all students in need. They have a range of programs from addiction and habit control to crisis or grieving counseling. A listing of their 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 their 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:

niu.edu/counseling/counseling/group

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.

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

Students’ Legal Assistance

niu.edu/legal

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 prepaid 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 20 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.
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 résumés 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 résumés and applications for internships, scholarships or jobs.

Please bring the following materials:

• Your written notes and/or your essay.
• Two 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 through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. An appointment can be made by calling 815-753-6636. You can get more information at uwc.niu.edu/uwc.

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 through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 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 niu.edu/access/aplus.

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: niu.edu/access/pal.

• Drop-In
PAL offers supplemental instructors and study groups. They have locations in Founders Memorial Library, New Residence Hall and Douglas Residence Hall. For specific courses or locations please call 815-753-0203 or visit: niu.edu/access/tutoringcenters.
Huskie Food Pantry
The Huskie Food Pantry provides free food to NIU students who have found themselves in a circumstance where access to healthy food, or food in general, is inconsistent. Our motto is “take what you need” with the intent that students will be able to supplement their current food selection with a variety of foods that encourage healthy eating habits.

To be eligible to use the Huskie Food Pantry, you must be an NIU student without an NIU meal plan. All students must bring their NIU OneCard to gain access to pantry items.

The Huskie Food Pantry is currently open every Thursday from 5:30-7:30 p.m., excluding the dates listed under our hours of operation.

Huskie Food Pantry is located in the Chick Evans Field House.

niu.edu/huskiefoodpantry

CHANCE
CHANCE is a federally-funded program that is to identify, recruit, admit and assist otherwise capable students whose precollege education has not fully enabled them to take maximum advantage of their potential and the opportunities of higher education at NIU. Students who demonstrate strong motivation and potential for success in college but do not meet one or more of the admission criteria of the NIU Office of Undergraduate Admissions may be considered for admission through the CHANCE Program. Participation in CHANCE is open to any incoming NIU freshman student who:

- Has a minimum high school grade point average of a 2.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 grade point scale.
- Has a minimum ACT composite score of 13 and passed the CHANCE math test.
- Achieved a minimum ACT composite test score of 17 or high percentage rank of 70 percentile or higher in their graduating class on or before the application deadline.

Eligible students are admitted to the program upon completion of an application form, a personal statement and submitting all necessary high school academic documents.

niu.edu/chance

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 and 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.

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 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 northernstar.info/housing_guide.

Third Party Resources
Along with may 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 MPTSS to pick up a copy.

Websites
- RentCollegePads.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 MPTSS, but it is a strong resource focused specifically to DeKalb housing.

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 facebook.com/NiuRoommateFinder.
Places of Interest

Tom & Jerry’s
215 W. Lincoln Highway, 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. First 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.

United States Postal Service
600 E. Lincoln Highway, DeKalb, IL | 815-758-6677
Drop boxes shown in blue and main office shown in red.

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

Midwest Museum of Natural History
425 W. 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.
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 two- or four-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 two- or four-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 [isac.org/myzone](http://isac.org/myzone).
- 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:**

[eiu.edu/veterans/IVG%20Form.pdf](http://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 two- or four-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 their studies interrupted by being called to federal active duty service for at least six months and be within 12 months after 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 two- or four-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 four weeks of processing.
- Eligible individuals must reapply for the ING every year.


Application: [studentportal.isac.org/web/guest/student/?p_p_id=Student_WAR_Studentportlet&__facesViewIdRender=%2Fviews%2Fing%2Fing.xhtml](studentportal.isac.org/web/guest/student/?p_p_id=Student_WAR_Studentportlet&__facesViewIdRender=%2Fviews%2Fing%2Fing.xhtml)
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 they 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 four 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 percent 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 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.

Link: benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_sr.asp
Pamphlet: benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch1606_pamphlet.pdf
Rates: benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.asp#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 and 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.

How to Apply:
- Make sure you have your DD Form 2384-1.

VA MGIB webpage: benefits.va.gov/gibill/mgib_ad.asp
Pamphlet: benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch30_pamphlet.pdf
Rates: benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.asp#Ch30
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, résumé 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 nonpaid 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 percent or more from the VA.
- Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) VetSuccess services.

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

**VA website link:**
- [www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre)

**Rates:**
- [benefits.va.gov/voc rehab/subsistence_allowance_rates.asp](http://benefits.va.gov/voc rehab/subsistence_allowance_rates.asp)
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 and 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 and 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>

| Public School | All tuition and fee payments for an in-state student. |
| Private or Foreign School | Up to $21,084.89 per academic year national maximum. |
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 half 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 and their spouses cannot receive the MHA.)

- An annual books and 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.
  - 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 three 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: benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_gibill.asp
MHA Calculator: 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 and minors) and 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 three 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: benefits.va.gov/gibill/survivor_dependent_assistance.asp
Pamphlet: benefits.va.gov/gibill/docs/pamphlets/ch35_pamphlet_2.pdf
Pay rates: benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.asp#ch35
Application: vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-22-5490-ARE.pdf
Important Phone Numbers

Division of Student Affairs

**Campus Child Care**
East side of Annie Glidden Road behind Gabel Hall
815-753-0125
niu.edu/ccc

**Campus Dining Services**
Neptune Hall Central
815-753-0561
niu.edu/dining

**Counseling and Consultation Services**
Campus Life Building, Room 200
815-753-1206
niu.edu/counseling

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

**Health Services**
Lucinda Ave and Wirtz Drive
815-753-1311
niu.edu/healthservices

**Holmes Student Center**
600 Lucinda Ave.
815-753-1444
niu.edu/hsc

**Housing and Residential Services**
Neptune Hall East
815-753-1525
housing.niu.edu/housing

**Military and Post-Traditional Student Services**
Holmes Student Center, Room 023J
Campus Life Room 240
815-753-9999/0691
niu.edu/mptss

**Student Conduct**
Campus Life Building, Room 280
815-753-1571
niu.edu/conduct

**Student Involvement and Leadership Development**
Campus Life Building, Room 150
815-753-1421
niu.edu/studentinvolvement

**Students' Legal Assistance**
Campus Life Building, Room 120
815-753-1701
niu.edu/legal

**Recreation and Wellness**
Student Recreation Center
815-753-0231
niu.edu/campusrec

**University Partners**

**Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**
Altgeld Hall, Room 215
815-753-8387
niu.edu/diversity

**Office of Admissions**
Williston Hall
815-753-0446
admissions.niu.edu

**Asian American Center**
429 Garden Road
815-752-1177
niu.edu/aac

**Career Services**
Campus Life Building, Room 220
815-753-1641
niu.edu/careerservices

**Center for Black Studies**
621 W. Lincoln Highway
815-753-1709
niu.edu/blackstudies

**Holmes Student Center**
600 Lucinda Ave.
815-753-1444
niu.edu/hsc

**Department of Military Science (ROTC)**
Chick Evans Field House, Room 110
815-753-7682
chhs.niu.edu/militaryscience

**Department of Police and Public Safety**
395 Wirtz Hall
815-753-1212
niu.edu/publicsafety

**First and Second Year Experience**
Altgeld Hall, Room 100
815-753-0028
niu.edu/fsye

**Gender and Sexuality Resource Center**
105 Normal Road
815-753-4772
niu.edu/gsrc

**Latino Resource Center**
515 Garden Rd.
815-753-1986
niu.edu/lrc

**Northern Star Student Newspaper**
Campus Life Building, Room 130
815-753-0105
northernstar.info

**Orientation and Family Connections**
023 Holmes Student Center
815-753-1535
niu.edu/ofc

**Parking Services**
Duramad Building
815-753-1045
niu.edu/parking

**Student Association**
Campus Life Building, Room 180
815-753-0483
niu.edu/sa

**Student Engagement and Experiential Learning**
Altgeld Hall, Room 100
815-753-8154
niu.edu/engagedlearning

**Financial Aid and Scholarship Office**
Swen Parson Hall, Room 245
815-753-1395
niu.edu/fa
The NIU Genius Guide

Military and Post-Traditional Student Services

Holmes Student Center, room 23K
(Basement level)
Campus Life Building Room 240

Phone: 815-753-9999/0691
Fax: 815-752-9999/0943
Email: ocntss@niu.edu
mss@niu.edu

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