



# New Jersey National Guard Tuition Program

## Important Changes

The [Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010](#) was introduced to amend the original Post-9/11 GI Bill Act of 2008, requiring state-level benefits to be applied before applying the Post-9/11 GI Bill towards tuition at public institutions of higher learning (*section 102*).

This federal bill supersedes state legislation, which requires the Post-9/11 GI Bill to be applied towards tuition before use of the waiver. Once the federal bill was signed into law, the state of New Jersey submitted a petition to the federal government to waive this specific requirement of the legislation, and the state has been granted a legislative waiver to this requirement.

### **What does this mean?**

New Jersey National Guardsmen must now use their Post-9/11 Benefits before being able to use the Commander's Certificate of Eligibility.

### **Who does this affect?**

All New Jersey Guardsmen who are eligible for or currently active within the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

### **Are there any exceptions?**

Students currently active within another chapter (e.g., 1606, 1607 or 30) are not required to switch into the Post-9/11 GI Bill, nor are they required to use their benefits. Students who have transferred the entirety of their benefits to an eligible family member will also be able to use the waiver (*pending official verification of transferability*).

### **What are my next steps?**

Students should submit the latest [NJNGTP Registration Package](#) when registering for their next term. Please be sure to complete the Verification of VA Benefits form. From here we will ensure an audit is completed, and if necessary we may ask for additional information.

### **What if I don't know my chapter eligibility?**

Guardsmen can contact the VA's GI Bill hotline directly at 888-442-4551. Please note that "Commander's Cert" or "NJNGTP Waiver" is not a valid VA program, meaning we will need chapter information or eligibility (e.g., *exhausted or transferred benefits*) before being able to process a waiver.

### **The Good News:**

Students qualifying for and electing to keep 100% Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are no longer required to submit an NJNGTP checklist registration package with every registration. Additionally financial aid for 100% Post-9/11 GI Bill is optional, which means course registration for 100% Post-9/11 GI Bill students will no longer be contingent on a yearly audit process.

While yearly verification of on-going VA benefits will still be required, the NJNGTP audit process no longer applies to 100% Post-9/11 GI Bill students using their benefits.<sup>1</sup>

### **Why requirements continue to change:**

Unlike other university programs, the NJNGTP is legislated by the State of New Jersey, and therefore Thomas Edison State University must ensure that eligibility guidelines are met before being able to apply the waiver. Additionally since federal legislation supersedes state legislation, it may also become necessary to revise registration requirements to reflect new or amended legislation.

### **In closing...**

While we are aware of the level of frustration this can cause, we are constantly working to minimize any hindrances to our students while also ensuring we meet legislative requirements of the NJNGTP. Please be sure to bookmark our [NJNGTP](#) webpage for any updates to the process.

<sup>1</sup> Students below 100% eligibility must still complete the yearly NJNGTP waiver requirements in order to apply the waiver towards outstanding tuition.