



VNGA

Guard-Friendly School Application

Submit applications to executive.director@vnga.us by July 31

Established in 1960, The Virginia National Guard Association (“VNGA”) is a IRS-recognized 501(c)(19) non-profit veterans’ service association representing over 10,000 Soldiers, Airmen and retirees of all ranks and status; enlisted, warrant and officer; traditional, active duty and retired.

Developed by the VNGA, the *VNGA Guard-Friendly School* program is designed to recognize colleges, universities, and trade schools that meet or exceed ten baseline criteria that create a supportive learning environment to assist members of the Virginia National Guard pursuing post-secondary education.

VNGA collected best practices among K-12, colleges, universities, trade, certification and training schools which promote and champion their relationships with members of the Guard and Veterans. By setting these best practices as standards, the VNGA hopes to improve the Virginia National Guard education experience.

The *VNGA Guard-Friendly School* designation serves as a beacon and star-rating that promotes the institution to members and veterans of the Guard, their spouses and families, as well as to local governmental leaders, high school and college counselors, citizens and prospective recruits of the Virginia National Guard.

School Information:

Official Name: _____

Physical Address: _____

City: _____ State: Virginia Zip: _____

Point of Contact Information:

Name: (First, MI, Last) _____

Position or Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: Virginia Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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Online Presence:

School Website: _____
Military / Veteran Webpage: _____
Facebook Page: <https://www.Facebook.com/> _____
Twitter Handle: <https://www.Twitter.com/> _____
LinkedIn Page: <https://www.Linkedin.com/company/> _____
Instagram Page: <https://www.Instagram.com/> _____

Application Fee:

The Guard-Friendly School Designation is a fee-supported program that collects an annual \$100 application and processing fee for issuance, reissuance or renewal of designation. Fees fund the production and shipping of the annual plaque, updates to the VNGA webpage and processing costs. Fees are processed by the Virginia National Guard Management Group ("VNGMG") as an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Card Number: _____
Expiration (mm/yyyy): ____ / ____ Security Code: ____
Cardholder Name: _____

Please make checks to:
VNGMG, Inc.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Acknowledgement:

By submission of this application, the school and administration agree to release the name, logo, branded source material, and publically sourced information to the VNGA for the purpose of publicizing selection as a *VNGA Guard-Friendly School*. Furthermore, the VNGA reserves the right to amend the annual submission or application requirements within 30-days of established deadline. All decisions regarding *VNGA Guard-Friendly School* designation are final. In the event of cause, the VNGA reserves the right to withdraw the *VNGA Guard-Friendly School* designation without notice. All information must be submitted by the July 31 deadline. Designation of the *VNGA Guard-Friendly School* is only for the academic year following submission.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Application Questionnaire:

1. Does your school accept tuition assistance from the State Tuition Assistance Program (STAP), federal Tuition Assistance, and the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (GI Bill) (while maintaining compliance with Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014)?

Yes No Other: _____

2. Does your school have a written policy that protects the academic standing of National Guard students by promoting the ability for faculty to work with a Guard student to allow additional time for assignments, extra credit work, or similar flexible options when he or she is called in an active status with little or no notice during the term or semester for contingencies, such as:

a. State Active Duty (SAD): Generally, a no-notice, short-term (less than two weeks) deployment ordered by the state governor to respond to a natural disaster, civil disturbance, etc.

b. Full-Time National Guard Duty (also known as Title 32 orders): Guard members may be mobilized under Federal direction for operational support, such as a Stafford Act-declared disaster or to attend no-notice training for their military specialty.

Yes No Other: _____

3. Does your school have a written policy that protects the enrollment status of Virginia National Guard students who may be mobilized to Federal service to perform missions vital to national security and may require service in the homeland or overseas for periods of several months to a year or more?

Yes No Other: _____

4. Does your school participate in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Principles of Excellence program?*

Yes No Other: _____

- * Provide educational plans for all military and veteran education beneficiaries?
- End fraudulent and aggressive recruiting techniques and misrepresentations?
- Accommodate Service members and Reservists absent due to service requirements?
- Designate a point of contact to provide academic and financial advice?
- Ensure accreditation of all new programs prior to enrolling students?
- Align institutional refund policies with those under Title IV?

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5. If your school is a private institution, do you participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program (which includes additional funds available for military/veteran education programs with additional charges to GI Bill entitlements) and have a signed Yellow Ribbon agreement for the current academic year?

Yes No We are a public institution.

6. Does your school provide credit for prior learning for military training and experience in accordance with American Council on Education (ACE) college credit recommendations?

Yes No Other: _____

7. Does your school offer training for your staff and/or faculty on how to support military/veteran students?

Yes No Other: _____

8. Do you demonstrate commitment to the overall military/veteran student community through activities, such as (but not limited to):

Campus military/veteran ceremonies, such as Memorial Day or Veterans Day events

Recognizing military/veteran students in campus publications

Offering mentoring/on-boarding programs for new military/veteran students

Establishing a military/veteran center on or adjacent to campus

Other: _____

Yes No

9. Does your school, at least annually welcome, allow or host a Virginia National Guard recruiting event, activity, program on campus?

Yes No Other: _____

10. Does your school provide admissions information (print materials or a statement with web links) customized for prospective military/veteran students which specifies benefits and considerations available for members/veterans of the Virginia National Guard, including that your school accepts tuition assistance and has Guard Friendly policies for students?

Yes No Other: _____

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Optional Questionnaire:

I. Can you share some best practices implemented in the past three years that have made your campus or programs more Guard-Friendly?

See attached

II. Would you like to receive future updates from the VNGA? Your contact information will not be sold or distributed.

Yes No Maybe later.

III. Do you know someone else that should be invited to apply to the Guard-Friendly School Program?

Yes, please provide their contact information below. No

School Name: _____

Point of Contact Name: (First, MI, Last) _____

Position or Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: Virginia Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

IV. Would you like to be put into contact with a Virginia National Guard Recruiter?

Yes No Already in touch.

V. Would you be interested in upcoming marketing and event sponsorship opportunities?

Yes No Maybe later.