



FORT HOOD ESD COLLEGE 101 BRIEF



WE ARE THE ARMY'S HOME



AGENDA

- How to create a career goal
- How to create an education plan
- Funding options
- Career Path Decide workshop



Group discussion



Take a picture



What's Your Career Goal?



**I don't
know what
I want to
be.**



**I am 100%
certain I
know what I
want to be.**

CREATE A CAREER GOAL

- Complete an interest inventory to determine your interests and skills.
- An interest inventory is a testing instrument used to measure & evaluate an individual's level of interest & ability in a variety of careers.





- **O*NET**

- <https://www.onetonline.org>

- O*NET OnLine has detailed descriptions of the world of work for use by job seekers, workforce development and HR professionals, students, developers, researchers, and more!
- Find, search, or browse across 900+ occupations based on your goals and needs, then use comprehensive reports to learn about requirements, characteristics, and available opportunities for your selected occupation.





- **The Occupational Outlook Handbook**

- www.bls.gov/ooh

- The OOH describes what workers do on the job, the training & education needed, earnings & expected job prospects in a wide range of occupations.

- **Kuder Journey**

- <https://journey.kuder.com/>

- Learn about interests, skills & values with research-based assessments.
- Plan education & career based off the assessments.

- **My Next Move**

- <https://www.mynextmove.org>

- Answer questions about the type of work you might enjoy & **My Next Move** will suggest careers that match your interests & training.
- **My Next Move for Veterans** helps you find a civilian career related to your MOS.



I'VE CREATED A CAREER GOAL, WHAT'S NEXT?

Once you know the career you would like to pursue & what you need to achieve your career goal, you will create an education plan.

An illustration showing four hands in business suits interacting with a large digital screen. The screen displays a 4x4 grid with various colored sticky notes (purple, pink, blue, green) and lines of text. One hand is writing on a purple note, another is pointing at a pink note, a third is writing on a blue note, and a fourth is pointing at a green note. The text "What's Your Education Plan?" is overlaid in the center in a large, bold, blue font.

What's Your Education Plan?

THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE ENROLLING IN COLLEGE

- Am I college ready or do I need to work on basic skills?
- Do I have time to devote to classes?
 - 1 Semester Hour (SH) = 2 hours outside of classroom work per week (reading, papers, study time).
- What education do I need to achieve my career goal?
 - Associate Degree
 - Bachelor's Degree
 - Master's Degree
 - Certificate
 - Credential
- Can I complete my education while on active duty?

WHAT IS AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE?



An undergraduate degree awarded upon completion of approximately 60 SH.



You do not need an associate degree to pursue a bachelor's degree.



Associate of Arts: Designed to transfer to another academic institution (AI) as part of a bachelor's degree. An AA satisfies the first two years of a bachelor's degree



Associate of Applied Science: Designed to lead directly into entry level employment.

WHAT IS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE?

- Students will complete 120 SH or about 40 college courses.
 - **Bachelor of Arts:**
 - Requires fewer credits that are directly linked to a particular major.
 - **Bachelor of Science:**
 - Classes are more directly linked to the major.



WHAT IS A MASTER'S DEGREE?

- The first level of graduate study.
- To apply for a master's degree, you must typically hold a bachelor's degree.
- Students will complete approximately 36 - 54 SH or 12 to 18 college courses.





WHAT IS A CERTIFICATE?

A certificate provides instruction to enhance knowledge, skills & abilities.



WHAT IS A CREDENTIAL?

- A document that shows a person is qualified to do a specific job.
- Often obtained by successfully passing a certification or licensing exam.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING AN ACADEMIC INSTITUTION (AI)





SHOULD I TAKE CLASSES ONLINE OR IN THE CLASSROOM?



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ACCREDITATION

- Institution accreditation is a form of quality control, ensuring that Als satisfy certain standards.
- Some fields require students to complete an accredited program for graduate level acceptance or professional licensure or certification.



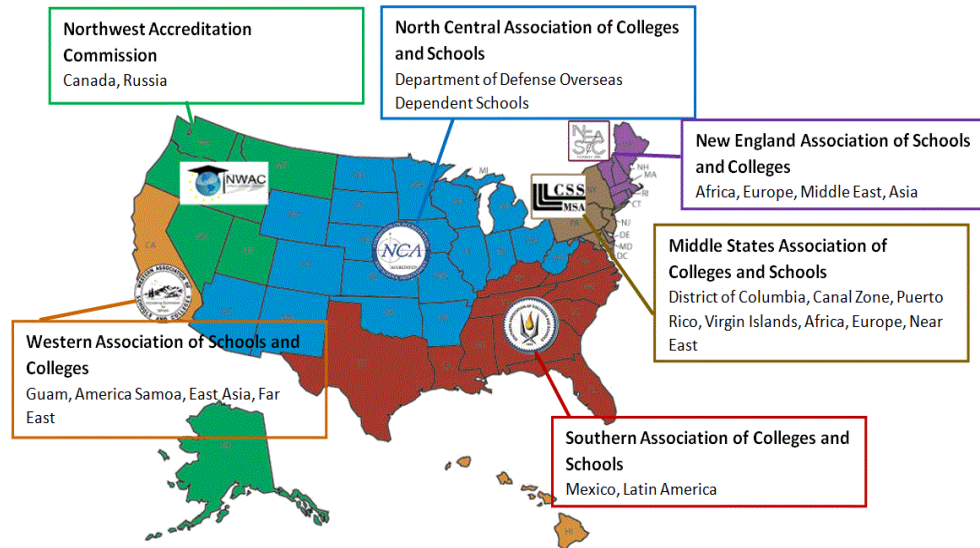
REGIONAL ACCREDITATION

PROS

- The highest standard of accreditation.
- Credits & degrees typically accepted in transfer.

CONS

- Often require more liberal arts coursework.
- Typically offer less vocational & technical programs.



NATIONAL ACCREDITATION


PROS

- May require less liberal arts coursework.
- Offer more technical, career-oriented degrees.

CONS

- Credits not widely accepted in transfer to regionally accredited Als.
- Coursework & degrees may not be accepted for professions that require licensing after degree attainment.

- Distance Education & Training Council (DETC)
- Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC)
- Council on Occupational Education (COE)
- Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools, Accreditation Commission (TRACS)



National
Accreditation
Agencies



DIPLOMA MILL RED FLAGS

- Degree completion time.
- The school lists accreditation from organizations that aren't recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Tuition is paid per degree.
- There is little or no interaction with professors.
- There is little to no coursework required.
- The school has no physical location.
- The degree is awarded based on criteria unrelated to academics.





FORT HOOD

PARTNER SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

- **Central Texas College: 254-226-1574**
 - Offers associate degrees & certificates.
- **Texas A&M-Central Texas University: 254-327-1683**
 - Offers bachelor's/master's degrees.
 - Must have 30 SH of undergraduate coursework completed prior to enrollment.
- **University of Maryland Global Campus: 254-202-9650**
 - Offers associate/bachelor's/master's degrees & certificates.





Department of Defense (DoD)

Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

[Home](#) [TA DECIDE](#) [Participating Institutions](#) [Institution Login](#) [Contact Us](#) [FAQ](#)

Tuition Assistance (TA) DECIDE

Welcome to the new Department of Defense TA DECIDE. This dynamic information and comparison tool is designed specifically to aid participants of DoD's Tuition Assistance (TA) program in making informed choices on schools and education programs. The TA DECIDE engine is fueled by more than 10 recognized and trusted data sources from across the departments of Defense, Education and Veterans Affairs. It provides a first of its kind experience, uniquely tailored to the needs of the TA participant. We hope TA DECIDE provides you with high value, actionable information on educational costs and outcomes to compare educational institutions that you may be considering. While this website was designed for the individual user, your Service's education counselor can also be your partner in this process.

School Name:

[Search](#)

[View All Schools](#)

OR

State/Territory:

No Preference

Learning Method:

No Preference

Accreditation Type:

No Preference

Programs: (Enter a keyword)

Enter a keyword

School Type:

No Preference

Degree Level:

No Preference

[Search](#)

[Clear All](#)

USE TA DECIDE

<https://www.dodmou.com>

- Compare Als & degree programs
- Research tuition & fees
- Determine accreditation
- All Als listed are TA approved!

OTHER DECISION TOOLS

College Navigator:

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

College Score Card:

<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>



QUESTIONS TO ASK POTENTIAL AIs

- Do you accept transfer credit & CLEP/DSST exams?
- What is the cost of tuition?
- Are you nationally or regionally accredited?
- What is the job placement rate for graduates in my degree program?
- What additional resources do you provide?
 - VA Office, academic advising, disability services, etc.



HOW TO APPLY TO COLLEGE

- Determine the application timeframe.
- Identify the individual components of a complete application.
- Gather the necessary documents, to include previous college transcripts and your Joint Services Transcript (JST).
- Review your application before submitting.



FUNDING OPTIONS

The hardest thing about going to college should not be paying for it.

-Bernie Sanders



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GET YOUR JST EVALUATED

- Receive college credit for:
 - Language Skills (DLPT, CLEP)
 - Formal Training (Drill SGT, Recruiter)
 - Basic & AIT-MOS Training
 - Certifications
 - Skill Level (NCO Schools)
- Go to <https://jst.doded.mil/> to send your JST to your AI.



CLEP/DSST EXAMS

- CLEP and DSST exams allow you to test out of subjects with passing scores.
- Log onto <https://www.dantes.mil> or www.free-clep-prep.com to learn about CLEP/DSST exams & access study materials.
- Visit <https://www.ctcd.edu/students/current-ctc-students/testing-services/> to schedule a CLEP/DSST exam through the CTC Testing Center.



FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID

APPLY!

You must apply for federal grants to be eligible for school-based aid.

Three types of financial aid:

- Pell Grant
- Work Study
- Student Loans

Eligibility is based on income
& rate of pursuit.

Can be used in conjunction
with TA.

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/>



SCHOLARSHIP LIST



Scan QR code for a
scholarship list
OR
visit militaryscholar.org.



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CUI



TA & CA

Attend the ArmyIgnitED brief to learn about Tuition Assistance & Credentialing Assistance policies & procedures.

This brief is **MANDATORY** for Soldiers to get an education goal approved.

Soldier Development Center BLDG 33009

17 JUNE 2025

ARMYIGNITED BRIEF

Tuesday

1330

Wednesday

1330

Friday

0900



mandatory for 1st time TA users



TA



VB



Career Assessment

check-in

30

minutes prior

FOLLOW US!

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<https://home.army.mil/hood/units-tenants/Garrison/directorate-human-resources/education-services-division>



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GI BILL BENEFITS

Attend the VA Education
Benefits brief to learn
how GI Bill benefits work.

This brief is **HIGHLY
RECOMMENDED** for all
new Soldiers.



VA EDUCATION BENEFITS BRIEFING

**MON 1330
TUE, WED, FRI
0930**

CHECK-IN AT THE FRONT DESK 30 MINUTES PRIOR

TOP-UP

- Soldiers can use the GI Bill to cover the difference between the full cost of a college course & the amount covered under TA for up to 36 months.

TOP-UP UNDER THE MGIB

- Soldier will receive the difference between the DoD payment & the total cost of the course.
- Soldier will be charged one month of entitlement for each payment received that is equal to the full-time monthly rate.

TOP-UP UNDER THE POST 9/11 GI BILL

- VA pays the school the difference between the DoD payment & the authorized tuition and fees.
- The benefit will be charged based on training time.



Share your feedback and follow us on social media!



<https://www.facebook.com/FortHoodEducationServices>



@FortHoodEdCenter

A black and white photograph of a line of soldiers in full combat gear, including helmets and tactical vests, marching forward. The soldier in the foreground is wearing a blue camouflage uniform and a blue helmet. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

THE HARDEST BATTLE
YOU WILL EVER HAVE TO FIGHT
IS BETWEEN WHO YOU ARE NOW
AND WHO YOU WANT TO BE

QUESTIONS?