

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- **Missouri Wartime Veteran's Survivors Grant Program:** This educational grant is provided annually to the children and spouses of Veterans whose deaths or injuries were a result of combat. The total number of Veterans who may receive a grant each year is limited to 25. Students are eligible until they earn a bachelor's degree.

Grant amounts will be for the actual educational cost up to the following amounts, whichever is less:

- Resident tuition charged at the University of Missouri, Columbia
- \$2,000 per semester for room and board
- \$500 for books
- **Missouri National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (STA):** Missouri STA provides tuition assistance to eligible Missouri National Guard Service members pursuing an undergraduate degree or below. STA can be used for up to 39 semester hours per state fiscal year (1 July – 30 June) up to the tuition rate charged at the University of Missouri, Columbia. Service members must use federal tuition assistance before STA. Service members are authorized to take 15 credit hours in the spring and fall semesters and up to nine credit hours during a summer session with a lifetime limit of 150 undergraduate credit hours.
- **Missouri Returning Heroes Act:** The Missouri Returning Heroes Education Act requires Missouri public postsecondary educational institutions to only charge combat Veterans \$50 per credit hour for undergraduate degrees and 30% of the cost of tuition and fees for graduate students.
- **Missouri Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (MIC3):** The purpose of this compact is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:
  - Facilitating the prompt enrollment of children of military families and ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of educational records from the previous school district or variations in entrance or age requirements
  - Facilitating the student placement process through which variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content, or assessment do not disadvantage children of military families. Facilitating the qualification and eligibility for enrollment, educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic, and social activities
  - Facilitating the on-time graduation of children of military families

- Providing for the enforcement of administrative rules implementing the provisions of this compact
  - Providing for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools, and military families under this compact
  - Promoting coordination between this compact and other compacts affecting military children
  - Promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents, and the student to achieve educational success for the student
- **Missouri Purple Star School Designation for Military-Friendly Schools:** The Missouri Purple Star School designation recognizes schools that show a significant commitment to students and families connected to the U.S. Armed Forces. Schools that earn the award will receive a special Purple Star recognition to display on site.
    - For a school to qualify for the Purple Star designation, it must appoint a school liaison specially trained to handle the unique challenges experienced by military families. This liaison will ensure that other teachers at their school are aware of special considerations that students from military families can benefit from. Each school will also have a dedicated page on its school website featuring resources for military families.
  - **Missouri “Operation Recognition” Honorary Diplomas for Wartime Veterans:** Missouri will award honorary high school diplomas to Veterans who left school before graduation to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces during a time of war. Diplomas may be issued for public or private schools and even for existing ones.
 

**Who is eligible for Missouri “Operation Recognition” Honorary Diplomas for Wartime Veterans?** Honorary diplomas may be issued to current and former resident Veterans who received an honorable discharge and never completed their high school education.

    - Applicants must submit a completed application and provide a copy of their DD214 or discharge paperwork as proof of eligibility to the Missouri Veterans Commission (forwarding instructions are on the application). Family members may apply for the honorary diploma on behalf of a deceased Veteran.
  - **Missouri Residency for Education Purposes for Service Members, Veterans, and Family Members:** Missouri offers residency for education purposes for service members, Veterans, and family members.
 

**Exemption from Proof of Residency for Students:** Students who move to live with extended family or in a military family support community because one or both of their parents are under state or

federal active duty orders may attend school in the school district where they are staying. If their parent's active duty orders end during the school year, the child may finish the school year in that district.

### **In-State Tuition Eligibility for Discharged Service**

**Members:** Honorably discharged Veterans who recently separated from the U.S. Armed Forces and who move to and declare intent to become Missouri residents are considered Missouri residents for admission and tuition purposes at public two and four-year institutions of higher education. If attending a community college, Veterans must live in the taxing district of their community college.

### **In-State Tuition Eligibility for National Guard Service**

**Members:** Current Missouri National Guard and U.S. Armed Forces Reserves members receive in-state residency status for tuition purposes at any public four-year institution of higher education or in-district residency status for any two-year public institution.

- **Military Dependent Residency:** The dependent of a nonresident active duty service member assigned to a duty station in Missouri is eligible for in-state tuition if the student is continuously enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program