



OPERATIONS MEMO

Update from the California Student Aid Commission

STATE OF
CALIFORNIA



December 8, 2020

GOM 2020-36

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

FROM: Catalina G. Mistler 
Chief Deputy Director, Program Administration & Services Division

SUBJECT: Transition of CNG EAAP to CMD GI Bill Award Program

This Operations Memo from the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) informs institutions of the transition of the California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNG EAAP) to the California Military Department GI Bill Award Program (CMD GI Bill) as of the 2020-21 academic year (AY).

Participants who enter the CMD GI Bill award program for the 2020-21 AY and after are subject to the new rules for the program. Renewal participants who entered prior to the 2020-21 AY will continue in the program under the CNG EAAP rules.

Major Changes in the 2020-21 AY

- Participants who enter the CMD GI Bill award program in the 2020-21 AY or later can only utilize the program to obtain one baccalaureate, graduate, or doctoral degree.
- Graduate students who enter the CMD GI Bill award program in the 2020-21 AY or later cannot receive the \$500 stipend for books and supplies. Previously, institutions could mark participants as attending graduate studies or could remove the mark indicating participants are attending graduate studies if the student is considered an undergraduate. With the 2020-21 AY, this function will be no longer available to institutions. Please contact the CMD GI Bill Coordinators (see below) if you think a renewal student is marked incorrectly.
- Participants who enter the CMD GI Bill award program during the 2020-21 AY or after must serve two years in the California National Guard, the California State Guard, or the California Naval Militia upon completion of the last academic period of utilizing this program. It is important for institutions to report the last day of attendance for participants who graduate or are withdrawn from their programs to accurately track the completion of this service requirement.

Next Steps for Institutions

Institutions must verify the "Contact Information" of the "School Info" section in WebGrants to ensure that the contact listed for "National Guard EAAP Program" is current. The contact will be responsible for providing enrollment information for program participants and must have access to the California National Guard section of WebGrants.

Please find the updated California Military Department GI Bill Award Program (CMD GI Bill) training for institutions PDF at <https://www.csac.ca.gov/post/training-videos> on the right-hand side of the screen under Related Links.

In order for an institution to be eligible under the provisions of CMD GI Bill, it must meet the requirement of a "qualifying institution" for the Cal Grant program and have an Institutional Participation Agreement with the Commission. Only campuses/programs approved on the Institutional Participation Agreement are eligible to provide awards under the CMD GI Bill.

You can find detailed information regarding the CMD GI Bill by going to <https://calguard.ca.gov/education/> and reviewing the Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions. This website also includes information on how applicants can apply.

Need to contact us?

- CMD GI Bill Coordinators phone numbers: (916) 854-4446 and (916) 854-4255
- E-mail: ng.ca.caarng.list.cn6-eaap-mailbox-access@mail.mil

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