



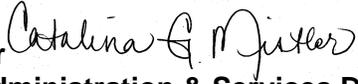
OPERATIONS MEMO

Update of the California Student Aid Commission

May 5, 2010

GOM 2010-10

TO: Financial Aid Administrators

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SUBJECT: 2009-10 Academic Year California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNG EAAP) Update

The California Student Aid Commission (Commission) will soon be issuing California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNG EAAP) awards. This program became effective January 1, 2010. Consequently, service members who are determined eligible will receive 2009-10 winter and/or spring payments.

As mentioned in Special Alerts GSA 2009-29 and GSA 2009-34, the CNG EAAP is a state-funded program designed to provide an educational incentive to improve skills, competencies, and abilities for service members who remain active in the National Guard, the State Military Reserve, or the Naval Militia. This program authorizes the Commission to make payments to eligible program participants who attend Cal Grant participating institutions.

Participant Eligibility

The program requires participants to meet all of the eligibility criteria included in section 69999.16 of the California Education Code prior to selection into the program. An applicant is required:

1. to be a California resident;
2. to be an active member of and to have served two years in the California National Guard, State Military Reserve, or the Naval Militia;
3. to be accepted by, registered at or enrolled in a qualifying institution;
4. to submit a CNG EAAP application by the deadline and agree to use the award to obtain a certificate, degree, or diploma that he/she does not hold at the time of application;
5. to agree to enroll in at least three academic units per semester or the equivalent;
6. to maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA; and
7. to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Satisfactory Academic Progress federal guidelines do not pertain to this program.



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Award Amounts

Participants can receive up to the amount of the Cal Grant A award for attending the University of California or the California State University; up to the Cal Grant B award for attending a community college, up to the University of California Cal Grant A amount for attending a non-public institution, or up to the Cal Grant A award plus \$500 for books and supplies for graduate studies.

Participants cannot receive awards for both the CNG EAAP and the Cal Grant for the same academic year.

Coordination and Packaging of Awards

Although the CNG EAAP is not need-based, the award may be reduced if the participant receives funds through the educational Montgomery GI Bill or other veteran educational assistance programs.

For the 2009-10 academic year, Commission staff has made an effort to contact institutions and/or veteran affairs offices to verify the participant's cost of attendance and the receipt of educational Montgomery GI Bill benefits and/or other veteran educational benefits for the winter and/or spring terms. As a result, manual adjustments have already been made to the participant's CNG EAAP award.

The Commission will use the formula indicated on the enclosed "California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program Disbursement Guidelines" (Guidelines) to determine CNG EAAP need. However, if institutions have conflicting information contrary to the cost of attendance or veteran benefits reported on the disbursement roster, please recalculate the need by following the instructions outlined in the Guidelines. The Commission will award the lesser of the maximum CNG EAAP award amount or the CNG EAAP need.

This award is considered an estimated financial assistance (EFA) and may affect a participant's eligibility for other student aid. Please follow the general rule in packaging financial aid, so that the participant's total financial aid and other EFA may not exceed the participant's financial need.

Participants will be notified of their CNG EAAP award and their potential financial aid need and packaging adjustments.

Payments

CNG EAAP payments for eligible participants will be sent directly to institutions, and the checks will be issued in the participant's name. Checks received for participants who do not meet the requirements must be returned to the Commission within 10 days. Please refer to the enclosed "Disbursement Guidelines" regarding these requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the CNG EAAP, please contact Larry Williams at (916) 464-3382 or at lwwillia@csac.ca.gov.

Enclosures: 2009-10 CNG EAAP New Applicant Fact Sheet
CNG EAAP Disbursement Guidelines
CNG EAAP Disbursement Roster

Working together to effectively promote education beyond high school!