



# Oklahoma National Guard Students at Oklahoma State University (OSU)

## OSU National Guard Student Snapshot

National Guard Student Average Enrollment last 5 Academic Years:

- Fall Enrollment: 165 students
- Spring Enrollment: 157 Students
- Summer Enrollment: 34 Students

**Average Grade Point Average for National Guard students: 3.10**

**Average Number of Credit Hours Enrolled: 13.5**

**Average Number of Years to Degree Completion: 4.16 Years**

## OSU National Guard Waiver Financial Snapshot

OSU processed over 1,780 National Guard Tuition waivers over the past five years.

**Average National Guard Waiver Award Amount: \$2,400 per semester**

**Average Amount of Tuition and Fees Not Covered: \$3,000 per semester**

**Average Amount of Federal Student Aid Received by National Guard Students: \$2,400**

**Average Amount of Federal Student Loans National Guard Students Take Out: \$1,800**

**Average Debt per National Guard Student by Graduation: \$27,900**

### Top 10 Degree Areas Since Fall 2016:

- Aerospace Administration & Operations
- University Studies
- Management
- Mechanical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Management Information Systems
- Sociology
- Psychology
- Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology
- Secondary Education

The degrees that Oklahoma National Guard Students are graduating with are identified as degrees that lead to critical demand occupations in Oklahoma and to high demand careers. This shows the return on investment for the waiver.



### OSU National Guard G.I. Bill Benefits

Chapter 1606 Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits are a monthly benefit to eligible individuals of the Selected Reserve (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard or Air National Guard). The education benefit is a monthly amount paid directly to the service member and is based on the enrollment status for the academic term. A service member can receive prorated amounts based on Full Time,  $\frac{3}{4}$  Time,  $\frac{1}{2}$  Time or less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  time enrollment status (training time).

#### **Eligibility for Chapter 1606 benefits – per the VA are as follows:**

##### **One of these must be true. You:**

- Have a 6-year service obligation (you agreed to serve 6 years) in the Selected Reserve, **or**
- Are an officer in the Selected Reserve and you agreed to serve 6 years in addition to your initial service obligation

***Note:** Your obligation must have started after June 30, 1985, or for some types of training after September 30, 1990.*

##### **And all of these must also be true. You:**

- Complete your initial active duty for training (IADT), **and**
- Get a high school diploma or certificate of equal value, like a High School Equivalency Diploma or GED, before finishing IADT (***Note:** You can't use 12 hours toward a college degree to meet this requirement*), **and**
- Stay in good standing while serving in an active Selected Reserve unit (***Note:** You'll still be eligible if you're discharged from Selected Reserve service due to a disability that was not caused by misconduct.*)

#### **Current Monthly Payment Rates Effective October 1, 2021:**

\$407 Full Time enrollment. Here is the VA link if you need additional information:

[https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits\\_resources/rate\\_tables.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.asp)

Over the last 5 academic years 917 National Guard Students utilized their Ch. 1606 benefits at OSU. While some National Guard Students may utilize their Ch. 1606 Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits, the amount that the benefit pays is not enough to cover all the living expenses and other financial obligations that they may have.



### OSU National Guard Student Support to State Missions

National Guard Students were activated for numerous missions during the academic year, for missions including tornado and hurricane relief, COVID testing support, civil disturbances, border support, and overseas deployments.

### Oklahoma State University's Support to National Guard Students

OSU has an Absence due to Military Service Policy, Policy 2-0217 Academic Affairs, August 2021, for National Guard Students who are activated for short-term deployments and adheres to the Senate Bill 1830: Oklahoma Student Veteran Leave of Absence Act of 2014, effective July 1, 2014, with the Military Leave of Absence Policy for National Guard Students who are activated for long-term deployments.

OSU Office of Student Veteran Success is committed to supporting Veterans, Active-Duty Military, Reservists, National Guard Students and their families in the areas of higher education, graduation, well-being and career development through:

- Pro-active assistance through academic checks, communication via email, social media and in person meetings.
- Ensuring that our campus partners are aware of the issues facing our guard members, programs through our community partners and university programs focused on members of the National Guard.
- Advocacy for National Guard Students with individual units, institutional offices and individual professors and advisors on all OSU campuses.
- In person office hours on the Stillwater and Tulsa Campus.
- Continual networking and collaborations with local partners such as the American Legion, The VFW, Disabled American Veterans, Oklahoma State University Student Groups and Centers, philanthropic and nonprofit organizations, State partners such as the Oklahoma Department of Veteran Affairs, and Federal entities such as the Department of Veteran Affairs.

OSU Veterans Faculty and Staff Association provided military credit informational briefings to OSU, as well as institutions statewide, and continues to advocate for the Military and Veteran community at OSU.

The OSU Office of Student Veteran Success and Veterans Faculty and Staff Association collaborated to host a talk on Afghanistan following the events that occurred and are currently developing a proposal for Green Zone training to support Military and Veteran community awareness and consideration.

A full list of planned Military and Veteran events in support of Veterans Week at OSU is attached to this document.



## OSU National Guard Student Testimonials

“My first two semesters I lived on campus and had to pay over \$6,000 for rent, school. Even after moving out of the dorms, I must work two jobs to cover these things. Having my fees paid would allow me to focus more time on school, and less time working to live.”

*Army National Guard, Junior*

“Being able to have my fees covered by the tuition waiver would help significantly financially. With less financial stress, I could provide more for my daughter. Get her new toys to help her development and new clothes for her to wear. Eliminating those kinds of stress would improve my mental health and allow me to focus more on what is important. Such as getting good grades in school, improving work ethics, and spending time with my family.”

*Army National Guard, Junior*

