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INFORMATION PAPER

AHRC-PDE

2 Aug 2011

SUBJECT: Tuition Assistance Policy Frequently Asked Questions

1. Purpose: To provide clarification on Tuition Assistance Policy.
2. Reference: TAGD Memorandum "Tuition Assistance (TA) Policy Clarification" dated 14 July 2011.
3. Frequently Asked Questions:

a. If a Soldier elects to complete an academic/vocational program certificate prior to completing a bachelor's degree will those semester hours be counted towards the 150 semester hour limit? **Yes, certificate or not, the credits count towards the 150 semester hour cap.**

b. Can a Soldier with a master's degree still pursue a certificate/preparation for certification/licensure? **No, upon reaching a master's degree or 45 semester hours of graduate credit, whichever comes first, TA will not be authorized.**

c. How will this TA policy clarification be applied to the First Professional Degree? **The First Professional Degree is combined together with 45 semester hour limit -- once 45 semester hours are reached, no additional TA will be authorized at the graduate level.**

d. Will the TA limits apply to classes that have been typically exempted, such as teacher certification and approved foreign language courses? **Teacher certification, approved foreign language courses, and the specialized Chaplain certification will still be exempt from TA limits. Prerequisite courses for career advancement programs such as United States Military Academy (USMA), the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Enlisted Commissioning Program, and the Physician's Assistant (PA) program are exempt from limits. However, school officials for the civilian education degrees or the commanders for career advancement programs must provide written documentation specifying additional course work is necessary (not required for job performance) for the Soldier's program of study.**

e. If a Soldier has an "F" grade and is not recouped due to mission related, will the semester hours be counted towards the 150 semester hours? Approved WM semester hours will not be counted towards the semester hour limit. However, a

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withdrawal for personal reasons, even though it's recouped, will count toward the 150 undergraduate or 45 semester graduate hour limit.

f. What happens to a Soldier who is already in a master's certificate Program? Will they be "grandfathered" in order to continue receiving TA until the program is finished? **TA is and has been approved on a course-by-course basis, not for a complete program/goal. If the Soldier has courses remaining to complete a master's level certificate, those course(s) will be counted toward the 45 semester hours allowed for TA use on the post-baccalaureate level or will have to be funded by other sources. If a Soldier already has a master's degree and is working on a certificate program, TA will not be authorized for any courses not approved prior to 14 July 2011.**

g. Will GAE issue warnings to Soldiers who are nearing or currently at the limit of 150 SH? And will GAE then block enrollments? **GoArmyEd does not currently send emails when Soldiers are approaching degree completion, Soldiers receive an email when they meet the milestone. HQ ACES has asked IBM to develop a new HQ ACES hold for Soldiers reaching the semester hour limit.**

h. The TA policy clarification listed in the reference above only lists bachelors, masters and academic/vocational certificates. Is the policy deleting TA for associate degrees? **The policy does not delete TA for associate degrees. The credits earned for an associate degree would be counted towards the 150 undergraduate semester hours limit.**

i. How will undergraduate prerequisite classes for a master's degree program be counted? **They will count towards the 45 graduate credit limit.**

j. If tuition has already been approved for courses prior to receiving the e-mail will the Army still honor the approved TA request? **The Army will honor TA requests with an approval date prior to 14 July 2011, which is the effective date of the TA Policy Clarification memorandum.**

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k. If a Soldier already has a bachelor's degree, will TA pay for a certificate? **The intent of TA usage is for Soldiers to continue an upward progression toward a higher academic degree, not lateral or lower degrees. Soldiers with a baccalaureate level degree are eligible for a TA funded certificate, however the course credits are counted towards 45 semester hours allowed for TA use on the post-baccalaureate level.**

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