

# **Air Force Tuition Assistance**

The Air Force spent \$164 Million on Tuition Assistance (TA) for fiscal year 2007. With over 287,000 enrollments and 90,900 Airmen participating, Tuition Assistance contributed to the award of more than 22,000 associate degrees, over 5,000 baccalaureate degrees and 5,000 master's degrees in FY 2007.

## **Purpose**

The Air Force Military Tuition Assistance (TA) program is an important quality of life program that provides tuition and fees for college courses taken by active duty personnel during off-duty hours. TA is capped at \$250 per semester hour (or \$166 per quarter hour) and is restricted to a maximum of \$4500 per fiscal year. The program is one of the most frequent reasons given for enlisting and re-enlisting in the Air Force.

## **General Rules and Restrictions**

Air Force Military Tuition Assistance is authorized for active duty Airmen pursuing an education goal. The education plan must be on file with the base Education Office.

Tuition Assistance is authorized for college goals below the doctorate level. TA is not authorized for courses leading to a lateral or lower level degree than already possessed.

## **Exceptions**

- TA will be provided for a CCAF degree regardless of your current education level
- TA will be provided for a civilian college associate degree even if you have a CCAF associate degree provided you do not possess a civilian associate or higher degree
- Up to 12 semester hours of undergraduate prerequisite courses needed for admission to graduate school (required courses must be documented)
- Foreign language college courses
- Courses leading to certification or diploma

Airmen apply for Tuition Assistance on-line via AFVEC during the school's registration period. Airmen may also call their base education center and discuss other options for applying when on TDY.

Airmen are no longer required to obtain a supervisor's signature on the TA form; however, Airmen are expected to discuss their schedule with their supervisor to ensure that participation has his/her support.

After completing a tuition assistance form and registering for class, Airmen may still drop/change courses without penalty as long as the base education center and the school are notified. If Airmen drop a course after the drop/ add period, they must still notify the base education center and the school but are liable for the cost of tuition, unless they qualify for waiver of tuition assistance reimbursement.

If an Airman receives a grade of incomplete from a school, they must clear the incomplete or reimburse the government for the full amount of tuition assistance.