

Avoid These Costly Higher Education Traps



Overview

Some higher education institutions are targeting military-connected students with deceptive recruitment and enrollment practices. Learn what to look for and how to hold violating institutions accountable.



Through the [Military Tuition Assistance program](#), [GI Bill benefits](#) or a combination of both, eligible military-connected students can receive up to 100% coverage for tuition — plus a living stipend — at thousands of colleges and universities around the country. **But be aware:** While some institutions may require costs beyond these benefits, misrepresentations could result in extra costs.

Watch Out for These Practices

Federal Student Aid, an office of the U.S. Department of Education, warns against the following practices:

- Being led to believe GI Bill benefits would cover all costs, only to later learn that wasn't the case and loans were needed
- Being pressured to start classes before GI Bill benefits were determined or verified
- Being encouraged to enroll in programs that were falsely approved for GI Bill benefits
- Being encouraged to take out loans to cover costs until GI Bill benefits were processed, only to later learn that those costs were not approved for coverage
- Being promised a nonexistent "military discount" on tuition
- Being encouraged to fill out loan applications as a "backup plan"
- Being coerced into signing up for loans or receiving bills for loans taken out without knowledge or consent

To learn more, read [the full enforcement bulletin](#) from FSA.

File a Complaint

If you think your school is engaging in deceptive recruitment or enrollment practices, you can report the incident or file a complaint:

- Help the DoD track your complaint by using this link to submit: <https://pecs.militaryonesource.mil/pecs/dodpecs.aspx>.
- Report any information or potential violation through the Department of Education Office of the Inspector General Hotline: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oig/hotline.html>.
- Submit a complaint to the Department of Education: <https://studentaid.gov/feedback-center/>.

To learn more or for help navigating the process of planning and paying for higher education, review available education resources or reach out to your designated education services officer: <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/education-employment/for-service-members/for-service-members-resources>.



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