



MOUNTAIN CLIMBER

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MOUNTAIN CLIMBER

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FORT DRUM EDUCATION CENTER



Northeastern
UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
DENVER

Clarkson
UNIVERSITY



back to school

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Hours of Operation

The Army Education Center at the McEwen Library and Education Complex

Monday Tuesday
Thursday and Friday

0900-1600

Wednesday
1245-1600

(315) 772-6878



On the Education Services Officer's Desk

There have been so many changes in Army Education over the past few years that it's difficult to keep up with them. Some of the most notable have been the creation of *eArmyU*, allowing eligible soldiers to complete courses and degree programs online at no cost and the implementation of computer-based testing and training. Others have been changes to the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) increasing the basic veteran's benefit to \$28,800; the new "Top Up" program that allows soldiers to use the traditional 75% of Army tuition assistance (TA) and pay for the remaining tuition out of their MGIB benefit; and the new "Plus Up" program through which eligible soldiers can contribute and additional \$600 to their MGIB and reap an additional entitlement of \$150 per month in educational benefits. Beginning 1 October, one of the most exciting and advantageous changes will take place - the advent of 100% tuition assistance world-wide.

I have been working in Army Education for 17 years and those of you who have been in service that long remember Army Education from those bygone days. I began as an intern counselor at the Grafenwoehr Education Center in Germany. Soldiers pursuing degrees were few and far between because education was viewed more as a fringe benefit, a nice to have but not necessary for promotion. At that time, E-4s and below received 75% tuition assistance, and E-5s and above received 90%, at least until the money ran out. For the first few years working within the Center, money was plentiful,

but then came the days of downsizing after the Berlin Wall fell in 1989.

Education Center budgets were stretched to the limit. Since tuition assistance money was scarce, the Army Education Centers limited all soldiers to 75% and no more than 15 semester hours per soldier per fiscal year. Many Education Centers still ran out of money, and education centers world-wide transferred money back and forth to fill the void.

As technology has improved in the military, the need for educated, technology-ready soldiers has become a priority. Promotion is now tied to education, and it's difficult for a soldier to rise in the ranks without it. However, the Army does not dole out tuition assistance randomly, as many have experienced in the past. Soldiers must declare a degree goal and pursue courses working toward that goal in order to receive tuition assistance.

Of course, education is important to success in the civilian sector as well; therefore, getting an education is the goal of many of our soldiers when enlisting. Education has become a major recruiting incentive and now the Army is learning that in order to retain soldiers, education must be a retention incentive as well. *eArmyU* was created as a retention incentive, and the 1 October increase of tuition assistance is a second step in this direction.

It's important to note that 100% tuition assistance is a two edged sword. For the committed soldier-student, 100% TA is a rare opportunity to attend college at little cost. The

soldier will be responsible for the cost of books (if not included in the cost of tuition) and any fees that are not normally charged to all students, such as fees for parking. However, a soldier who fails or withdraws from a course for personal reasons will now be required to repay the Army the 100% of tuition, \$285 for a 3 semester hour Jefferson Community College course, or considerably more with a 4 year college course.

Hopefully, this commentary will instill some sense of appreciation in our newer soldiers for the many educational opportunities they now enjoy and in our more senior soldiers as well. My hope is that many of you will take advantage of these new opportunities.

Overall, the changes in Army Education are positive, and I encourage all soldiers to take advantage of the opportunity to pursue education at little or no cost while in service. Come in to see an Army counselor to discuss how these changes can assist you in meeting your educational goal.

Carla K. Ortiz
Education Services Officer

DANTES



UPDATES

Test Prep Scams and DANTES Exams

You may have heard about a way to earn college credits by examination but don't know how or where to start. Or perhaps, you are new to the area and have not had a chance to investigate for yourself. Then a friendly sales person calls your home or knocks at your door offering to sell you a package of textbooks, encyclopedias, and other services guaranteed to help you prepare for the exams. The salesperson might even admit that these exams are "free" at your military installation. **BEFORE YOU BUY ANYTHING, VISIT YOUR ARMY EDUCATION CENTER AND GET THE FACTS** as to whether the products and services are really necessary, or even legitimate.

Mr. Leonard Lipp, Program Manager for the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Support (DANTES) examination program, offers the following warning about test prep scams:

Before you invest hundreds or even thousands of dollars for these preparation programs, beware of:

- Attempts to sell you prep services for many tests at once with payment up front or on credit.

- Credit arrangements with a company other than the one selling the prep service.

- Direct sales contact at your home.

- Promises that you can get college credit without enrolling in college.

- Book lists that include dictionaries or encyclopedias.

Owning an expensive set of encyclopedias or study materials will not ensure success on college level examinations. Generally, reading or reviewing any good textbook on the subject will do. Additionally, your Army Education Center, through the Learning Resource Center or in partnership with the installation's Post Library, may be able to provide it at no cost.

Visit all three - the Army Education Center, the Post Library, and the Multi-use Learning Facility (MLF) - all located in the McEwen Library - Education Complex, 4300 Camp Hale Road, to find out what products are available to you.

Marian Weisz
Guidance Counselor and
DANTES Test Control Officer

If you have talked with an Army Guidance Counselor about which exams might best fit into your college degree/military promotion points/future employment goals, but still do not know where to begin, a look at some of the trends in DANTES testing at Fort Drum may help you to decide.

Trends in DANTES testing at Fort Drum

DANTES offers a wide range of examinations for college credit; the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests, the DANTES Standardized Subject Tests (DSST), and the Excelsior College Examination (ECE). 102 of these examinations are available through the Army Testing Officer at your Army Education Center. A service-member, active or reserve, may take any number of these examinations for free; adult family members, and some civilians, may take the exams for a nominal fee and on a stand-by basis.

At least three times a week, the Testing Office gives practice and subject, or final, examinations. These exams must be scheduled beforehand through the Education Center or the MLF. Practice exam

periods are normally for 1 hour, during which an examinee may schedule up to two stand alone exams or 1 general examination. A monthly schedule of both practice and subject (final) examination slots is posted in the Ed Center, the MLF, and in the "Education" folder on the email server.

If an examinee scores at least 70% on the practice examination, he may sign up for the actual examination during the "Subject Exam" period.

If an examinee is enrolled with a college or university that accepts these credit by examination products, the examinee may request that a score report be sent directly to that school when registering the day of the subject examination. Transcripts may also be requested from the DANTES Contractor for a fee at a later date.

Recently, a Fort Drum soldier scored the required 70% or better on sixteen different practice exams. He then signed up for the subject examinations. Between the months of January and May 2002 - one full academic semester - the soldier passed all sixteen earning a total of 48 transferable college credits. Using these exams, he was able to complete his bachelor's degree prior to his ETS from the

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The Fort Drum Education Center Mountain Climber

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Funding Your Education

Service Based Educational Aid

Army Tuition Assistance

The Army's Tuition Assistance (TA) program uses operational funds to assist soldier's pursuing voluntary off duty education. The governing regulation is AR 621-5, *Army Continuing Education System*. TA is designed to offer eligible service-members by paying a specific amount of the cost of tuition. The current DoD limits for tuition assistance for both traditional and distance learning coursework is 75% of tuition or a maximum of \$187.50 per semester hour, whichever is less and a cap of \$3500 per fiscal year. (effective 1 Oct 2002, the DoD limits will change to 100% of tuition, a max of \$250.00 per semester hour and \$4500 per FY; these changes will be applied to any courses beginning after 1 Oct.)

AR 621-5 authorizes expenditure of TA in pursuit of an educational goal - a credential or degree, a certification, or a license based on an educational plan or program. The most common of these plans is a SOCAD agreement; but soldiers may pursue these goals with non-SOCAD schools if a degree plan is created and certified by the institution.

Education Assistance from Other Sources

As you continue planning to further your education or improve your technical skills while on active duty, look outside the box.....at federal, state, and even private, sources for aid to education programs.

Federal Aid to Education

Federal programs, under the US Department of Education (DoEd), account for the the majority of student aid available - up to 70% of funding dispensed annually through grants and loans. The Pell Grant program awards eligible undergraduate students money to complete their bachelors degrees. Federally insured student loans, including Stafford and Ford loans, allow the same student to borrow money for degree completion.

The key word in deciding which

The service-member is required to have the plan approved and recorded in their education records.

TA may be used in conjunction with veterans' benefits as approved by the Department of Veteran's Affairs, federal and state education aid and school based scholarships.

When service-members agree to use TA, they agree to successfully complete the course; failure to do so or withdrawal for non-mission related reasons, requires that the Education Center recoup the money from the service-member.

See the highlighted block on the right for some TA "rules of the road".

Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) programs

There are three general categories of VA educational benefits available to soldiers and veterans at Fort Drum. Eligibility may vary depending upon each individual's enlistment and separation status.

- The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB, Chapter 30)

- The Veteran's Education Assistance Program (VEAP, Chapter 32)

- VA Vocational Rehabilitation

The most common benefit, the MGIB can be used in two different modes, as a "top-up" to TA or more traditionally, allowing the VA to reimburse the soldier up to 100% of tuition and fees charged, as determined by the VA.

"Top Up" is becoming more popular as the turn around time from submission of the TA documents to the VA reimbursement shortens. Turn around time through VA Buffalo has shortened to 5 weeks after submission, as compared to the normal 12 week wait after the end of the semester or term under the traditional rules. Service members are reminded that they must pay the 25% covered by "Top Up" up front, and then forward a copy of the approved TA to the VA. Again, "Top Up" is available only to MGIB era service members.

Service members should contact the Education Center to determine the type of service based financial aid they are eligible for.

Kerry L. Parker
Guidance Counselor

program to choose is award versus borrow; Pell grants do not have to be repaid at the end of your student years, loans do.

Federal programs calculate your financial status against the costs of college attendance to determine the amount needed to subsidize your college education. These calculations are determined on a full year's basis and are then disbursed by semester against full or partime enrollment. Grants or loans can account for up to 100% of the annual cost of college is the student qualifies. Application for these federal aid programs is made on the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) either virtually at the DoEd website - www.FAFSA.ed.gov - or at the school's financial aid office.

Timely submission of the FAFSA is crucial to receiving the benefits before school starts

State Aid to Education

State grant programs, like New York's State Tuition Assistance Program, are

restricted to *residents attending state colleges*. Like the federal programs, the state uses the data off the FAFSA to determine financial need so timely submission is critical. And as with the federal programs, state funding can award up to 100% of the annual cost, but in most cases only if the student is attending full time.

Private Scholarships

Over a billion dollars of private source scholarships are awarded annually. The scholarships are awarded by private citizens, civic organizations, and corporations on both national and individual basis. Additionally, colleges themselves may have access to grants from alumni and other groups specific to that institution. Qualifications for these dollars may be found in a number of financial aid guides at your Library or Learning Resource Center or at a specific college's homepage.

Tuition Assistance (TA) Rules of the Road

TA can only be issued for approved post secondary course work.

TA caps are absolute.

TA must be approved prior to the last day of the late registration period.

Unless under an exception to policy, students may request up to 6 semester hours of TA during 1 semester. No more than 9 sh of TA will be approved without a SOCAD or degree program on file with the Education Center.

TA for full-time participation is capped at 75% of the full time rate charged by the school.

TA can be used with federal and state funding, and will be posted to the student's account first. Students may be required to pay back excess.

Use of TA requires the student and the school to provide timely grades; failure to post grades will result in recoupment.

The 1st LTC in the student's chain of command is the approval authority for requests for release from recoupment under mission related withdrawals.

When planning your education, take full advantage of all the possible funds sources described here. In a best case scenario, using service related financial aid, as well federal and state financial aid and scholarships; you could literally enjoy a free education.

The bottom line: It's your money... spend it last and wisely.

Diane Turo-Hughes
Guidance Counselor

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Army. Interested examinees should check with their counselor or the school they are working with on policies regarding transfer of credit-examination results.

During the months of April, May, and June of 2002, soldiers at Ft Drum had a 95% passing rate. Of the 55 soldiers who took exams, 51 earned passing scores. In April, 25 soldiers tested and earned a total of 96 credits. In May, 18 soldiers tested and earned a total of 108

credit hours. In June, 14 soldiers earned a total of 141 credits. The Test Control Officer credited the required practice exam as a cause for the high pass rate here at Fort Drum.

From May 2001 to May 2002, we have found the following exams to be the most popular with soldiers: the 5 CLEP general examinations in English Composition, College Mathematics, Humanities, Natural Science, and Social Science - each worth 6 college credits and the

stand alone subject exams in Criminal Justice, Ethics in America, Freshman College Composition, Here's to Your Health, Introduction to Computing, Law Enforcement, Introduction to Business, Organizational Behavior, Principles of Supervision, College Level Spanish, and History of the United States.

COME IN AND SEE US!!
START EARNING COLLEGE CREDITS TODAY!!

Crandah McKenzie
Test Examiner



SCOREBOARD

Students Briefed
186

Students Counseled
126

Student Participation Agreements Signed
92



SUNY COLLEGES IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

Time to Think About Back to School !!!

It's hard to believe, but its time to start making school plans. If you haven't already pre-registered for the fall semester, it's still not too late to get into classes.

Jefferson Community College

Here on Fort Drum, JCC divides the semester into two 8-week sessions in order to better accommodate soldiers' schedules. Classes meet for two nights per week for three hours. JCC also offers noon time classes that run for four days per week, 11:30 am to 12:45pm, again in the 8-week format. Along with the usual menu of Psychology, Sociology, and History courses offered here this fall, JCC is offering a computer networking course, NET 100, from its Networking Degree Curriculum. Don't wait until the last minute to register for your class. The class could either be full or cancelled for lack of registrations.

Please be aware that seeing an Army Counselor and getting a tuition assistance form **DOES NOT** register you or reserve a seat in the class for you.

SUNY Empire State College

The word to remember with Empire State is: **FLEXIBILITY**

Empire offers a number of ways to earn college credit:

- One on One study
- Distance learning
- Online study
- Credit by Evaluation
- Study Groups

Empire also offers a large list of degree options:

Associates and Bachelors Degrees

- The Arts
- Business, Mgt, & Economics
- Cultural Studies
- Educational Studies
- Historical Studies
- Human Development
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Science, Math, & Technology
- Social Theory, Structure & Change

Graduate Degrees

- Business and Policy Studies
- Culture & Policy Studies
- Labor & Policy Studies
- Liberal Studies
- MBA

Faculty, advisement, and most classes are available on Fort Drum. Information sessions are held weekly on Thursday at 1600, except during the month of August.

SUNY Oswego

SUNY Oswego is offering three classes this fall as part of their Bachelor's Degree in Public Justice. The courses are:

CPS 391 Introduction to Family

Tues 5-730 at JCC

PBJ 300 Violence in the Workplace

Web based

PBJ 360 Discrimination in the Workplace

Web based

HRM 386 is being offered as part of Oswego's Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

On the graduate level, Oswego offers an MS in Human Services Counseling available entirely in Watertown. The MBA program, however, has only been able to offer its MBA electives online to students in the North Country. Now the college is hoping to make more MBA core courses available through video tele-conferencing.

Space doesn't allow for all our programs, but take a look at the fall schedule below, and call or stop on by the SUNY Office, Rm 131, the McEwen Library and Education Complex, 772-5477 or 773-9007.

Compiled by the SUNY staff

SUNY Colleges in the North Country Fall 2002 Course Offerings

SUNY Potsdam

Semester dates 8/29 - 11/17/02

BUEC 303	Legal Environ of Business	Tu/Th	TBA	3cr	JCC
COMM430	Employ. Seeking & Comm	Fr/Sa	5-9,8-5	3cr	JCC
ECON401	Corporate Finance	Tu/Tu	TBA	3cr	JCC
GRE503	Educational Law	Tu	4:30-8:30	3cr	WHS
GRE512	Intg. Reading & Writ K-12	Fr/Sa	4-9,9-5	3cr	TBA
GRE527	Rdng & Lang Arts	We	4:30-8:30	3cr	N.Elem
GRE544	Cooperate to Educat	Fr/Sa	4-9, 9-5	3cr	JCC
GRE566	Elm. Sci: Cont&Mth	Fr	4:30-9:30	3c	JCC
		Sa	9-5		
GRE567	Elm. Soc.Std: Cont&Meth	Mo	4:30-8:30	3cr	JCC
GRE600	Philosophical Found	We	4:30-8:30	3cr	JCC
GRE607	Foundation of Ed (B-6th)	We	4:30-8:30	3cr	JCC
GRE626	Zebra Stripes & Lrng Types	Fr/Sa	4-9, 9-5	3cr	JCC
GRE627	Innov. Clsm Rdng Pract.	Th	4:30-8:30	3cr	Sherman
GRE630	Diagnostic Tech. in Reading	Mo	4:30-8:30	3cr	N.Elem
GRE631	Remedial Tech. in Reading	Tu	4:30-8:30	3cr	N.Elem
GRE632	Clin. Prac.: Diag & Remed. Rdng	Sa	9:30-12	3cr	JCC
GRE633	Clin. Prac II: Field Based Pract.	Sa	12:3-3:30	3cr	JCC
GRE600	Educational Research	Fr/Sa	5-9,8-5	3cr	JCC
IT614	Technology in Education	Fr/Sa	4-9,9-5	3cr	JCC

SUNY Plattsburgh

Semester dates 8/26 - 12/13/02

NUR304	Health Assessment	We	4:30-8:20	3cr	JCC
NUR425	Community Health Nurs	Mo	4:30-7:00	4cr	JCC
NUR448	Pharmacology	Tu	4:30-5:20	1cr	JCC
WMS315	Women & the Law	Tu	5:30-8:00	3cr	JCC
NUR350	Theoretical Fnd of Nursing	Internet		3cr	SLN
NUR465	Clinical Practicum	Internet		3cr	SLN

Note: Plattsburgh courses are in support of Telenursing Program. Please call 1-800-787-8773 for registration information and/or materials.

SUNY Empire State College

Various semester/class start dates

CHS326	Legal & Ethical Issues in the Helping Professions	We	6:00-8:00	4cr	Wtn
ENG250/350	Topics in Writing	We	6:00-8:30	4cr	Wtn

SUNY Oswego

Semester dates 9/23 - 12/20/02

CPS391 020	Intro to Family	Tu	5:00-7:00	3cr	JCC
HRM286 830	Hmn Res Mgmt	TBA	TBA	3cr	JCC
CPS503 810	Psych Fndtn -Pers	Tu	4:00-6:30	3cr	JCC
CPS510 010	Counselin Th & Prc	We	4:00-7:00	3cr	JCC
CPS512 010	Case St in Counslg	We	4:30-7:00	3cr	JCC
CPS513 010	Field Exp in Alchl Cnsl I	We	4:30-7:00	3cr	JCC
CPS515 010	Field St in Counseling	We	7:00-9:30	3cr	JCC
CPS516 010	Field Exp in Alchl Cslg II	We	7:00-9:30	3cr	JCC
CPS560 010	Chem Dep and Trtmt	Mo	6:30-8:30	3cr	JCC
CPS574 010	Voc Devlp & Dec Mkg	Thu	4:00-8:00	3cr	JCC
CPS585 010	Found of Psy & Ed Appr	We	7:00-9:30	3cr	JCC
CPS698	Individual Projects				
PBJ300 DIS	Spec Topics: Viol in Wrkpl	Internet		3cr	
PBJ360 DIS	Spec Topics: Discrim in Wrkpl	Internet		3cr	

General Education and PBJ Elective Requirements for SUNY Oswego may be satisfied via online courses. Call 773-9007 for

Registration materials and course descriptions for colleges hosting local classes are available at the SUNY Colleges office at Fort Drum, Rm 131, Building P 4300, or by calling 772-5477 or



772-9007.

Jefferson Community College Early Fall Session 9/19-10/09/02

ACC101 811	Accounting Principles I	M/W	6-9:35	4cr
BIO 105 811	Environmental Biology	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
CIS 110 811	Intro to Computers	M/W	6-9:35	3cr
CRJ101 811	Intro to Criminal Justice	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
ENG100 811	Composition I	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
ENG101 811	Composition II	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
ENG102 811	Comp & Literature	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
NET100 811	Networking Fundamentals	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
PSY133 811	Intro to Psychology	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
SOC144 811	Intro to Sociology	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
BUS104 811	Personal Finance	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
BUS112 811	Intro to Business	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
CIS110 812	Intro to Computers	TuTh	6-9:35	3cr
CIS116 811	Intro to Programming	TuTh	6-9:35	3cr
CRJ207 811	Community Corrections	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
ENG099 811	Basic English	TuTh	6-9:00	0cr
HIS150 811	Amer History to 1865	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
MTH125 811	Intermediate Algebra	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
SOC241 811	Marriage and Family	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
SPA121 811	Elementary Spanish I	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
HIS111 811	Western Civilization I	M/Tu/W/Th	11:30-12:45	3cr
PSY133 811	Intro to Psychology	M/Tu/W/Th	11:30-12:45	3cr

Late Fall Session 10/21-12/16/02

ACC102 851	Principles of Accounting 2	M/W	6-9:35	3cr
ART115 851	Art Appreciation I	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
CIS110 851	Intro to Computers	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
CRJ102 851	Criminal Admin Proc	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
ENG100 851	Composition 1	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
ENG101 851	Composition 2	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
ENG171 851	Short Story	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
HOS101 851	Intro to Hosp & Tourism	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
PSY233 851	Lifespan Development	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
BUS131 851	Principles of Management	M/W	6-9:00	3cr
BUS160 851	Spreadsheet Applications	TuTh	6-9:35	3cr
ECO100 851	Elem. of Economics	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
GEO102 851	Planet Earth	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
HIS151 851	Amer History since 1865	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
MTH155 851	College Algebra	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
PSY239 851	Death and Dying	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
SOC144 851	Intro to Sociology	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
SOC245 851	Criminology	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
SPA122 851	Elementary Spanish 2	TuTh	6-9:00	3cr
HIS112 851	Western Civilization 2	M/Tu/W/Th	11:30-12:45	3cr
POL121 851	Intro to Amer Gov't	M/Tu/W/Th	11:30-12:45	3cr