

**16 V.S.A. Sec. 2857. Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program
Legislative Report – 2024-2025 Academic Year**

To: The Honorable Phil B. Scott, Governor; the House and Senate Committees on Education and the House Committees on Appropriations, and on General, Housing and Military Affairs
From: Patrick Leduc, Vice President of Chief Operating Officer, VSAC
Brig Gen Henry U. Harder, Jr., Vermont National Guard
Date: January 15, 2026
Re: Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program Report

Introduction and Background:

The Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program (the “Program”), started in 2019, provides full tuition to eligible Vermont National Guard members at Vermont State University or the University of Vermont. It provides up to the cost of tuition at the University of Vermont for all other Vermont colleges, as well as funding for approved certificate (nondegree) programs both in and outside Vermont. Students may enroll as full or part-time students.

For each academic year of attendance under the Program, a Guard member must serve two years in the Vermont National Guard (the “Guard), to receive the full tuition benefit. If the member’s service with the Guard is terminated prior to the member completing their service obligation, other than for good cause as determined by the Guard, the pro rata portion of the tuition paid under the program will be repaid to VSAC pursuant to the terms of an interest-free reimbursement promissory note signed by the member at the time of entering the Program. Funds recouped from loan repayments are added back into the program and given out as new awards.

On or before November 1 of each year, the President, Chancellor, or equivalent position of each educational institution that participated in the Program during the immediately preceding school year shall report to the Guard and VSAC regarding the number of members enrolled at its institution during the school year who received tuition benefits under the program and, to the extent available, the courses or program in which the members were enrolled. On or before January 15 of each year, VSAC and Vermont National Guard shall report this data and other relevant performance factors including information pertaining to the achievement of the goals of this entitlement program and the costs of the program to date, to the Governor, the House and Senate Committees on Education and House Committees on Appropriations, and on General, Housing and Military Affairs.

Timeframe Covered:

The program covers a full academic year – July 1 through June 30th.

Spending Outcomes:

The Legislature appropriated \$1,319,834 for the program. In the July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025 academic year, \$988,121.40 was disbursed for Guard members attending seven Vermont schools and two out of state schools.

Vermont State University had the largest number of Guard Members enrolled (31), followed by the University of Vermont (29) and Norwich University (20).

Achievement of Goals of the Program (submitted by Brig Gen Henry U. Harder, Jr., Deputy Adjutant General, Vermont National Guard 15 Jan 2025):

The Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program (VNGTBP) continues to be a critical tool in recruiting and retaining members of the Vermont National Guard, both Army and Air. From the academic year of 2021-2022 to this past academic year of 2024-2025 we have seen a 24% increase in the usage of this vital entitlement program. Last academic year we had 102 Soldiers and Airmen take advantage of this program to further their education and professional development, of those Guardsmen and women; one is pursuing a doctorate degree, 18 are pursuing a master’s degree, 67 are pursuing a bachelor’s degree, eight are pursuing an associate’s degree, two are in the Resident Nursing program, and seven are in 1-year Certificate programs. Our members use the program to earn associate’s, bachelor’s, and master’s degrees, as well as various certifications and credentials. The number of Service Members pursuing a master’s degree is the same in academic year 25 as it was in academic year 24. We are working to increase the marketing and flow information with the intent of increasing the usage of the VNGTBP We appreciate the legislature affording our Service Members the opportunity to better their education thereby increasing their chances for promotion and professional growth not only in the Vermont National Guard but throughout the state of Vermont. Overall, the Vermont National Guard Tuition Benefit Program is achieving its goal of helping add and keep members in our ranks so we can respond to both State and Federal missions when called upon.

Institutional Information on number of members enrolled, funds disbursed, and programs in which members enrolled:

Institution	# Recipients	\$ Disbursed	Average Award	Yearly Tuition	Enrolled Programs
Applied Tech at St. Johnsbury Academy	1	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	EMT
Arizona State University	1	\$3,444.00	\$3,444.00	\$3,444.00	Electrical Engineering
Champlain College	13	\$50,600.00	\$3,892.00	\$47,400.00	* Business Administration/Management * Health Care Administration * Information Technology * Computer Information Systems * Software Engineering * Cybersecurity
Community College of Vermont	3	\$5,460.00	\$1,820.00	\$8,400.00	* Business * STEM * Information Technology

Norwich University	20	\$229,090.00	\$11,454.50	\$48,730.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Architecture * Biology * Business Administration * Computer Science * Construction Management * Criminal Justice * Criminology * Information Warfare * Leadership * Management * Nursing * Strategic Studies * Studies in War & Peace
Southeast Lineman Training Center	1	\$16,280.00	\$16,280.00	\$18,665.00	Line Work Training
University of Vermont	29	\$353,276.00	\$12,181.93	\$16,606.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Biology * Business Administration * Civil Engineering * Engineering Management * Exercise Science * Health Science * Mechanical Engineering * Medical Laboratory Science * Medical Radiation Sciences * Professional Nursing * Public Health Sciences * Sustainability Ecology and Policy * Physical Therapy * Medical Science * Undeclared
Vermont Flight Academy	3	\$48,840.00	\$5,426.67	\$19,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Commercial Pilot * Instrument Pilot * Private Pilot

Vermont State University	31	\$279,731.40	\$9,023.59	\$10,344.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Automotive Technology * Biology * Business Administration/Management * Computer Software Engineering * Construction Management * Dental Hygiene * Diesel Power Technology * Electrical Engineering * Electromechanical Engineering * Forensic Psychology * Health Science * Interdisciplinary Studies * Literature and Writing * Mechanical Engineering Manufacturing * Nursing * Outdoor Education * Paramedicine * Professional Pilot * Psychology * Wildlife & Forest Conservation
Total	102	\$988,121.40			