



U.S.ARMY®



Army Education

**Supporting the Professional and Personal Development of
Soldiers & Their Family Members**



“ACES”

Army Continuing Education System



Education Services Division

Mr. Mike Engen
Education Services Officer

RECRUITING

READINESS

RETENTION

TRANSITION





From ACES to ACCESS

Effective FY20: The Army Continuing Education System (ACES) was realigned from the Army Human Resources Command (HRC) to the Army Training and Doctrine Command's (TRADOC) Army University

Purpose of realignment was to enhance synergy and optimally align resources in support of the personal and professional development of Soldiers, throughout the Soldier for Life construct

Army Credentialing and Continuing Education Support of Soldiers (ACCESS)

COL Charles Rambo appointed as the inaugural Director of ACCESS. The Director of ACES reports to the Army University Provost

Education Center DHR Garrison IMCOM Army University
→ TRADOC (and AMC) → → →





The Reasons for Today

The purpose of the III Corps and Fort Hood Education Summit is to:

- Collaborate as leaders as we work together to:
 - Formally recognize and message the increased value of higher education for both the Army and the Soldier
 - Promote a culture of personal and professional development
 - Instill the desire to pursue post-secondary education
 - Focus on ways to encourage Soldiers and Family Members to:

“Begin Today, Preparing for Tomorrow”





ACES Programs and Services

What We Offer

- Full range of Counseling Services – **The Holistic Approach**
 - ✓ Career
 - ✓ Academic
 - ✓ Financial Aid
- Tuition Assistance Program
- **Credentialing Assistance Program**
- College Programs (Certificate thru Graduate Studies: 2,700+ school options)
- Testing Services (Army Personnel Testing, Academic & Certification/Credentialing)
- Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP)
- Career Skills Programs for Transitioning Soldiers
- Soldier Development Center: Classrooms, Computer Labs
- Special Events and Unit Education Fairs
- **Briefings...**





ACES Briefings and Presentations

ESD personnel are available to conduct a variety of briefings at the unit level. We strive to adjust our briefings to your schedules

- Commander/CSM/1SG Briefings:** provide an executive overview of ACES programs and Services, as well as collaborative discussion and custom support of your Soldiers' academic needs.
- NCOPD Briefings:** provide a more detailed presentation of ACES Programs and Services – this presentation is developed with larger audiences in mind.
- Unit Briefings:** provide a more detailed presentation of ACES Programs and Services – this presentation is developed with Soldier interaction in mind, and extensive Q&A is anticipated.
- FRG Briefings:** while this briefing provides a general overview of ACES Programs and Services – the primary focus is on educational programs and support that is available to Family Members

To Schedule a Briefing, please call Mike Engen at 287-7329





Participation Trends (FY19)

Counseling Sessions and Briefings

17,849	Counseling Sessions
432	Briefings (unit, GoArmyEd, MGIB, New Comers', ETS, etc....)
16,726	Attendees at ESD Briefings: average of 39 Soldiers per briefing

Other Visits to the Soldier Development Center (SDC)

35,169	Soldier visits to Army Learning Center: Computer Lab
100+	Classrooms dedicated to Education/Training needs
985	Networked Computers in classrooms and computer lab

Credentialing Assistance Program

30,000+	Fort Hood Soldiers briefed on the new CA Program: since September 2018
2,874	Fort Hood Soldiers received individual counseling specific to the CA Program
767	Fort Hood Soldiers have submitted a CA training request





Participation Trends (FY19)

Tuition Assistance				
35,000	Fort Hood			16.9%
	Enrollees	Enrollments	Avg # Classes per FY	Percent Participation
FY19	5,902	15,768	2.67	16.8%
FY18	5,114	12,853	2.51	14.6%
FY17	5,483	13,668	2.49	15.7%
FY16	6,611	16,775	2.53	18.9%
FY15	6,543	16,564	2.53	18.7%

480,000	Total Army			16.8%
FY19	82,276	220,261	2.67	17.1%
FY18	79,454	206,332	2.59	16.5%





Participation Trends (FY19)

Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP)... is a formal Army program of study which enhances the basic reading, math, and communication skills of Soldiers.

As of Feb 2020	11,261	E1 – E7 with GT Score <100 (35.5%)
	16,232	E1 – E7 with GT Score <105 (51%)
FY19	868	Soldier Enrollments in BSEP (E1-E7)
FY19	537	Official AFCT Exams Proctored (DA 4187)
FY19	+14.4	Average Increase to official GT Score
		Retest GT scores ranged from -8 to +46 points

Petersons Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) **[https://
www.nelnetsolutions.com/dantesnet/](https://www.nelnetsolutions.com/dantesnet/)**





Post-Secondary Programs

College Programs:

- From Certificate Programs thru Graduate Studies
- Total of 2,700+ accredited schools to choose from

Fort Hood embraces academic diversity

- 232 academic partners last year
- On-Post Providers
 - ✓ Central Texas College
 - ✓ Texas A&M University Central Texas
 - ✓ University of Maryland University College
 - ✓ Excelsior College
 - ✓ Upper Iowa University
- 227 Other Accredited Providers – mostly Distance Learning
- Approximately 85% of Fort Hood's TA funded enrollments are in Distance Education Programs





MyCAA

Spouse Tuition Assistance

- My Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) provides a maximum education benefit of \$4,000 with an annual fiscal year cap of \$2,000 to assist eligible military spouses who need professional credentials to meet their portable career goals.
- Pursue Licensure, Certificate or Associate's Degree in marketable and transportable career field.
- Annual cap waivers are available for licensure and certificate programs if there is an upfront tuition cost that exceeds \$2,000 (up to the maximum education benefit of \$4,000).
- Eligible Spouses of E-1 to E5, W-1 to W2 and O-1 to O-2 pay grades.
- For more information visit, **<https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>**





Tuition Assistance Program

- The Army Tuition Assistance (TA) program provides funding for voluntary off-duty education leading to an Associate/Baccalaureate/Master's Degree or Certificate.
- TA funding is available up to the following Semester Hour limits:
 - ✓ 130 SH for a Bachelor's Degree
 - ✓ 39 SH for a Master's Degree
 - ✓ 21 SH for an undergraduate or graduate level academic certificate.

This level of funding permits soldiers to complete one degree at each level as part of an approved degree plan.
- TA is not authorized for first professional or doctor's degrees as defined by the U.S. Department of Education. Examples include, but are not limited to, Doctor of Jurisprudence or Juris Doctor (J.D.), Doctor of medicine (M.D.), Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.), and Doctor of Philosophy (PH.D.).





Tuition Assistance Policy

- Soldiers authorized 16 SH per FY, up to \$250 per SH for a total of \$4000 annually.
- Soldiers cannot use TA for a second, higher-level degree until completion of 10 years Time in Service.
- TA may not be used for a lower or lateral degree program from the one the Soldier currently possesses, per official CivEd Code.
- Officers incur a 2-year ADSO for TA funded classes.
- TA used for course that were failed for personal reasons will be recouped.
- TA used for courses that were withdrawn from for military related reasons will not be recouped. **All Military Withdrawals (WM) must be documented with a signed statement from the commander and the first O-5 in the chain of command.**





Tuition Assistance Program

- TA pays for tuition only; it can not be use for academic fees or books.
- TA is only authorized for use at accredited colleges/universities.
- TA is requested and managed through the GoArmyEd Portal.
- Soldiers may use both TA and CA; however, the combined amount **cannot** exceed **\$4000** per fiscal year.
- Soldiers must maintain a minimum TA GPA of 2.0 in undergrad programs and 3.0 in grad programs.





Credentialing Assistance Program

- The Army Credentialing Assistance (CA) program provides Army funding for voluntary off-duty courses and/or exams leading to an industry-recognized academic or vocational credential listed in Army COOL

<https://www.cool.osd.mil/army>



- Training can be pursued via accredited institutions of higher learning, as well as with non-accredited Independent Training Providers (vetted by HQ)
- The CA program offers three credentialing options:
 - ✓ Credential related to an MOS, as long as it is not an MOS requirement
 - ✓ Credential related to an academic degree or certificate
 - ✓ Credential aligned to a civilian career field





Credentialing Assistance Program



- CA pays for tuition and fees associated with classroom, blended and hands-on instruction, as well as covers the examination costs, and required course materials (i.e. books, manuals, study guides, related PPE and supplies, andmaintenance and recertification of an earned credential).
- Soldiers may use both Tuition Assistance (TA) and Army Credentialing Assistance (CA); however, the combined amount cannot exceed \$4000 per fiscal year.
- Soldiers may use this program to enhance their skills, either in current MOS, or in an occupation Soldier would like to pursue upon transition from Army. Soldier can request CA funding for any credential listed on Army COOL.





Credentialing Opportunities On-Line

Army “COOL”

<https://www.cool.osd.mil/army>

COOL is a DoD-hosted (created by the Army) website that helps Soldiers and veterans identify civilian and commercial certification and licensure that are related to their Military Occupation Specialties (MOS).

The CA will allow Soldiers to formally associate their Army training and experience to a wide variety of industry recognized certifications, which in turn will enhance the professionalism of Army service and better prepare Soldiers for eventual post-Army employment.

- ✓ Provides a crosswalk from an Army MOS to a Civilian Career.
- ✓ Identifies required/recommended civilian certifications that will help make a veteran competitive for employment in a given career.
- ✓ Explains the value of being credentialed.
- ✓ Provides links to numerous resources to help Soldiers get started with the credentialing process.





Briefings and Opportunities

- Walk-in Counseling Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, 0900-1600, Soldier Development Center
- Counseling by Appointment, **<https://fhed.appt.timetap.com>**
- Late Counseling by Appointment on Wed, **<https://fhed.appt.timetap.com>**
- Testing Services
- Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP)/GT Improvement Support
- Computer Lab
- GoArmyEd Tuition Assistance (TA) Briefings M, W, F, 1300
- Credentialing Assistance (CA) Briefings T, TH, 1300
- Green to Gold Briefings, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 1300
- AMEDD Briefings, 2nd Tuesday, 1400
- Troops to Teachers Briefings, 2nd Thursday, 1300
- Quarterly Special Events: College and Credentialing Assistance Fair, College Graduations, ESD Open House, Military Evaluation Day, etc...





Know the Need

Program Review and Validation

**Critical that our local ACES Programs and Services are responsive to
community needs, and
offer realistic and viable academic options**

- Formal & Informal Academic Needs Assessment
- Program Evaluations and Student Assessments
- Monitor Trends
- External Third Party Education Review
- Academic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Actively Market and Promote ACES Educational Opportunities
- SO MUCH MORE...





Know the Need

ESD actively solicits input and feedback from our customers via formal surveys and informal interviews and conversations with our clients.

Triennial Needs Assessment to assess the academic needs of the Fort Hood Community:

- Ensure that ACES programs and services are responsive to local needs.
- Will help identify changes (+/-) in participation trends and impact of new DoD and DA regulatory guidance.
- Helps promote awareness and familiarity with the academic programs that are available to the Fort Hood Community.
- **Will be launched in Summer 2020**
- **Web-based, anonymous survey – PII is not collected**

Please promote this survey, and encourage your communities to complete this Academic Needs Assessment.





<https://www.facebook.com/FortHoodEducationServices/>

Education is the most reliable strategic investment that the Army can make in the face of an uncertain future

As an Army of One

We help our Army Strong Soldiers

Be all that They Can Be

