



UNITED STATES
SPACE FORCE

Buckley Space Force Base USSF Education Benefits



Education Office

Building 606

(720) 847-6675

460.FSS.FSD.Education.Office@us.af.mil

Hours of Operation

Mon – Thu 0800-1500 *last walk-in at 1430

Friday 0800-1200



Education Services

❖ CCAF:

AAS - Military Technology & Applied Sciences Management

❖ Counseling:

Tuition Assistance/Degree Planning

AU-ABC

Commissioning

AF COOL – *Enlisted Only*

Skillbridge

Financial Aid (*Dependents included)

❖ VA Benefits:

MGIB

Post 9-11 (including TEB)

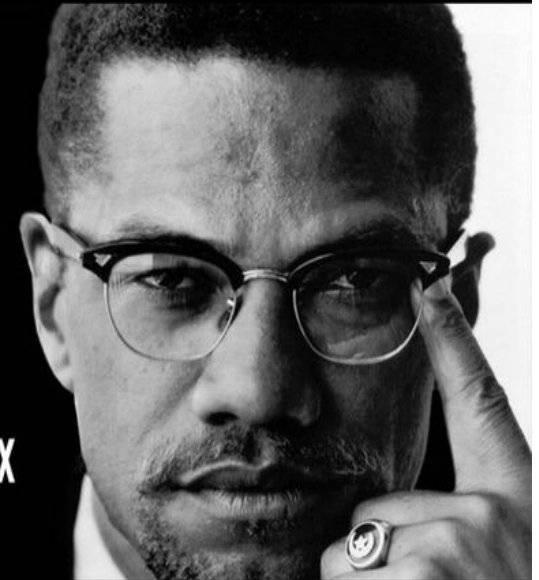
Top Up

Yellow Ribbon

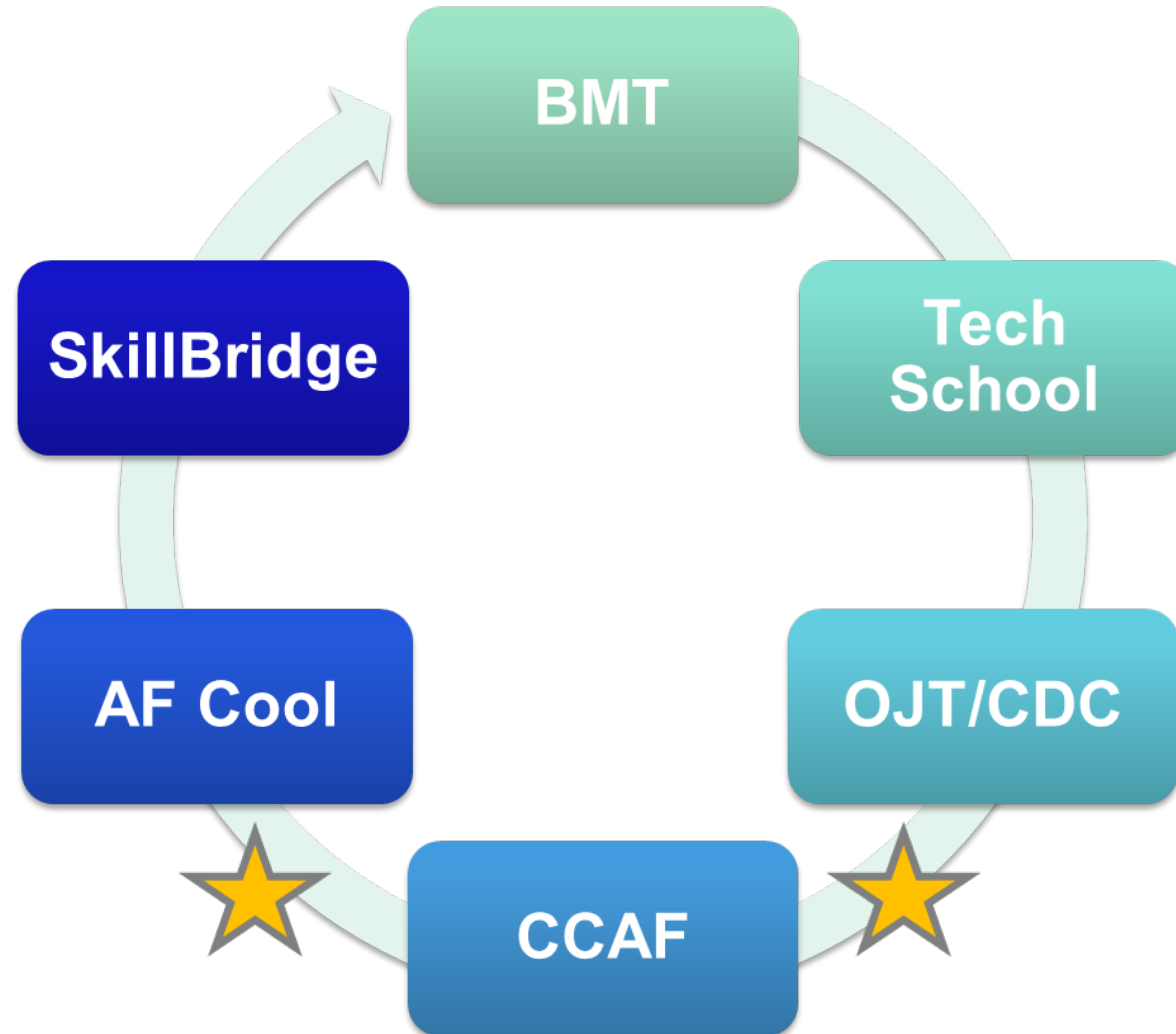
❖ Testing:

CLEP/DSST - PME/CDC - DLPT/DLAB

**“EDUCATION IS THE
PASSPORT
TO THE FUTURE”**
❤️ - MALCOLM X

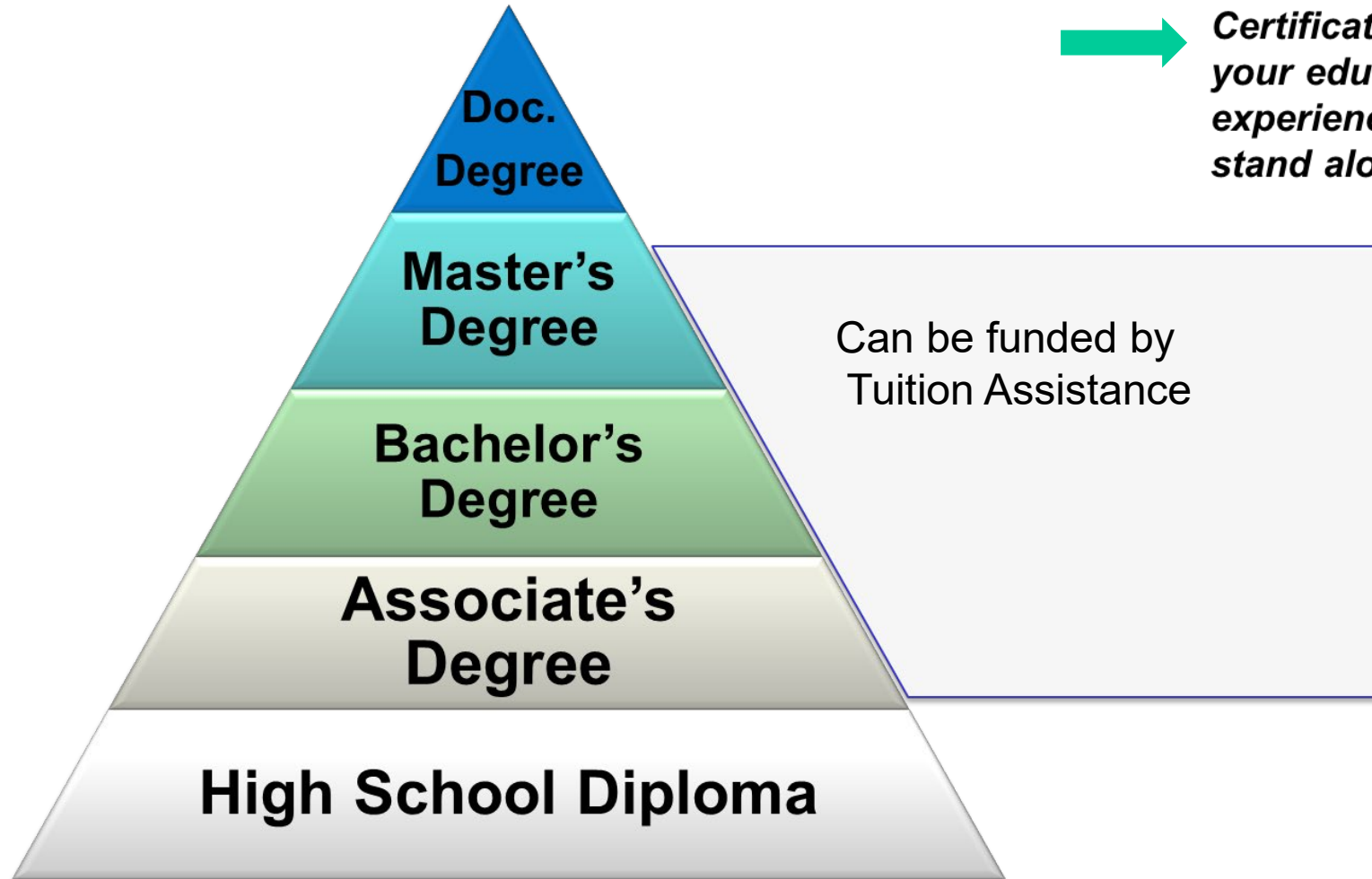


Military Education Life Cycle



★ Other Higher Ed goals

Education Level



Certificates can add to your education and experience (and can also stand alone)



TA Policy (AFI 36-2670)

- ❖ Tuition Assistance funds are provided by the Air Force to pursue approved degree programs (Associate, Bachelor and Master degrees) not yet accomplished. (Non-disclosure of degree level and use of TA for degree levels already accomplished will result in UCMJ action)
 - ❖ The window for MILTA requests will be limited to **no earlier than 45 days** and **no later than 7 days** prior to term start date.
 - **\$4,500** max per fiscal year (Oct-Sep), **\$250** per SH or **\$166.66** per QH
 - Pays tuition for classes only
 - Does **not** cover class/institution fees (registration, lab, parking, etc.) Example Institutions:XXX
 - ❖ Maximum credit caps:
 - 42 SH for graduate degree
 - 124 SH for undergraduate degree

Authorized **two (2)** program changes at undergraduate level (*interest inventory and general counseling recommended and required prior to initiating change*)

No changes authorized after 90 SH or 135 QH completed
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USSF CCAF Requirements

TECHNICAL CREDITS: Tech School (Varies by SFSC) 5 Level – Journeyman (9 sH) 7 Level – Craftsman (6 sH)	24
Leadership Management and Military Studies	6
General Education Requirements	15: Fulfilled: CLEP/DSST or Course
Oral or written Communication	6
Math	3
Social Science	3
Humanities	3
BMT	5
Program Electives	15

- CCAF *IS* regionally accredited
- Must be 5-skill level prior to separation to receive awarded degree
- Military Technology & Applied Sciences Management **(applicable to all USSF Enlisted)**



Associate to Bachelor Cooperative (AU-ABC)

- ❖ Bachelor of Arts/Science
 - Directly related to Member's SFSC

 - Partnering Universities and Colleges
 - ❑ Cat I – CCAF grads guaranteed no more than 60 SH to complete their BS/BA degree.

 - ❑ Cat II – University/College **may** add pre-req coursework (no more than 3 classes (9 SH) to fulfill BS/BA degree.

 - ❑ Cat III – Graduates will need to complete no more than 60 SH beyond their CCAF degree. These degrees must still link to one or more CCAF AAS programs and have **exceptional value for the Space Force.**

***After
you
obtain
your
CCAF***





Enlisted USSF COOL (Credentialing)

- ❖ What it does:
 - Payment of prep courses and certification fees up to \$4,500 (**per career**)
 - ❑ Does not pay for courses or prep materials other than books with a \$500 max per goal
 - ❑ Credentialing tests relating directly to your SFSC
 - ❑ One credential related to already obtained academic degree (AAS degree or higher)
 - ❑ One credential unrelated to your SFSC with supervisor approval
 - ❖ “Leadership cert” requirement has been adjusted to reflect accomplishments and skill, rather than rank*
 - ❖ A cert can be pursued within 180 days of DOS & now **does not** require self-funding!
 - ❖ From a different “Pot of Money” than MilTA.
 - ❖ Active Duty **enlisted** Guardians
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SkillBridge

- ❖ SKB provides eligible Guardians (**officer and enlisted**) opportunities to develop their career skills or learn new skills through civilian:
 - ❖ 1. On-the-job training
 - ❖ 2. Apprentice
 - ❖ 3. Internships
- ❖ Must be within **180** days of approved retirement or separation to participate
- ❖ Recommend you start *as early as possible** to allow processing time
- ❖ Guardians must:
 - Step 1: Attend TAP
 - Step 2: Attend the mandatory briefing at the Education Office
 - Step 3: Submit their SkillBridge application in AFVEC to the Education Center at least 30 days prior to the SkillBridge start date



GI Bill

Chapter 30 – Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB)

- ❖ Eligibility: \$1,200 = **Maximum benefit**
- ❖ VA: up to \$2,358/month paid to you - you pay school
 - You must pay for tuition/fees
 - You must pay for books/supplies
- ❖ Many vocational training courses are approved
- ❖ Multiple licensure or certification exams are paid for
- ❖ Veterans have up to 10 years after sep/ret to use it

**Amount of tuition always correlates to student course load



Chapter 33 – POST 9/11 GI Bill

- ❖ Eligibility: Time Served*
 - ❖ Can be **transferred to family** = **4-YEAR ADSC**
 - ❖ VA pays Tuition and Fees to the School directly:
 - Public Univ: In-State tuition & fees paid – “Choice Act”
 - Private Univ: \$27K per year; or use Yellow Ribbon*
 - ❖ VA pays Stipends to the Student directly:
 - Housing = E-5 w/dep rate of school zip code
 - Book Stipend = up to \$1,000 year
 - ❖ Many vocational training courses approved
 - ❖ Multiple licensure/certification exams paid for
- [From January 2013 – Lifetime benefit](#)

**Amount of tuition/stipend always correlates to benefit percentage and student course load



GI Bill – Top Up

TA Top Up is a way to use your GI Bill to pay the difference in TA if your school is expensive. You can click the TA Top Up box on your funding request if you are interested in using this – however, please note:

- ❖ When you check the box, you will lock yourself into your current GI Bill selection
- ❖ Most Guardians have MGIB, and have paid the \$100 for 12 months that is required for this benefit. This is a good benefit, but if you want Post-9/11 benefits (the only one you can transfer to dependents), you'll have to apply for them on the VA website <https://www.va.gov/education/>
- ❖ Apply on the VA website and get your COE (certificate of eligibility)
- ❖ Using TA Top Up will tap into your 36 months of GI Bill benefits (by a pro-rated amount)

**Course cost is
\$1000 (3SH)**

TA Top Up (\$250)
TA (\$750)

Applying for GI Bill (MGIB or POST 9/11)

- ❖ When the student is ready to use either one of the GI Bill Benefits for school:
 - Go to benefits.va.gov
 - Fill out [VA 22-1990](#) “Education Benefits”
 - ❑ Will need bank account information
- ❖ Member receives “[Certificate of Eligibility](#)”
 - Important “proof” document; make copies of it!
 - Provide to School Certifying Official to either validate schedule (MGIB) or to initiate payment from VA instead of from you (Post 9/11)!





GI Bill – Additional Resources

- ❖ **VA websites:** <http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/>
- ❖ **DoD website:** <http://milconnect.dmdc.mil>
- ❖ **AFPC website:** www.afpc.randolph.af.mil
- ❖ **AFPC transfer Q&A:** <http://ask.afpc.af.mil>
- ❖ **VA GI Bill Counselors:** (888) 442-4551
- ❖ **Total Force Service Center:** (800) 525-0102 or DSN 665-0102

- ❖ **Benefits change....for the most current information always go to benefits.va.gov**

REMEMBER: YOU ARE A VETERAN FOREVER, BE PROUD!

FIND YOUR LOCAL VA CENTER WHEREVER YOU MAY GO

Student Debt



- ❖ *In 2022, the average student debt among Americans was \$37,574.*
 - ❖ *The average monthly student loan payments stand at \$460 for bachelor's degree holders.*
 - ❖ *\$2 Billion in Student Aid goes unclaimed, annually.*
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Additional Funding Resources

❖ FAFSA

- <https://studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa>

❖ College/University Financial Aid - Scholarships

- <http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/>
- <https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx>
- <https://www.scholarships.com/scholarship-search>

- These are just a couple of the more popular meta search engines. Stop by the Education Office for a complete listing of available scholarships/grants.

➤ Get Started Now!

- Create a new email address specifically for scholarship search. Example – johnorjanedocollege@gmail.com
 - Submit that essay (If required or requested) – much of these dollars go unused every year!!
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