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Financing Your Online Graduate Education



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Tips and Tools to Help You Pay for Graduate School

You know that graduate school is your next step. You are confident in your decision to attend Norwich University. Now, here comes the question we hear most often: *How do I pay for it?* You have more options than you probably realize. In this brochure, we've compiled the key information you need about the financial assistance that's available.

Deciding on the best financial aid option for you can be a difficult decision, but our admissions advisors are here to help you get the answers you need to make the best choice.

Your first step is to determine if you are eligible for financial aid. If so, you will want to apply for assistance as soon as possible.

Are you eligible for financial aid?

You must meet the following criteria:

1. Be enrolled in a degree-granting program.
2. Not be in default of Title IV funds.
3. Have a valid Social Security number.
4. Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen with permanent residency status and an alien registration identification number (may not be required for some institutional programs).
5. Most male students, between the ages of 18-25, must be registered with the Selective Service.
6. Have not borrowed in excess of loan limits under the Title IV program.
7. Maintain satisfactory academic progress per federal regulations (see details below).
8. Have all requested documents on file before disbursements can be made.

Please note that to be eligible for federal financial aid, federal regulations require schools to have a Satisfactory Academic Progress policy that assesses your progress after each term. For more information about Norwich's policy, please contact your admissions advisor today at **1-877-348-8153** or via email at info@online.norwich.edu.



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Student Loans

It's not unusual for graduate students to take out loans. The question is what kind of loan—federal or private? Here's what you need to know: Traditionally, federal loans are a better option than private loans. The reason is that federal loans usually carry a lower fixed interest rate. Private loans will require a credit check and the amount requested is not always guaranteed. Private loans also tend to have variable rates that can increase over the course of the loan. However, personal loans from banks and credit unions can help supplement any federal financial aid you receive.

TYPES OF FEDERAL LOANS

- Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan:** This loan is available to all graduate students regardless of financial need, and does not require a credit check. The current interest rate for the 2018–2019 academic year is 6.60%*, and interest accrues from the time the loan is disbursed to the school. The borrowing limit is \$20,500 per academic year, which covers full tuition and fees for most of Norwich's online master's programs. However, it is important to speak with your admissions advisor about your specific program of interest. The first step to qualify for an Unsubsidized Loan is to complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Read on to learn more.
- GradPLUS Loan:** This loan is available to all students regardless of financial need as long as they do not have adverse credit. If a student has exceeded their \$20,500 Unsubsidized Loan limit or has met their lifetime aggregate limit for the Unsubsidized Loan, they have the option to apply for the GradPLUS loan to cover any costs associated with the program while enrolled. There is a mandatory credit check, but you can determine if you are pre-approved at www.studentloans.gov. The current interest rate is 7.60%*. Your payments are deferred while you are enrolled at least half time, but interest will accrue on the loan. However, you can elect to make interest-only payments while you are enrolled. You will just need to make these arrangements through your loan servicer. It's important to note that there is no grace period once you graduate/drop below half time status, and your loan will go into immediate repayment.

* Note: Interest rates were recorded in 2018. They are subject to change.

** <http://online.norwich.edu/current-students/academic-calendar>

What Is FAFSA?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is required by the Department of Education in order for a student to be considered for federal aid (non-need based).

FAFSA Help

How is “financial need” determined?

Financial need is determined by subtracting your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), as determined from your FAFSA data, from the cost of attendance (COA) at Norwich. The COA includes the tuition and fees for the academic year as well as an allocation to cover cost of living expenses while enrolled. Below is an example of what a master’s student may expect to pay based on our students’ average indebtedness upon graduation from Norwich University:

Example Payment Plan*:

You borrowed \$28,000 and you do not have any existing Unsubsidized Loans.

Repayment Summary

Months in Repayment:	120
Monthly Payment:	\$319
Total Interest Payment:	\$10,323
Total Loan Payment:	\$38,323

* Please note: This is based on a Standard 10-year plan with an interest rate of 6.60%, which is subject to change. Payment plans will vary on a case-by-case basis.

Why is it important to file your FAFSA ASAP?

Did you know that practically everyone is able to receive some sort of aid? To find out what you are eligible to receive, you must [complete the form online](#). While you can apply for financial aid at any point in the admissions process, we encourage you to apply early to ensure all paperwork is complete before class starts if you are accepted into the program.

Two important reminders when completing the form as a graduate student:

1. You are considered independent and therefore not required to disclose your parents’ income or signature.
2. Norwich University’s school code is **003692**.

What happens next?

Once your FAFSA information is approved, Norwich University will receive a Student Aid Report file that will disclose your EFC and will offer you student loan funds based on your eligibility. All students who complete a FAFSA successfully are eligible for the Unsubsidized Loan and the GradPLUS Loan regardless of their EFC. Before loan funds can be disbursed, you must have completed the application process and be officially accepted into the program. At this point, you will be asked to complete a master promissory note, entrance counseling, and an institutional application form to finalize the loan process.

If you need help completing your application, contact your Admissions Advisor today at 1-877-348-8153 or via email at info@online.norwich.edu.





Work for It

Employer Tuition Assistance

Here at Norwich University, we realize that many of the graduate students in our online programs are also working professionals. Does your employer offer a tuition reimbursement program? Check with your human resources representative. If your workplace does not offer any tuition reimbursement, now may be the perfect time to talk to your employer about becoming a Norwich University partner organization.

Norwich University Partner Organizations

Did you know Norwich University partners with more than 600 organizations around the world to offer 10% off tuition to their employees? The tuition discount is also extended to immediate family members (child or spouse). Check our directory by [clicking here](#) to see if your employer is already a partner with Norwich University.

Scholarships

Professional and Trade Associations

As a working professional, you may want to check with various professional and trade associations in your field. Often times, these associations offer scholarships and fellowships.

Research Fellowships

If you're pursuing a career where research is critically important, you could be eligible for funding from organizations in your field of study.

NU Alumni Scholarship

We are invested in the future of our alumni. That's why we offer a \$2,500 scholarship to any of our Norwich bachelor's degree graduates. The scholarship can apply to any of our College of Graduate and Continuing Studies' master's degree programs.

If you have any questions about Norwich's partner organizations or for more information on how to apply for the NU alumni scholarship, contact your admissions advisor today at **1-877-348-8153** or via email at info@online.norwich.edu.



Surprising Tax Benefits

Did you know there is more than \$18 billion¹ available in federal tax programs? Perhaps what's more surprising is that every year \$1 billion² in tax benefits is left unclaimed. To be eligible for tax benefits, you must file a federal income tax return—no exceptions. According to FAFSA, you could receive a \$1,000 tax refund check even if you don't owe income tax.

Possible Tax Credits:

- The American Opportunity Tax Credit – Up to **\$2,500**
- The Lifetime Learning Tax Credit – Up to **\$2,000**

In addition to claiming tax benefits, you can also **deduct tuition expenses and the interest on your student loans** from your taxes.

Do you have an IRA?

Most graduate students are working professionals who have already started saving for the future. If you have an IRA (individual retirement account), the government allows a penalty-free withdrawal from your IRA as long as the money is used for education.

¹ <http://www.fafsa.com/student-financial-aid/education-Tax-benefits>

² http://www.fafsa.com/resources/downloads/TaxBenefits_Worksheet_2013.pdf

To learn how education tax benefits can help make paying for graduate education at Norwich University even more affordable, visit FAFSA.com/TaxBenefits.



Military Benefits

As the nation's first private military college, we believe in doing all we can to serve those who serve. Offering information regarding your military benefits as well as a special Norwich scholarship are just a few of the ways we choose to help.



Whether you're an active duty, reserve, or veteran member of the U.S. military, you may be able to qualify for more than one military benefit program. The key is to decide which is best for your situation in order to maximize your available benefits. Norwich University's admission advisors are happy to provide guidance every step of the way.

GI Bill®

As of August 1, 2018, each applicant is now eligible for up to **\$23,671.94** each academic year. You may be eligible for a maximum of 36 months of education benefits. As part of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, online students at Norwich may also be eligible to receive a **monthly housing allowance (MHA)**. Your first step in obtaining your GI Bill education benefits is to apply for your Certificate of Eligibility (COE).

To begin your COE, visit the [VA website](#) and complete your application using VA Form 22-1990, found in the Veterans Online Application (VONAPP) system. Please note your application approval process can take up to 12 weeks. Upon receiving your approval letter, you must then send a copy of your COE to Norwich, stating your chapter benefits and the percentage of benefits for which you are eligible by one of these methods:

- Email your COE to: registrargrad@norwich.edu
- Fax your COE to: 1-802-485-2533
- Mail your COE to:

Norwich University
Attn: Judy Sassi, VA Certifying Official
PO Box 367
Northfield, VT 05663

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

Tuition Assistance

The U.S. Department of Defense's Tuition Assistance (TA) program can go a long way toward making graduate education more affordable for eligible active duty, reserve, and National Guard personnel. The per semester hour cap is \$250, and the fiscal year ceiling is \$4,500. Talk to your admissions advisor about the possibility of combining TA funds with other military benefits.

Yellow Ribbon Program

The Yellow Ribbon Program is a co-sponsored grant between Veterans Affairs and Norwich. Intended for veterans, it serves as a supplement for the Post-9/11 GI Bill's educational benefits. If you are eligible for this program, your all-inclusive tuition costs (including fees, books, and other materials) will be 100% covered through the program.

Norwich University Military Scholarship

Here at Norwich University, we appreciate your service to our country. To show our gratitude, we provide a \$1,200 scholarship to active duty, National Guard, and Reserve personnel for any online master's degree program we offer. Please note: This scholarship equals a distribution of \$200 per course and is applicable to tuition only.

The Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) Scholarship

The CCME has several types of scholarships available for active duty military and veterans who are working toward the completion of a higher education degree at a CCME membership institution, like Norwich University. You can be awarded \$1,000 for each year that you are enrolled in 6 or more credit hours and earn a cumulative 3.0 GPA for graduate programs. To learn more about the eligibility requirements and scholarships offered by CCME, [click here](#).

Quick Links to Key Resources

FAFSA Information and Application: <http://fafsa.ed.gov>

Federal Student Aid Information: <http://studentaid.ed.gov>

Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan Information: <http://www.studentloans.gov>

Employer Assistance Information:

<http://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips/169F2731/How-to-Get-Your-Employer-to-Pay-for-Your-Graduate-Studies/>

GI Bill Information: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>

Tax Incentives for Higher Education: <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Tax-Incentives-for-Higher-Education>

Still have questions? Contact your admissions advisor today at 1-877-348-8153 or via email at info@online.norwich.edu.

About Norwich University

Founded in 1819, Norwich University is a small, private, not-for-profit university that offers professional and liberal arts programs to military and civilian students. The campus is located in Vermont. The College of Graduate and Continuing Studies builds upon 200 years of Norwich University traditions, while offering a variety of online degree programs in a rigorous academic environment. By enrolling in our online programs, you'll become part of a long tradition of public service education and leadership at Norwich which goes all the way back to our founding as the nation's first private military college.



Norwich University is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (formerly the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.).



Benefit from a program recognized as offering Best Value with respect to high academic quality and low net cost of attendance, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Rankings are based on undergraduate programs and on students who received the average level of need-based financial aid.

Visit all our online programs at online.norwich.edu:

Master of Arts in Diplomacy

Master of Arts in History

Master of Arts in International Relations

Master of Arts in Military History

Master of Arts in Strategic Studies

Master of Business Administration

Master of Civil Engineering

Master of Public Administration

Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Master of Science in Information Security & Assurance

Master of Science in Leadership

Master of Science in Nursing

College of Graduate and Continuing Studies

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Privacy Policy – <http://online.norwich.edu/about-us/privacy-policy>

Student Consumer Information – <http://www.norwich.edu/consumer>

Non-Discriminatory Statement – <https://online.norwich.edu/about-us/non-discrimination-statement>

Complaint Process/Resolution – <https://online.norwich.edu/about-us/complaint-process>