

**Illinois National Guard Grant Program**  
*Questions and Answers from October 30, 2008 Webinar*

**Q. Why is it possible to prorate the amount of a student's term award amount for the Illinois National Guard Grant program, but not for the Illinois Veteran Grant Program (IVG)?**

**A.** The reasoning for this is based on when and how eligibility is established and how it is defined in the rules and regulations.

For the Illinois National Guard Grant program, the student has to have been an active member of the Illinois National Guard for one full year. When that eligibility date occurs during a term in which he or she is enrolled, the benefits can only be used from that day forward. The student could also leave the Guard midterm, thus causing benefits to cease on a particular day. There are also application dates that factor into the ING Grant program which the IVG does not have.

For the Illinois Veteran Grant program, the statute allows the student to receive benefits for a complete semester even if they don't establish eligibility until the end of the term. In some cases, a student may have been an "eligible veteran" throughout the entire semester, but just didn't establish eligibility for purposes of the IVG program (via the ISAC application process) until the end of the term. The statute allows an IVG eligible student to notify the school of eligibility as late as the last day of the term for which he/she wants to receive benefits. Once a veteran is eligible, he/she does not stop being a veteran midterm like someone can with the ING Grant program.

The IVG rules were changed a couple years ago to require students to notify schools of their eligibility by the end of the term. Previously, the student had up to two months days after the last day of classes to notify the school that they were eligible to receive and utilize IVG benefits.

**Q. In situations where a student does not fulfill their Illinois National Guard commitment and has to repay benefits received from the ING Grant program, does the money that is repaid to the Department of Military Affairs get refunded to ISAC or to the school in situations where the school had to cover part of the costs due to proration?**

**A.** On the rare occasion that this would occur, the Department of Military Affairs would be responsible for collecting repayment of benefits from the Illinois National Guard member, as they would be the entity to know when/if this action became necessary. In the event that funds were collected, they would be returned to the state's general fund to be used for things such as Court of Claims

settlement. Because repayment could occur after close out for a particular academic year, a process has not been established to return it directly to the ING Grant fund in ISAC's annual budget.

**Q. In the Restrictions column on the Announcement Roster and on the Payment Roster, is the date that is shown included when calculating the number of days for which a student is eligible for benefits.**

A. ISAC uses the terminology and eligibility information provided by the Illinois Department of Military Affairs and reflects this in the data listed on the rosters. For students whose eligibility date says "Until xx/xx/xx," the student is eligible for benefits up to and including that date. For students whose eligibility date says "After xx/xx/xx," the student is eligible for benefits starting on and including that date.

**Q. What should be included in the Comments section of the online payment roster?**

A. The Comments column of the online payment roster that will appear in My Zone is intended for schools to use as needed to provide additional information or notations. It is intended to be used in the same manner that it was used for paper-based rosters. It is an optional field that does not require information to be entered in order to submit a claim. Some schools use the column to note the proration calculation they may have used for a partial term award for a particular student.

**Q. What are the details of legislation regarding the payment of book fees for IVG recipients who are graduate student**

A. House Bill 4625 was proposed in the Spring session of the Illinois General Assembly to allow eligible IVG recipients to have 50% of their textbook costs be included in their existing entitlement benefit. Because of the expense associated with this change, the sponsor of the bill decided not to bring the bill for a vote to the full House unless reimbursement levels were increased for the current IVG program. Since ISAC received only level funding for IVG for Fiscal Year 2009, this bill did not progress any further and did not become a benefit of the IVG program.

