

Sailor Gram

News you can use from Navy Total Force

FLTCM(SW/AW/SCW) Scott Benning

Voluntary Education

"The Navy remains committed to the life-long learning and development of our Sailors, but education must come in a logical order. Sailors first need to become familiar with command operations and progress toward warfare qualification during the first year onboard their first Permanent Duty Station. It's only after this first year in a Sailor's career is completed, that TA and NCPACE will be authorized."
-FLTCM(AW/SW/SCW) Scott A. Benning Navy Total Force/MPT&E Fleet Master Chief

To make the most of voluntary education opportunities, Sailors should use all available resources including Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support ([DANTES](#)), the Navy College Office, [Navy College Web site](#) and the [Scholarship and Financial Aid Explorer](#) to maximize off-duty education benefits.

Voluntary education benefits reward top performance and encourage personal and professional growth.

To obtain Tuition Assistance (TA) eligibility, certain criteria must be met:

- Advancement eligible Sailors must have taken and passed their most recent advancement exam
- Sailors who are serving out of their rating and have not passed their advancement exam are eligible for TA and NCPACE with the approval of their commanding officer/officer in charge
- Sailors must pass (or be medically waived from) their most recent physical readiness test
- Duplicate degrees are not authorized at each educational level
- Sailors must be recommended for promotion or advancement (as applicable)
- Sailors who have been awarded non-judicial or courts-martial punishment in the previous six months shall not be authorized TA or NCPACE courses
- COs/OICs shall consider a Sailor's progress toward completion of required warfare/professional qualifications prior to approving TA/NCPACE requests

Things you need to know:

- Sailors who are currently receiving TA or NCPACE benefits and have served less than one year at their first permanent duty station will continue to receive benefits as long as they continue to satisfy other eligibility criteria.
- Once TA funds are depleted in a given fiscal year, they will not be available again until next fiscal year.

NAVADMIN [105/10](#) adjusted the TA policy to include the following changes:

- Sailors must have an approved education plan and only courses listed in that plan will be funded by TA.
- TA will no longer be used to fund courses that award credit in clock hours in order to maximize acceptance of college courses between academic institutions.
- New accessions must be onboard their first permanent duty station for one year prior to receiving funds through TA.

- In FY 09, TA enrollments totaled more than 135,000 and TA participants included more than 50,000 personnel.
- In FY 09, more than 60,000 Sailors participated in NCPACE, academic skills and United Services Military Apprenticeship Program ([USMAP](#)).
- Forty-nine Navy College Offices around the world are available to assist Sailors plan for and obtain their voluntary education goals.