

TIPS for Servicemembers and Veterans

Be Careful with For-Profit Education



The GI Bill and other military education programs offer you the chance to attend school and plan for your future. But servicemembers who use money from these programs to pay for school are sometimes targeted by for-profit schools that make false promises. Here are some tips for using your education benefits.

Watch Out for Aggressive Sales

- Predatory schools often use high-pressure sales calls to try to get servicemembers and veterans to sign up. You don't need to make a decision about school right away. Slow down — take a tactical pause — and take the time you need to make the right decision.
- The school with the most aggressive sales staff may not be best. Most public and non-profit schools don't spend much on sales and ads because they focus on education.
- Be careful of big promises about job placement or programs that sound too good to be true. They probably are.

Compare Schools by Looking at Results for Graduates

- Many for-profit schools are not as good as public and nonprofit schools at helping students graduate, get jobs, and make money in the future.
- It is true that a for-profit school may offer more flexible schedules or have classes that are easier

to access than public and non-profit schools. But those benefits are not worth it if it means you give up a good education and job training. Focus on the results that are important to you.

- Take time and get as much information as you need about the programs you are thinking about. Always ask for information about the programs such as graduation rates and job placement and graduate salary information. This information will help you compare schools and the programs they offer. If a school can't provide this basic information, they could be hiding something.
- For information on California's public universities and community colleges, go to www.universityofcalifornia.edu, www.calstate.edu, or www.cccco.edu.

Compare Costs Before Making a Decision

- For-profit schools often cost more than public and non-profit schools.
- The GI Bill or other education benefits often pay for most of the costs of going to school, but it

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is important to check. Comparing costs when choosing a school could save you from being surprised when you end up having to pay money out of pocket.

Additional Resources

Ask your base legal office for help. For the legal office's contact information, ask your command or visit the Armed Forces Legal Assistance Program website at <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php>.

California National Guard personnel can also get help from the State Staff Judge Advocate's Office - go to <http://www.calguard.ca.gov/> for contact information.

For information on civilian legal aid resources, go to <http://www.lawhelpca.org>.

The Attorney General's Office cannot give legal advice, but filing a consumer complaint is helpful because it alerts the Office to consumer issues and may help with the Office's investigations. File a complaint with the Attorney General's Office at <https://oag.ca.gov/consumers> or (800) 952-5225. For more information about military consumer protection, visit <https://oag.ca.gov/consumers/general/military>.

For questions regarding the Department of Justice, contact the Public Inquiry Unit at (916) 210-6276 (voice), or (800) 952-5225 (toll-free in California).