

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN MESSAGING

If Congress does not pass a Budget or Continuing Resolution before 23 March, approved FY24 Tuition Assistance (TA) Requests may be cancelled. ACCESS (Army Credentialing and Continuing Education Services for Soldiers) will cancel TA Requests starting on 22 March 2024 at 2359 GMT (1959 EDT) for 23 March 2024 term start dates and will continue daily cancellations throughout the government shutdown. These daily cancellations will continue until either a Budget or a Continuing Resolution is approved by Congress and signed by the President.

- Soldiers whose TA Requests were cancelled due to the government shutdown will receive a message in ArmyIgnitED.
- Soldiers whose TA Requests were cancelled due to the government shutdown must submit a new TA Request for a future term date.
- Soldiers will not be permitted to submit future-dated TA Requests during the government shutdown.
- There will be no historical TA Request created for courses with term start dates during the shutdown.
- Soldiers should review the “Conditions” section on their TA Request and understand the terms of this agreement to include the following statement, “I understand that TA for courses starting in the next fiscal year is conditional until the receipt of the TA funds.” Without a Budget or Continuing Resolution, the Army will not receive TA funding.
- Soldiers should work with their academic institution or local Army Education Center (if available during the shutdown) to make an informed decision on whether to withdraw from courses during the government shutdown or remain enrolled and assume the risk of self-pay.
- Soldiers who attend courses during the government shutdown will be responsible for costs incurred with their Academic Institution.
- Processing invoices at ACCESS will cease throughout the government shutdown.
- Army School Support **will** be available to you while the government POCs (Points of Contact) will not.

For additional questions, contact your Army School Support team at:

Email: <https://www.vantagepoint-inc.com/armyschoolsupport> scroll to the bottom to choose your favorite team member.

Create a post on the Knowledge Community: <https://military-school-support.mn.co/>.

LIVE Chat: <https://military-school-support.mn.co/spaces/11582188/page> choose your favorite team member and send a direct chat.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. **I have a signed and approved TA Request that begins 23 March 2024. Will it be honored if the government shuts down?**

Answer: No, the Anti-deficiency Act prohibits Federal agencies from incurring obligations that are in advance of or that exceed an approved appropriation (budget). This will affect TA funded courses from 23 March 2024 through the duration of any potential shutdown. TA Requests will be cancelled daily during the government shutdown.

2. **Are Soldiers being notified by the Army?**

Answer: Yes, Soldiers will receive email blasts through official Army channels. The information will be posted to social media pages and shared with Army Education Centers. Soldiers will also receive a blue banner message when they log into ArmyIgnitED and an email if their TA Request is cancelled due to the government shutdown.

3. **Where do Soldiers go for more information during a potential government shutdown?**

Answer: Soldiers can find their Education Center information by clicking "VIEW DETAILS" in the Education Center section of their dashboard. Please remember that many Soldiers will have closed Education Centers if they are not supported by contract staff. If a Soldier's Education Center is closed, please have the Soldier contact the following:

Active-Duty Soldiers will have their Education Centers available by email and phone messages

Army National Guard Soldiers may contact the ARNG Support center, 1-866-276-4338 or email arngesc@army.mil

Reserve Soldiers will have their Education Centers available by email and phone messages

4. **Can Soldiers request future TA?**

Answer: During the government shutdown, Soldiers and Education Center Counselors will be unable to create future-dated TA Requests. Once a Continuing Resolution or budget is passed, signed and funding is received, Soldiers can request future FY24 TA abiding by the 60 - 7 days prior to the term start date policy.

5. **Will there be an AI Portal message or announcement?**

Answer: Yes, you will see a message or announcement when you log into the AI Portal.

6. **Will the AI Portal remain available?**

Answer: Yes, you may still update or edit grades and other administrative tasks. We suggest not invoicing during the shutdown because ACCESS will not be able to process the invoices.

7. **Will the Soldier Portal remain available?**

Answer: Yes, Soldiers can log in to check on the status of TA Request to determine if a cancellation has occurred.