INFORMATION REGARDING NEW ARMY TA REGULATIONS:

Q1. What will happen to the classes I am currently enrolled in through GoArmyEd that start after 1 January 2014? Will I be able to continue?

   A. Any FY14 TA request approved by 31 December 2013 will be honored for payment. However, no new enrollments are authorized until they meet the new eligibility requirements.

Q2. Can I start using TA for my master’s degree as soon as I graduate from AIT, OCS or BOLC since I already had a bachelor’s when I joined?

   A. If you already had a bachelor’s degree when you entered the military, you may begin working on a master’s degree once you have met the one year service requirement from the end of AIT, OCS or BOLC.

Q3. If I have prior service, do I still have to wait 10 years?

   A. Any prior military service completed with an honorable discharge will count towards the 10-year time requirement.

Q4. If I use TA to earn an associate’s degree do I have to wait 10 years to be eligible for TA?

   A. No, the 10-year policy for a second degree applies to the transition from an undergraduate to a graduate degree, not from an associate’s to a bachelor’s degree.

Q5. Will classes dropped for military reasons count towards the 16 semester hour limit?

   A. If you have to drop a class due to unforeseen military reasons, those semester hours will not count towards your 16 semester hour fiscal year total. Note: Military withdrawal must be approved by a Soldier’s Education Services Officer to be valid.

Q6. Is 10 years of service counted from the date I completed my bachelor’s or from the time I joined the Army?

   A. The 10-year policy for a graduate degree is based on when you entered the Service and not on when you completed your bachelor’s degree.
Q7. If TA only paid for one class to complete my bachelor’s degree do I still have to wait until I have 10 years in service to start my master’s?

A. Yes, the 10-year window for a second degree (post-bachelor’s) TA-funded degree applies if TA paid for any portion of your bachelor’s degree.

Q8. I have already used 6 semester hours of TA since October. Do I have 16 more starting 1 January 2014 or only 10 more?

A. If you used TA for classes that started between 1 October and 31 December 2013, those semester hours will count towards your FY14 16 semester hour total.

Q9. Do 16 semester hours of TA-funded classes start at the beginning of the calendar year or at the beginning of the academic year?

A. The 16 semester hours is based on the fiscal year, 1 October to 30 September. TA is associated with the class start date within a fiscal year.

Q10. Can I take more than 16 semester hours a year if my classes are less than $250 per credit?

A. No, the credit hour cost of your tuition will not change the 16 semester hours of TA-funded classes for which you are eligible.

Q11. Will remedial college classes count towards the 16 semester hour limit?

A. Yes, the semester hours used for remedial classes will count towards your 16 semester hour fiscal year total.

Q12. Will the 10-year service requirement for a second TA-funded degree be counted the same way for Active Duty and for Reserve Component Soldiers?

A. The 10 year time requirement for a second degree (post-bachelor’s) will be based on a Soldier’s BASD, if they are active duty, or PEBD, if they are in the Army National Guard or Army Reserves.

Q13. Will classes dropped for personal reasons count towards the 16 semester hour limit?

A. Yes, classes dropped after the start date in which there is a cost to the Army will count towards your 16 semester hour fiscal year total.

Q14. If TA pays for my bachelor’s degree do I have to meet the 10-year requirement to pursue a certificate/diploma?

A. No, the 10-year rule does not apply to certificates/diplomas.

Q15. Can I continue to work on my graduate degree even though I do not have 10 years?

A. You can continue to work on your graduate degree using funds other than TA as TA cannot be used for graduate level classes until the 10-year time requirement has been met (unless you did not use TA to earn your bachelor’s).
Q16: How does prior service impact the one year after IET / BOLC year rule?

A. Prior service, regardless of Service, will be used to establish the one year eligibility date for Army TA. TA used while a member of another branch of Service does not have any impact on the use of Army TA.

Q17: What determines the eligibility for meeting the one year rule?

A. Eligibility for Federal TA will be based on one year of service from the completion of Initial Entry Training (IET). For enlisted Soldiers and most Warrant Officers this consists of Basic Combat Training (BCT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT). For commissioned officers this is their Basic Officer Leaders Course (BOLC).

Q18: What is the impact of the FY14 TA Policy on “host nation language” courses?

A. Soldiers stationed OCONUS may continue to use TA for host nation language courses even if they have not yet met the one year service requirement for TA use. No other courses may be taken until the one year service requirement is met.

Q19: How does prior service impact the ten year after IET rule?

A. All prior service years, regardless of the military branch will be used / counted toward the establishment of the ten year service requirement.

Q20: How does the FY14 TA policy impact the special programs such as courses for establishing initial teacher certification, prerequisite courses for the AMEDD Enlisted Commissioning Program (AECP) and the Inter-service Physician’s Assistant Program (IPAP), DOD Strategic Languages courses and courses for a Specialized Chaplain Certificate?

A. All Soldiers must meet the one year after IET requirement. Courses for the special programs are exempt from the ten year service requirement and the applicable undergraduate / graduate semester hour limit.

Q21: When do the Warrant Officer candidates in the high school to flight school program become eligible for TA?

A. The high school to Warrant Officers Flight Training (WOFT) will be eligible for TA one year after the completion of flight school.

Q22: If GAE paid for a certificate course, will the Soldier still have to serve ten years before GAE pays for a master’s degree?

A. No, the ten year service requirement is for any Soldier who had used TA for any portion of their bachelors’ degree.

Q23: If a Soldier completed a bachelor’s degree, does the ten year restriction still apply if they want to pursue a certificate program?

A. No, however the number of semester hours for the certificate program will count towards the 39 semester hour graduate limit.
Q24: What is the TA eligibility status for 09R / 09S?

A. Not eligible (must meet the one year after completing Initial Entry Training rule.) Note – If Soldiers have prior service (any branch) and meet the one year after IET rule, Soldiers can use TA provided they are not on any type of ROTC Scholarship.

Q25: What is the recommended guidance for requesting TA at “flat-rate” tuition school (example: tuition cost remains the same for 12-18 semester hours)?

A. The Soldier should request TA for 12 SH through GoArmyEd, take the approved Non-LOI TA Request form to the school and then enroll for the additional SHs directly with the school. That way the Soldier will still have 4 SH to use in the next term.

Q26: If a Soldier is under the 16 SH limit but the next enrollment would take the total above 16 SH, will TA pay for the SH that do not go over the 16 SH limit?

A. No, the entire course cost must be student funded.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE COURSE PLANNERS:

Q1. Why is Course Planner Required?

A. TA Regulations only allow TA to be used for courses that advance Soldiers toward an approved degree. Currently, the documented degree plan provided by schools is only a scanned document in GoArmyEd. To comply with TA regulations, the courses listed on the Course Planner will be pre-validated as advancing a Soldier towards degree completion. Soldiers will only be allowed to use TA for courses on their approved Course Planner. This will greatly accelerate the approval process for future TA Requests and provide Soldiers with a clear path to their degree.

Q2. How will Soldiers complete a Course Planner?

A. Starting 29 March 2014, Soldiers will have a new Smart Link on their GoArmyEd homepage labeled “Course Planner.” Soldiers will be able to attach the documented degree plan that their home school has provided to them. Using the information from the documented degree plan, Soldiers will complete their Course Planner by inputting the courses that they must take to complete their degree requirements. They will then submit their completed Course Planner for approval by their school or Army Education Counselor.

Q3. How long will it take to complete a Course Planner?

A. Depending on the number of courses a Soldier needs to complete his or her degree, the Course Planner may take between 10 – 30 minutes to complete. Soldiers are encouraged to submit their Course Planner as soon after 29 March as possible to allow time for review and approval before their next class.
Q4. How Can I Get Help with My Course Planner?

A. A detailed step-by-step instruction guide is available through a link on Soldiers’ Course Planner page. This guide will walk you through the Course Planner process. The GoArmyEd Helpdesk will also be available to answer navigational questions.

Q5. When will GoArmyEd notify Soldiers about Course Planner? Will Soldiers be given specific instructions on how to complete Course Planner?

A. The first wave of emails commenced on Friday, 7 March. The email message provided information on how to complete Course Planner and encouraged the use of training videos and step-by-step instructions now available in GoArmyEd. (Note: Soldiers in Fully Developed Degree programs will continue to use the AutoAdvisor and will not be required to create a Course Planner.)

Q6. Do Soldiers have to upload new degree plans to Course Planner or can they use the ones already in eFile?

A. If a Soldier has a Student Agreement (SA)/Document Degree Plan (DPP) in eFile, GoArmyEd will automatically upload the most recent Student Agreement/Documented with the “SOCAD Student Agreement/Documented Degree Plan” transaction type in the Soldier’s Course Planner. Army Education Counselors can also upload a Soldier’s degree plan to the Course Planner but only if he Course Planner has been already created by a Soldier. (Note: Soldiers in Fully Developed Degree programs will continue to use the AutoAdvisor and will not be required to create a Course Planner.)

Q7. How will the Course Planner assist Soldiers? Aren’t Army Education Counselors, school advisors, and registrars supposed to ensure Soldiers are progressing towards graduation?

A. Currently, Army Education Counselors are required to manually validate each non-LOI TA Request against a Soldier’s degree plan in eFile. Course Planner automates these checks and speeds approval of TA Requests. (Note: Soldiers in Fully Developed Degree programs will continue to use the AutoAdvisor and will not be required to create a Course Planner.)

Q8. Is GoArmyEd going to place a hold on all Soldiers’ accounts on 29 March pending submission and approval of a Course Planner?

A. Soldiers will not receive holds on their accounts. However, Soldiers will not be able to request TA until they have uploaded a degree plan to their Course Planners, submitted their Course Planners for approval, and received approval from an Army Education Counselor or a school with approving authority. (Note: Soldiers in Fully Developed Degree programs will continue to use the AutoAdvisor and will not be required to create a Course Planner.)
Q9. Soldiers are currently required to upload a Student Agreement/Documented Degree Plan (SA/DPP) prior to completing 9 semester hours overall or 6 semester hours in a new degree plan. If Soldiers fail to submit the degree plans will their accounts still be placed on hold?

A. Yes, a Soldier will be placed on a hold for a missing degree plan. The SA/DPP must be approved for Soldiers required to complete a Course Planner in order for the hold to be resolved. The hold will be removed within 24 hours. (Note: Soldiers in Fully Developed Degree programs will continue to use the AutoAdvisor and will not be required to create a Course Planner.)

Q10. Will Army Education Counselors and schools with approving authority be able to edit a Soldier’s Course Planner? Additionally, can an Army Education Counselor create a Course Planner for a Soldier who needs assistance?

A. Army Education Counselors and schools with approving authority cannot create a Course Planner for a Soldier but will be able to edit several course fields. (Note: Soldiers in Fully Developed Degree programs will continue to use the AutoAdvisor and will not be required to create a Course Planner.)

Q11. How long does an Army Education Counselor or school with approving authority have to approve a Course Planner?

A. After a Soldier submits a Course Planner for approval it will route to the Course Planner Queue. Army Education Counselors and schools with approving authority can approve Course Planners immediately by clicking on the “View Course Planner Queue” link on the dashboard of their GoArmyEd homepages. A Course Planner approval request will stay in pending status until courses listed in the Course Planner are approved or rejected. (Note: Soldiers in Fully Developed Degree programs will continue to use the AutoAdvisor and will not be required to create a Course Planner.)

Q12. How will a Soldier complete Course Planner if a school does not upload courses to GoArmyEd?

A. If a school has not uploaded courses that a Soldier requires to GoArmyEd, the Soldier will manually enter the required course information to Course Planner. An Army Education Counselor will verify the course information before approving the Course Planner. (Note: Soldiers in Fully Developed Degree programs will continue to use the AutoAdvisor and will not be required to create a Course Planner.)