



## **GROUP PORT ANGELES EDUCATION SERVICES**

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What follows is some basic information on: Tuition Assistance (TA), Assessments and CG Transcripts, End-of-Course Tests, ASVAB/AFCT, CLEP and DSST Exams, SAT/ACT Tests, Coast Guard Foundation and Vander Putten Education Grants, Officer Accession Programs, GI Bill Top Up, Post-9/11 GI Bill, Online Academic Skills Course, Career Planning, and College 101. Also, listings of available CLEP and DSST exams are attached.

### **Tuition Assistance (TA)**

See me for assistance in completing TA requests. You may complete the online application at the CG Institute web site at [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/downloads/forms/cg\\_form\\_4147.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/downloads/forms/cg_form_4147.pdf). Once you provide me with the completed request and proof of tuition cost, I'll submit your TA application to the CG Institute for processing. You'll receive your TA authorization by e-mail when your application is approved. The authorization may then be provided to the college for course payment. You're responsible for providing your final grade to verify satisfactory completion and following the instructions sent with your TA authorization. Reservists and CG civilians may also use TA.

### **Assessments and CG Transcripts**

Members may request assessments of Coast Guard service for college credit by completing the Application for Voluntary Education Services form available at the CG Institute web site ([http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/downloads/forms/CG\\_Form\\_1561.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/downloads/forms/CG_Form_1561.pdf)). Also, the CG Institute issues transcripts to document credit for members.

## **End-of-Course Tests**

End-of-Course Tests (EOCTs) and Advancement Qualification Exams (AQEs) are administered in the Learning Center of the Education Office. Unofficial exam scores are available within minutes of completing a test. Test scores are officially documented in Direct Access within two days of testing. Testing eligibility statements are required for initial testing attempts.

Contact me to order course materials. Printed materials arrive about two weeks after being ordered. Most courses are available for viewing online in CG Learning Portal (look under courses and enlisted advancement).

## **ASVAB/AFCT**

Personnel desiring to retake the ASVAB/AFCT should contact me for general counseling. ASVAB/AFCT testing is available in the Education Office. I'll refer you to specific study references. Sample tests may be taken online, too.

## **CLEP and DSST Exams**

All active duty members and their spouses, reservists, and CG civilians are eligible to take CLEP tests or DSST exams through the Education Office. I have a listing of all available exams. Some study materials may be checked out of the Learning Center. There are online resources, also, including guides and practice tests in the CG Learning Portal (go to Course Catalog > Education > Study Guides for DANTEs Exams) and in CG Central (click on Learning > College Degree Programs > DSST or CLEP).

## **SAT and ACT Tests**

All active duty and reserve personnel are eligible to take SAT and ACT entrance exams. Exams must be ordered through the Education Office. SAT exams are not available between 30 June and 1 October annually. Requests for these tests should be made at least four weeks in advance of the testing session.

## **CG Foundation Education Grant and Vander Putten Education Grant**

The CG Foundation sponsors programs where enlisted members may be reimbursed up to \$350 per calendar year for school costs not covered by TA (i.e., books, enrollment/graduation fees, and other miscellaneous fees). An additional \$500 is possible through the Vander Putten Grant. You must submit CGI Form 1560-10a (Rev 6/08) and copies of receipts. Eligibility information and an application form are available at the CG Institute web site:  
[http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/cfa/cgfeg\\_vpeg\\_application.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/cfa/cgfeg_vpeg_application.asp).

## **Officer Accession Programs**

Information about CG commissioning programs is available at <http://www.gocoastguard.com> by viewing “officer opportunities.” Applicants must meet pre-established program application deadlines in order to be considered by the respective program selection panel. Once eligibility for a program is determined, applicants complete the requirements for the application package. Applicants are required to sit for a local Officer Interview Board once all other package requirements are completed. More details may be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/oprograms.asp>.

## **GI Bill Top Up**

Once eligibility for the Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty or Post-9/11 GI Bill has been met, members may use the GI Bill to pay the difference between the actual cost of a college course and the amount TA covers. This is called a “Top Up” benefit. Once TA is approved for a course, the TA authorization is sent to the VA for “Top Up” payment to the member for the remaining course cost. For more information see [www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/tatu.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/tatu.htm).

## **Post-9/11 GI Bill**

Post-9/11 GI Bill program information may be found at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). Find details about eligibility, usage guidelines, and payments (tuition/fees, housing, and stipends). Compare other VA educational entitlements to the new GI Bill (including MGIB-AD and MGIB-R). View questions and answers; post your own questions, too. Also, see how to transfer GI Bill benefits to spouses and dependents (the transfer portal is accessible when viewing transfer information).

## **Online Academic Skills Course (OASC)**

Peterson’s Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) is designed for individuals who want to build their math and verbal skills to excel in their jobs, pass their exams, advance their careers, or continue their education. The course diagnoses an individual’s current level of reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math abilities and teaches the concepts and skills needed to increase proficiency in each of these academic areas. This course is available free of charge to all service members and their families. Start the course at <http://www.petersons.com/dantes>.

## **Career Planning**

Kuder Career Planning Assessments give you an opportunity to explore your interests, skills, and values. If you’re curious in knowing what careers you may find most rewarding, then complete an online assessment and receive instant feedback on vocations most closely aligned with your interests. The Kuder Career Search with Person Match (Interest Inventory) assists you in discovering

your career interests. The Kuder Skills Assessment matches your skills with the skills required to perform various jobs. You may also take an inventory to help you determine what work characteristics are important to you. You may access the assessments by going to [www.dantes.kuder.com](http://www.dantes.kuder.com) (I'll provide you with access codes). The inventories are scored after completion, and online reports are available for you to view. All reports provide guidance on interpreting and using your results. Spouses (and even high school students) are welcome to complete the assessments. The DISCOVER program through ACT is also available to assist you in career planning.

### **College 101**

College 101 provides an introduction to college for CG members planning on taking classes and applying for Tuition Assistance (TA). Completing the course is recommended before applying for and enrolling in college. The course is available in the CG Learning Portal at <https://learning.uscg.mil/portal.asp> (click on the Education icon, College 101, and then enroll).