

TOP 5 MYCAA MYTHS:

**WHICH ONE IS STANDING
BETWEEN YOU AND A REWARDING
NEW CAREER?**



MyCAA is an education funding program for military spouses going back to school. There's tons of buzz surrounding this program in the military spouse community (as there should be), but this, unfortunately, sometimes leads to misunderstandings.

We've compiled a list of the **top 5 MyCAA myths**, sorting out once and for all everything you need to know to secure MyCAA funding for your education.

MYTH

1 *MyCAA will use my husband's (or wife's) G.I. Bill.*

First things first, you can throw this myth right out the window! The MyCAA funding program is **completely separate from the G.I. Bill** and any other benefits your service member may receive. The MyCAA program was created **specifically for military spouses**, and as long as you meet the program's qualifications, you can take advantage of this funding—without any fears that it will negatively affect your service member (other than the possibility of you studying late a few nights).

Through MyCAA, you can get up to \$4,000, which can be used over the course of 3 years, to pursue training that will lead to a license, certificate, or Associate's degree. You can use this money to pay for tuition as well as licensing and certification exams; however, it cannot be used to pay for books, supplies, computers, childcare, etc.

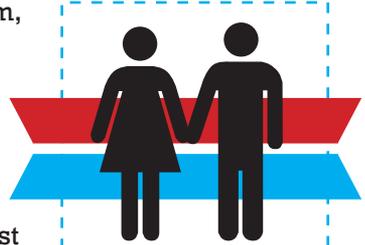


MYTH

2 *I'm sure I don't qualify— I'm never selected for programs like this.*

Because MyCAA is an entitlement program, you don't have to worry about competing against others to secure a scholarship—as long as you meet the eligibility requirements, you can take advantage of the funding.

To be eligible for MyCAA funding you must be the spouse of an active duty service member in pay grades E-1 to E-5, W-1 to W-2, or O-1 to O-2 (this includes spouses married to members of the National Guard and Reserve Components in these same pay grades), and you must be able to start and finish your coursework while your spouse is on Title 10 military orders.



- SPOUSE OF:**
- * **Active duty**
 - * **Pay grades:**
E-1 to E-5
W-1 to W-2
O-1 to O-2
 - * **Title 10**

Those who do not qualify for MyCAA funding include those who are married but legally separated, spouses of Coast Guard service members (this is because the Coast Guard is under the Department of Homeland Security rather than the Department of Defense, which offers the MyCAA program), spouses who are members of the armed forces themselves, and spouses of National Guard/ Reserve Component service members in a Warning Orders/Alert, Post Deployment/Demobilization, or Transition status.



MYTH

3 *Only certain programs and schools are approved, so mine probably isn't on the list.*



Technically, this one is true—there are limitations on the programs you can enroll in and a school does need to be MyCAA-approved. However, there is a HUGE variety of eligible programs, and even if your school isn't one of the 3,000 already approved schools, you can submit their name for approval.

The MyCAA website states:



MyCAA pays for **tuition costs** for education and training courses and examinations leading to a recognized license, certificate, certification or Associate's degree with a specified concentration or major. The concentration or major for the Associate's degree cannot be General Studies, Liberal Arts or Interdisciplinary Studies unless there is a specific concentration such as General Studies – Nursing, or General Studies – Teaching.



That's it. Those are the only restrictions on the programs you can enroll in— MyCAA funds can be applied to your tuition when you're enrolling at an **approved** institution, so as long as you:

- * Have a **specific area of focus** and
- * Are pursuing a **license, certificate, or Associate's degree**

MYTH

4 *Getting MyCAA funding is really complicated and takes forever.*

Going through any application process can sometimes be daunting. But the MyCAA application doesn't have to be! It really is quite simple, and there are also a TON of **resources** available to help you complete it. If you're enrolling in a **Career Step** program, one of our **Academic Advisors** can even walk you through the whole process, step by step.



The entire process can be completed online at:

<https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa/>



You'll create an account, put together your education plan, and then **apply** for financial aid after your education plan has been approved. **Military OneSource** (the organization that administers the MyCAA program) reports that most applications are reviewed and approved within 2 weeks, and in our experience, it's often even faster than that.

MYTH

5 *If I don't finish or I fail a course, I'll have to pay it all back.*



One of the beauties of the MyCAA program is that it is designed to help you quickly gain the skills you need to start a rewarding new career that will offer you opportunities no matter where you're stationed, but if something happens

and you can't finish your training, you don't have to pay back the funds you've used. If you withdraw from a course or fail, your access to the remaining MyCAA funds in your program account will be put on hold until you talk to a counselor, but you will not be required to pay anything back.



With that being said, it's important to remember that this is an amazing opportunity that shouldn't be taken lightly. As a military spouse, you sacrifice a lot and this program has been put in place to help you—but don't forget that there are lots of others out there who would love an opportunity like this one but aren't eligible for MyCAA funds.

With all of those myths out of the way, you can see the MyCAA program for the wonderful potential it offers, can't you?! Start your application today and take advantage of this program while you're still eligible!



TOP 5 REASONS TO CHOOSE CAREER STEP

Career Step is an online school offering professional career education in healthcare, administrative services, and technology.

1. Military friendly

In just the last few years, we've helped over 7,000 military spouses get started toward rewarding new careers since our training is a great fit with MyCAA's mission of helping spouses gain portable careers.

2. Experienced

As one of the top 5 enrolling schools participating in the MyCAA program, we're trusted by thousands of military spouses and know how to meet your unique needs.

3. Career focused

Our training helps you gain exactly the skills you need to succeed in your new career with our expert-designed curriculum, and we were even chosen to participate in the Military Spouse Employment Partnership because of our focus on preparing you for a job.

4. Online

24/7 access to the online curriculum lets you to train on your schedule and at your pace no matter where you live.

5. All inclusive

Everything you need to succeed is included in your tuition (online access, textbooks, instructor support, etc.), and MyCAA can cover all of your costs so you can train with no out-of-pocket expenses!



CareerStep
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***1-800-411-7073
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