



***THE TARHEEL CHALLENGE  
INCORPORATED EDUCATION GRANT***

SUMMARY OF

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS UNDER

THE TARHEEL CHALLENGE INCORPORATED

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Tarheel ChalleNGe Incorporated  
PO Box 39  
Salemberg, NC 28385

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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Congratulations on your graduation from Tarheel Challenge Academy! This pamphlet will provide key information about education benefits you may earn from your graduation from the academy.

Don't wait to plan for your education or training. Use this pamphlet to help you plan your use of your educational benefits. For most people, the TCIEG (Tarheel ChalleNGe Incorporated Education Grant) provides a substantial financial benefit for education or training.

You generally have three years from the date of your graduation to use your TCIEG benefits.

Contact us at Tarheel ChalleNGe Inc. (TCI) if you have questions. See **How Do You Contact TCI?** We're here to help you all along the way.

## **PART 1: ELIGIBILITY**

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### **ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?**

**The Tarheel ChalleNGe Incorporated Education Grant is not an entitlement and is contingent upon the availability of funding.**

You may be eligible to receive TCIEG benefits after your graduation from the Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy.

Caution: Don't rely on this pamphlet to determine if you're eligible for education benefits. To receive a formal decision from TCI, you must apply for benefits. See *How Do You Apply for Benefits?*

You must meet the following two requirements to be eligible.

- 1. You must have graduated Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy.**
- 2. Received your High School Diploma Equivalent or Complete High School,** before you apply for benefits.

### **HOW LONG ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?**

Your eligibility for the TCIEG generally ends three years from the date of your graduation, or when you use all your semesters, whichever is earlier. See *How Many Semesters of Benefits Can You Receive?*

#### **Extensions of the 3-Year Eligibility Period**

- We may extend your three-year period by the amount of time you were prevented from training during that period because of a disability or a medical condition.
- We can also extend your three-year period if you enter active duty for 90 continuous days or more (not counting any period of active duty for training.) Your new three-year period begins after your last separation from active duty.
- You may receive TCIEG benefits while on active duty. You may use your benefits immediately.

## **HOW MANY SEMESTERS OF BENEFITS CAN YOU RECEIVE?**

You may receive up to four (4) semesters of benefits under TCIEG.

### **To Qualify for 4 Semesters**

Your maximum benefit will be 4 semesters if

- You have graduated Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy.
- You must be enrolled and registered in an approved college, university, or training program.
- You must pass (2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale) all classes in your current semester that you are receiving benefits for to be eligible to receive benefits for your next semesters.

## **PART 2: TRAINING**

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### **WHAT TRAINING MAY YOU TAKE?**

Caution: TCI must approve each program offered by a school or company.

You may receive benefits for a wide variety of approved training, including:

- An undergraduate degree at a college or university
- A cooperative training program (a full-time program alternating school instruction and job training in a business or industrial establishment).
- A certificate or diploma from a business, technical, or vocational school, including cooperative programs.

### **CAN YOU RECEIVE BENEFITS FOR REMEDIAL, DEFICIENCY OR REFRESHER TRAINING?**

You can receive benefits for remedial or deficiency courses if you need them to assist you in overcoming a weakness in a particular area of study. The courses must be necessary for your program of education.

You can receive benefits for the following types of refresher training:

Courses at the elementary or secondary level if necessary to review or update material previously covered in a course that has been satisfactorily completed.

### **WHAT ARE RESTRICTIONS ON TRAINING?**

You may not receive benefits for the following courses:

#### **Restrictions on Specific Courses**

- Bartending and personality development courses.
- Non-accredited independent study courses.
- Any course given by radio.
- Self-improvement courses such as reading, speaking, woodworking, basic seamanship, and English as a second language.

- Farm cooperative courses.
- Audited courses.

### **General Restrictions**

1. Any course that is avocational (isn't leading to an occupational objective) or recreational in character.
2. Courses that don't lead to an educational, professional, or vocational objective.
3. Courses you've taken before and successfully completed.

### **Other Restrictions**

- Imprisonment. Individuals who are in a Federal, State, or local prison after being convicted of a felony may NOT receive benefits.
- "Fugitive felon" status. We can't pay TCIEG benefits for any period during which Federal or State law enforcement identifies you as a "fugitive felon." A person is considered a fugitive felon if he or she has an outstanding warrant for a felony.

### **CAN YOU CHANGE PROGRAMS?**

You can receive benefits for one change of program without TCI approval for the change if your attendance, conduct, and progress in the last program were satisfactory. We may approve additional changes if the proposed programs are suitable to your abilities, aptitudes, and interests. When you enroll in a new program, if you successfully completed your last program we won't charge a change of program.

### **MUST YOU MAINTAIN SATISFACTORY ATTENDANCE, CONDUCT, AND PROGRESS?**

To continue receiving benefits, you must maintain satisfactory attendance, conduct, and progress. If you don't meet your school's standards, the certifying official must notify us. We must stop your benefits if the school reports unsatisfactory attendance, conduct, or progress.

### **PART 3: RECEIVING BENEFITS**

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#### **HOW MUCH EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE WILL YOU RECEIVE AFTER GRADUATION FROM TARHEEL CHALLENGE?**

This section explains the rates of benefits you may receive after separation. For the current rates for all types of training, contact us through phone or e-mail. See **How Do You Contact TCI?**

The basic semester rates may be changed by a vote of the governing board of TCI.

**The Tarheel ChalleNGe Incorporated Education Grant is not an entitlement and is contingent upon the availability of funding.**

You receive the rates as described below, up to the remaining amount of your benefits, or up to the end of your eligibility period, whichever comes first. See **How Long Are You Eligible?** and **How Many Semesters of Benefits Can You Receive?**

## **Semester payments are based on your training time and availability of funds.**

- Full time is defined as 12 semester hours or more.
- Three quarter time is defined as 9 semester hours and will be three quarters the amounts awarded to full time students.
- Half time is 6 semester hours and will be one half the amounts awarded to full time students.

## **HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR BENEFITS?**

After you've decided on the program you want, just follow these steps:

1. Find out if the program is approved for TCI benefits —contact TCI (see How Do I Contact TCI?).  
If the facility hasn't requested approval before, ask the school or training facility official to contact the TCI to request approval.
2. Complete the application and submit it to the TCI office. See How Do I Get and Submit the Application for Benefits?
3. Ask the school or training official to certify your enrollment to TCI.

If the program has been approved for TCI benefits, check in with the school or training facility official who certifies enrollments for TCI benefits. At a school, this certifying official may be in one of the following offices: Financial Aid, Registrar, Admissions, Counseling, or others. TCI will review your application and let you know whether we need anything else. The certifying official isn't a TCI employee, and can't make decisions about your eligibility for TCI benefits.

## **How Do YOU Get and Submit the Application for Benefits?**

You can get the application at the RPM office at the Tarheel Challenge Academy at:

Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy  
RPM Office  
PO Box 39  
Salemberg, NC 28385

## **Where Should You Send Your Application?**

You should send your application directly to Tarheel Challenge Incorporated at the following address:

**Tarheel ChalleNGe Incorporated**  
**PO Box 39**  
**Salemberg, NC 28385**

**INSURE THAT YOU ADDRESS IT TO TAHREEL CHALLENGE INCORPORATED NOT  
TARHEEL CHALLENGE ACADEMY**

## HOW DO YOU RECEIVE PAYMENTS?

After you've filed an application and TCI has found you're eligible for benefits, receiving payments is a two-step process.

**Step 1 -Certifying Your Enrollment.** The school or training facility official submits your enrollment certification to the TCI office.

**Step 2 -Verifying Your Attendance.** You must verify your attendance. The next paragraph explains how to verify your attendance for the training you're taking. **Please note that the school or training program will not receive payment until TCI receives and processes your verification.**

**Verifications of Continued Training:** The last step for payment is the verification of your attendance.

If you are still in the post residential phase of the program your attendances will be verified by your mentor or case manager.

If you have completed the post residential phase of the program you must submit a letter from the training program you are attending verifying your attendance.

### Where is the Payment Sent?

The payment is sent directly to the school or training program after TCI receives and processes your verification of attendance.

### What Should You Do if You Don't Receive a Payment.

If you haven't received your payment within the times shown below, immediately call (910) 525-5520. Whenever you contact TCI, have your TCI file number (usually your Social Security number) readily available.

- Call immediately if your claim was submitted more than a month ago and you haven't received notice of TCI's decision.
- Call immediately if TCI has notified you of the award, and your school or training program hasn't received a payment at the end of three weeks after you verified your attendance.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DROP ONE OR MORE COURSES?

If you drop one or more of your courses, you should always notify TCI and your school's certifying official as soon as possible. If you drop after the end of the school's drop period, you'll need to let us know the reasons for the change.

Unless you can show that the change was due to mitigating circumstances, we must reduce or stop your benefits from the beginning date of the term. You may have to repay all benefits for the course or courses. "Mitigating circumstances" are unavoidable and unexpected events that directly interfere with your pursuit of a course and are beyond your control.

If you can show mitigating circumstances, we can usually pay benefits up to the last date of your attendance.

Examples of reasons we may accept are extended illness and unscheduled changes in your employment. Examples of reasons we may not accept are dropping a course to avoid a failing grade or dislike of the instructor.

We may ask you to furnish evidence to support your reasons for dropping one or more courses. If a serious illness or injury caused the drop, obtain a statement from your doctor. If a change in employment caused the drop, obtain a statement from your employer.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU RECEIVE A GRADE THAT DOESN'T COUNT?**

If you receive a grade that doesn't count toward graduation, your benefits will stop. (We refer to these grades as "non-punitive.")

You should check your school's grading policy with the registrar or the office handling TCI paperwork. Common examples are an "I" grade for an incomplete that is not made up during the time period required by the school or within one year from receipt, or a "W" grade for withdrawing.

If you receive a non-punitive grade, the school will notify us. We may reduce or stop benefits.

### **PART 4: OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

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#### **WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NOTIFYING TCI?**

**You're responsible for notifying TCI of any changes discussed below. To notify us, see How Do You Contact TCI?**

##### **Change in Your Enrollment**

If you change your enrollment (number of hours, courses, school or training facility, or program), immediately tell the certifying official at your school. Ask the certifying official to notify TCI of the change.

Also notify us of the change yourself. If we don't receive prompt notice of a change, you could be liable for an overpayment of benefits. We'll tell you how to return your incorrect payment.

##### **Change of Address**

Promptly notify us of any change in your address. Send your complete address, including the ZIP Code.

##### **Change in Active Duty Status**

Notify us promptly if you depart to active duty. Please provide the date you departed, your branch of service, and your period of obligation.

If you're receiving benefits while on active duty, notify us if you're separated from active duty. Please provide the Number 4 copy of your DD Form 214.

## **PART 5: WHERE DO YOU GO FOR HELP?**

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### **HOW DO YOU CONTACT TCI?**

If you need help with your TCI education benefits, or if you need to notify us of any changes affecting your benefits, you can contact us in the following ways:

Call **(910) 525-5520**. Toll-free telephone service is available in North Carolina only by calling **1-800-573-9966**. (Unfortunately you may have difficulty getting through quickly at the toll-free number, especially when school enrollments are heavy.)

### **HOW CAN YOU FIND OUT ABOUT OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION?**

For information on other sources of assistance, check with the Financial Aid office at your school.

Here are some other useful Web sites:

**www.cfnc.org**, the College Foundation of North Carolina is a nonprofit partnership between Pathways of North Carolina, College Foundation, Inc., and the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority. These organizations have broad expertise in helping students to prepare successfully for college and to find the best financial aid alternatives. Together, they provide a complete and comprehensive source of information - and real solutions - for students and their families.

**www.ed.gov**, the Department of Education.

**www.collegeispossible.org**, the Coalition of America's Colleges and Universities.

**www.fafsa.ed.gov**, the U.S. Department of Education **FREE** Application for Federal Student Aid.

**www.collegeboard.com**, The College Board: Connecting Students to College Success  
The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Among its best-known programs are the SAT®, the PSAT/NMSQT®, and the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®).

**www.fastweb.com**, FastWeb, the Internet's leading scholarship search service, helps students make the decisions that shape their lives: choosing a college, paying for college, and finding jobs and internships.

# Tahree! ChalleNGe Inc. APPLICATION FOR TCI EDUCATION BENEFITS

## PART I – APPLICANT INFORMATION

1. NAME OF APPLICANT ( <i>First, Middle, Last</i> )		2. SEX OF APPLICANT <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	
2. DATE OF BIRTH OF APPLICANT ( <i>Month, Day, Year</i> )		3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF APPLICANT	
4. ADDRESS OF APPLICANT			
5. TELEPHONE NUMBER OF APPLICANT ( <i>Including Area Code</i> )		6. E-MAIL ADDRESS OF APPLICANT	
DAY	EVENING		
7. PLEASE PROVIDE THE NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER OF SOMEONE WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW WHERE YOU CAN BE REACHED.			
8. ARE YOU A GRADUATE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA TARHEEL CHALLENGE ACADEMY ( <i>If “yes” pleas provide the graduation date and Class Number. If “no” you are not eligible for benefits</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No      Graduation Date: _____      Class Number: _____			

## PART II – PROGRAM OF EDUCATION OR TRAINING

9. DO YOU KNOW YOUR EDUCATIONAL OR CAREER GOAL ( <i>Please specify</i> )	
10. HAVE YOU SELECTED THE SPECIFIC PROGRAM OF EDUCATION YOU PLAN TO PURSUE? ( <i>If “Yes” Specify its complete name and mailing address. If “No” leave this item blank.</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
11. DO YOU KNOW THE DATE YOU WILL BEGIN YOUR SCHOOLING OR TRAINING? ( <i>If “Yes” specify the date. If “No” leave this item blank</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No      Date: _____	

## PART III – EDUCATION INFORMATION

12. DO YOU HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY CERTIFICATE—GED? ( <i>If “Yes” state the date and location you completed the requirements for this certificate</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No      Date: _____      Location: _____	
13. IS THIS AN INITIAL REQUEST FOR BENEFITS? ( <i>If not, please attach an official copy of your grades from the previous semester that you received benefits for.</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> INITIAL REQUEST <input type="checkbox"/> SECOND SEMESTER <input type="checkbox"/> THIRD SEMESTER <input type="checkbox"/> FINAL SEMESTER	

## PART IV – CERTIFICATIONS

I CERTIFY THAT all statements in my application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. PENALTY: Willful false statements as to a material fact in a claim for education benefits is a punishable offense and may result in the forfeiture of these and other benefits from Tarheel ChalleNGe.	
14. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT ( <b>DO NOT PRINT</b> )  <b>SIGN HERE IN INK</b> 	15. DATE SIGNED
<b>CERTIFICATION FOR MINOR APPLICANTS</b>	
I CERTIFY THAT I am the parent or court-appointed legal guardian of the above minor and that all statements on this application are true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.	
16. SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN ( <b>DO NOT PRINT</b> )  <b>SIGN HERE IN INK</b> 	17. DATE SIGNED

# ***THE TARHEEL CHALLENGE INCORPORATED***

## ***SUMMARY OF BENEFITS***

### **Who is Tarheel ChalleNGe Incorporated?**

Tarheel ChalleNGe Incorporated is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed to support the National Guard Tarheel ChalleNGe Program.

### **What is the Tarheel ChalleNGe Incorporated Education Grant?**

The Tarheel ChalleNGe Incorporated Education Grant, called "**TCIEG**" for short, provides up to 4 Semesters of education benefits to eligible graduates for:

- College, Business
- Technical or Vocational Courses

### **Who is Eligible?**

You may be eligible upon graduation from Tarheel ChalleNGe Academy, AND you completed a High School Diploma or GED.

### **How Long do I Have to Use it?**

You usually have 3 years of eligibility from your graduation date to use **TCIEG** benefits, but the time limit can be less, in some cases, and longer under certain circumstances.

### **How Much Does TCI Pay?**

The semester benefit paid to your school or training program is based on the type of training you take and your enrollment status. Grants are awarded up to \$500 per semester. The Tarheel ChalleNGe Incorporated Education Grant is not an entitlement and is contingent upon the availability of funding.

### **How Can I Apply?**

You can apply by filling out a TCI Application for Education Benefits, submit verification of enrollment from the College, and any Invoices/charges from the College.

### **What are the Deadlines?**

- Application Deadline: **Prior to start of semester.**

### **How Can I Get More Information?**

Call toll free **1-800-573-9966** and request an application and a Tarheel ChalleNGe Incorporated Education Grant Pamphlet.