Military Enlistment and Adult Education Services

Adult education students have career opportunities to enlist in the military.

Local Program Responsibilities:

Adult education programs have the responsibility to provide appropriate education courses built on rigor and integrity meeting Utah State Board of Education standards. By Board Rule (277-733-8 Adult Education Programs), all courses designed and implemented by adult education programs should address the following:

- All Utah Core Curriculum and related objective standards as defined in Board Rule R277-700 must be met.
- Teaching strategies used to present course instruction are to meet the adult education students' needs through adjustment or modification.
- All Adult High School Completion (AHSC) courses must have written course descriptions that contain mastery criteria rather than completion of predetermined seat time.
- AHSC courses for students seeking an Adult Education Secondary Diploma should meet federal Adult Education Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) AHSC Levels I and II competency requirements.

The following information is presented to programs to assist students seeking enlistment in the military. It is strongly recommended that contact be made with the education specialist associated with the specific branch of the military that the student is considering, to ensure compliance with the most current recruitment criteria.

Army Recruitment:

The Army maintains three tiers of eligibility standards. These tiers are national program qualifiers for Army admission, not Utah's alone.

Tier 1

- The recruit must have graduated from a traditional (12-year) day school program that has Northwest Accreditation.
- Adult education programs are not traditional day school programs and, as such, Tier 1 status may only be obtained after an on-site evaluation by the designated Army Education Services Specialist.
- In order for an adult education program to be considered Tier 1, the majority (95%) of the instruction must be *teacher directed/led* (i.e., lecture, computer-assisted, self-paced, or modular units of instruction) *with* required 95% attendance for the class work.
- More than half of the credits earned in the recruit's last education program must be classroom based.
- It does not matter whether the recruit passed or failed the a state/school exit exam.
- Recruits who have taken and passed 15 college credits are considered equal to recruits who possess a traditional 12-year high school diploma.
- The recruit's ASVAB score is taken into consideration in tier placement.

Tier 2

The following contribute to Tier 2 status:

- Electronic high school programs
- Most adult education programs that have Northwest Accreditation
- GED recipient
- "Clepped-out" classes in a traditional 12-year day school program or adult education program

Tier 3

The following contribute to Tier 3 status:

- Diploma mills courses (course credits earned in unreasonably/unrealistic short period of time, credits issued by persons not licensed to teach given courses, and/or programs that tend to "fast track" students)
- Schools and adult education programs not accredited by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools
- No high school diploma or GED credential

Other considerations:

- At the present time, Tier 2 education options are "okay" for a recruit to be considered for enlistment in the Army.
- The Education Services Specialist is concerned about the manner in which instruction is presented.
- If students "dropout of a traditional 12-year day school," they must wait for six months after their class has graduated before they can be considered for enlistment, provided they have earned a Tier 1 or Tier 2 credential.
- If a potential recruit drops out of a traditional 12-year day school program at any time during his/her senior year and enrolls in an adult education program during the same time period that his/her senior class is completing graduation requirements, he/she will not be considered for enlistment in the Army.
- The only credits the Education Services Specialist evaluates are those issued by the diploma-issuing agency.
- At a minimum, 51% of these credits must be acquired from single-subject classroom direct instruction by a teacher, not from independent study or multi-discipline classes.
- The Army will pay for course instruction ("Education Plus Program") and subsequent GED testing.
- The "March 2 Success Program" is an Internet program designed for the Army to assist recruits in enhancing their scores on standardized assessments. (Note: Neither of these options are credit-type courses through an adult education program.)

Typically, recruits will be "shipping out" within 90 days from the time of enlistment; thus, programs must consider:

- What coursework can realistically be completed within the 90 days, given that 95% of the coursework must be teacher directed/led and completed in class.
- The importance of partnering with the local recruiter in communicating education concerns regarding attendance and course progress.

Marine Corps Recruitment:

The Marine Corps maintains two tiers and must adhere to national standards similar to the other branches of the military. Standards are not Utah's alone.

Tier 1

- The recruit must have graduated from a traditional (12-year) 100% seat-time day school program.
- The program must have Northwest Accreditation.
- It does not matter whether the recruit passed or failed a state/school exit exam.
- Successful completion of 15 college credits equals a high school diploma.
- "Clepped-out" credit is accepted.
- ASVAB score is taken into consideration.

Tier 2

- The recruit is not a high school graduate, but has completed the tenth grade.
- School(s) attended does not have Northwest Accreditation (Note: This applies to adult education programs as well.)
- Courses/programs that are delivered online are not accepted.
- In order for an adult education program to be considered Tier 2, the majority of the instruction (95%) must be *teacher directed/led* (i.e., lecture, computer-assisted, self-paced, or modular units of instruction) *with* required 95% attendance for the class work.

Other considerations:

- Each school's website is reviewed and evaluated to assist in determining the focus and rigor of the program.
- Electronic courses are not acceptable.
- Home-schooled students are not counted in Tier 1.
- At the present time, only 5% of Tier 2 applicants are accepted into the Marine Corps.

Navy Recruitment:

The Navy maintains two tiers and must adhere to national standards similar to the other branches of the military. Standards are not Utah's alone.

Tier 1

- The recruit must have graduated from a traditional (12-year) 100% seat-time day school program.
- The school awarding the diploma must have Northwest Accreditation.
- It does not matter whether the recruit passed or failed the UBSCT.
- Successful completion of 15 college credits equals a high school diploma.
- "Clepped-out" credit is accepted.
- ASVAB score is taken into consideration.

Tier 2

- Alternative programs, including adult education programs, are reviewed and considered.
- Recruits who have successfully passed the GED Tests may be considered *if* the GED Tests were paired with, at a minimum, packet instruction.

Other considerations:

- Each recruit's case is reviewed on an individual basis.

Air Force Recruitment:

The Air Force has three tiers of eligibility standards. These tiers are national program qualifiers for Air Force admission, not Utah's alone.

Tier 1

- The recruit must have graduated from a traditional (12-year) day school program.
- The school awarding the diploma must have Northwest Accreditation.
- The recruit may have attended and graduated from an adult education program and used 5.0 credits received from the successful passing of the GED Tests and be considered a Tier 1 candidate, depending on the intensity and rigor of the adult education program.
- Each recruit is evaluated on an individual basis by the operations officer.
- Having passed 15 hours of college credits is the equivalent of a traditional high school diploma.

Tier 2

- An adult education program may be considered a Tier 2 program, depending on how the course instruction is presented and how credits are transcripted.
- Home-schooled students will be considered for enlistment before a person who has successfully passed the GED Tests.
- Recruits who have passed the GED Tests at the beginning of the fiscal year (October) have a greater chance of being accepted into the Air Force.
- "Clepped-out" classes are frowned upon.

Tier 3

- Diploma mills (course credits earned in unreasonably/unrealistically short periods of time, credits issued by persons not licensed to teach given courses, and/or programs that tend to "fast track" students)
- Schools that are not accredited

Other considerations:

- How classes are listed on a transcript is important.
- Participation in an adult education program is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- The maximum number of GED-credentialed recruits annually enlisted as Tier 2 is less than 1%.
- The recruit's ASVAB score is taken into consideration in tier placement.
- The number of driving violations could be an issue for a recruit.
- The Air Force recruiter is not a "hand holder"; the candidate must take and show initiative.

Military Acceptance of GED Credential

Information Gathered November 2009

Acceptance of GED Credential by Military Branch

1. Is the GED credential accepted as equivalent to a high school diploma for purposes of enlistment into the military?

Branch	Response	Other Comments
Army	No, the GED is Tier II and the High School Diploma is Tier I	Reported their answers were same as Navy's except for Q5
Navy	No, the GED is Tier II and the High School Diploma is Tier I	GED credential is accepted as Tier II status by the Navy for recruiting purposes. DoD education enlistment criteria, known as the Three-Tier System, is used to select applicants with the greatest likelihood of completing their initial military service obligation.)
Marine Corps	Yes and No. The GED credential is accepted for purposes of enlistment into the Marine Corps, but it is not an equivalent to a high school diploma.	The DOD separates potential enlistees into separate "Tiers" based upon their education credentials. DODI 1145.01 states "the education credential accession benchmark is 90% high school diploma graduates (Tier 1)... the remaining 10% shall be primarily alternate high school credential holders (Tier 2); non graduates (Tier 3) may be enlisted as permitted by United States Code." The Commandant of the Marine Corps mandates that 95% of Marine Corps enlistees will be Tier 1.
Coast Guard	The GED is considered a Tier II credential. A high school diploma is Tier I.	
Air Force	No. There are three categories of education for enlistment in the USAF Tier 1. High School Graduate or Higher Tier 2. Alternate High School Credential Holder (GED, Youth challenge, Home School) Tier 3. Non-High School Graduate The USAF limits Tier 2 enlistments to 1%.	

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2. Some branches allow persons to enlist if they apply with a GED credential plus additional qualifications. What additional qualifications, if any, are required and accepted for enlistment into the military with a GED credential? (i.e. 10 hours college coursework, pre-bootcamp training)

Branch	Response	Other Comments
Army	The GED applicant must score a 50 or higher on the AFQT.	Reported their answers were same as Navy's except for Q5
Navy	The GED applicant must score a 50 or higher on the AFQT.	There are additional requirements attached to Tier II applicants: 1) must have ASVAB AFQT scores of 50 or higher, 2) must spend a minimum of 90 calendar days in delayed entry program [DEP], 3) must complete DEP PQS prior to shipping to Recruit Training Command [RTC].
Marine Corps	There aren't any additional qualifications required for a Tier 2 enlistee into the Marine Corps. If he/she has been allowed to enlist in the Marine Corps with a GED credential then there would be no other qualifications required.	
Coast Guard	The Coast Guard Recruiting Manual sets minimum standards for applicants. A Tier II applicant must score a 47 or more on the AFQT whereas a Tier I applicant only needs to score a 36 or more. In reality any AFQT score below 45 requires a waiver. The average AFQT score for 2009 for persons accepted into the CG was 70.4.	
Air Force	The USAF requires a GED applicant to score a 65 or higher on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) score portion of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Tier 1 applicants require a 36 AFQT on the ASVAB	

3. Rumors have circulated in the past about lower pay for soldiers who enlisted with a GED credential versus those who enlisted with a traditional high school diploma. What disadvantages or penalties exist, if any, for enlistees who enter the military service with a GED credential instead of a traditional high school diploma? (i.e. lower pay, slower rate of promotion, ceiling for promotions)

Branch	Response	Other Comments
Army	There are no penalties for those who are enlisted with a GED, it is equal for all once they are enlisted.	Reported their answers were same as Navy's except for Q5

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Navy	There are no penalties for those who are enlisted with a GED, it is equal for all once they are enlisted.	Concerning the Navy, rumors about disadvantages for GED versus traditional high school diploma is just that -- rumors. Once accepted as a Navy recruit, he/she has to rely on own capabilities to learn, develop, and advance in his/her military career path
Marine Corps	There are no disadvantages, or penalties for a Tier 2 enlistee that is allowed to join the Marine Corps. A Tier 2 enlistee is afforded the same opportunities in pay, promotions, and benefits as a Tier 1 enlistee.	
Coast Guard	There are no differences once an applicant is accepted into the CG.	
Air Force	None	

4. We have heard from recruiters that some branches are no longer accepting applicants with a GED credential but that enlistment may re-open for these individuals in the future. This is based on some pre-determined balance of enlistees with a traditional HS diploma versus a GED credential. What caps or limits currently exist on the number of persons with a GED credential that can enlist in the military? (i.e. 30% enlistees annually may have GED credential)

Branch	Response	Other Comments
Army	Non Tier I education holders are limited to no more than 5 percent of the total accessions.	Reported their answers were same as Navy's except for Q5
Navy	Non Tier I education holders are limited to no more than 5 percent of the total accessions.	Although there is no official directive, there may be some Naval Recruiting Districts [NRD] that are not accepting Tier II applicants at present. The reason may be attributed to current economic condition, which most likely resulted in a particular NRD meeting and even exceeding its recruiting goal. However, if such is the case, recruiters have the flexibility to look at individual applicants based on their ASVAB AFQT performance. When there is an obvious high score, request may be submitted through official channels on behalf of the applicant.)
Marine Corps	The DOD limits each service branch to a 10% Tier 2 enlistment rate annually. The Marine Corps maintains a policy of allowing an annual 5% of enlistees annually can be Tier 2 or below. In addition, if you have an abundance of qualified Tier 1 enlistees, as there is now, then it stands to reason that the percentage of Tier 2 enlistees would drop.	
Coast Guard	The current limit for enlisting people with a GED is 50 total. In 2009 only 25 people holding a	

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	GED were admitted into the CG.	
Air Force	The USAF limits GED enlistments to 1% for each fiscal year based on the total number of accessions for that year	

5. Some branches offer interested adults the opportunity to prepare for the GED Tests in conjunction with enlistment in the service. When these adults pass the tests and earn their credential, he or she can move directly into the service. Please indicate which branches below offer a program similar to this.

Branch	Response	Other Comments
Army	Army does have a pilot GED program at Ft. Jackson, S.C. *(GED Plus probably)*	
Navy	There is no GED preparation programs for applicants.	The Navy has no structured or official program for civilians to prepare for GED tests.
Marine Corps	The Marine Corps has no such program.	
Coast Guard	No programs	
Air Force	USAF recruiting personnel are not permitted to assist individuals in obtaining their GED, only advise them to contact the nearest state education official. Therefore, we cannot work with an applicant until they obtain their GED.	

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