

You have asked whether or not an active duty service member may accept a scholarship to the Two-day Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Self-Employment Intensive Training Workshop. The workshop is offered in collaboration between the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University (IVMF), the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

DoD 5500.07-R, the Joint Ethics Regulation, section 2-202 (b), states that a DoD military member may accept an educational scholarship or grant from an entity that does not have interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of the DoD employee's official duties, or from an association or similar entity that does not have a majority of members with such interests, if the DoD Component DAEO or designee determines that:

“the scholarship or grant is established for the benefit of DoD employees, or the dependents of DoD employees, and recipients are selected pursuant to written standards approved by the Secretary of Defense, or, where the scholarship or grant is available only to military members or their dependents, by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned.”

Here, the scholarship availability at DoD is only for military members in the Transition Assistance Program.

This regulation would permit acceptance of the scholarship as long as the entity does not have interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of the DoD personnel's official duties. Further, the regulation requires that the Service DAEO or designee determine that there are written standards for the scholarship approved by the Secretary of the appropriate Military Department.