



Section 11: Military Service

Introduction

Two types of service credit are available for active military duty: service preceding NYSTRS membership and service interrupting NYSTRS membership. Different sections of state and federal law allow credit for military service. The cost of the credit and how much credit a member can receive will depend on which section of the law applies and on the member's tier. Honorable discharge documentation is required as verification of military service.

As of November 12, 2020, a new state law expanded eligibility to LGBT veterans and veterans who have a qualifying condition, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, and were released from military duty without an honorable discharge due to military rules in effect at the time of their discharge, as long as they were not given a dishonorable discharge or a discharge for bad conduct.

To apply for military service credit, members should send a letter requesting military credit along with a copy of their military discharge document to the Retirement System's Military Service Unit, 10 Corporate Woods Dr., Albany NY 12211, for evaluation. The claim must be made while their membership in NYSTRS is still active. The documentation must specifically list all the following information:

1. Date of entry or enlistment into active duty.
2. Date of discharge or terminal date of active service.
3. Character of service.
4. Years, months, and days of active duty service.

To obtain a copy of their discharge documentation, members should contact:

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63138
Phone: (314) 801-0800

www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records

A recently separated veteran may be able to access their documentation online through the eBenefits portal at **www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage**.

A member's request for military service doesn't incur a cost to the employer.

Questions regarding military service credit should be directed to our Military Unit at (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6060. If calling from the Albany area, use (518) 447-2900, Ext. 6060.

For details on military service credit, the state and federal laws that apply, and the cost to members to purchase credit, please see our publication ***Claiming Military Service***. Members may also refer to the **Legislation** page on our website for the most up-to-date information on any changes in law regarding military service credit.