



Fort Benning CSP: Commonly Asked Questions



1. What is the Army Career Skills Program (CSP)?

- The Career Skills Program affords transitioning service members the opportunity to participate in Employment Skills Training (EST), on-the-job training (OJT), Pre-Apprenticeships, and Internships.

2. What is the difference between the Career Skills Program and Skillbridge?

Army CSP: The Army Career Skills Program (CSP) affords transitioning Service Members the opportunity to participate in employment skills training (EST), on-the-job training (OJT), pre- apprenticeships and internships with a high probability of employment in high-demand and highly-skills careers. Participation must occur within the last 180 days of Military Service, with an honorable discharge.

DOD Skillbridge: The DOD SkillBridge program is an opportunity for Service members to gain valuable civilian work experience through specific industry training, apprenticeships, or internships during the last 180 days of Service. **SkillBridge connects Service members.**

3. I found a program on the DOD Skillbridge website that I would like to participate in, what is the next step?

- Contact the POC on the website and establish your start and end dates with them. If the POC on the website is not responsive, we would recommend that you reach out to the company directly to find more information on the opportunity. In the event no one is responsive then we would advise that you choose a different company to participate with.

4. When can I apply to the CSP/Skillbridge Program?

- You can begin the application process as soon as you have received your 2648 from your TAP Counselor. You MUST be TAP complete prior to beginning the application process. Therefore, it is crucial to begin the TAP process as soon as your 18-month window opens.

5. Is my TAP counselor also my CSP counselor?

- No, they are two different people. Therefore, please refer to your TAP counselor for questions about TAP and refer to your CSP Installation Admin for information on CSP.

6. When can I participate in a CSP/Skillbridge?

- Service members can begin participating in a CSP once their 180-day window opens. (Note: 180-days from ETS or RET date NOT TERMINAL LEAVE DATE).

7. Can I participate in a CSP out of my 50 mile radius?

- Yes; however, a DA 31 will need to be completed to reflect Administrative Absence-Non-chargeable leave (IAW AR 600-8-10).



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8. Can I participate in more than one CSP/Skillbridge opportunity?
 - No, please reference AR 600-81, 8-4, a (3) & d (6).
9. I found a company I would like to intern with, can I establish my own internship opportunity with them?

Of course, this would be considered the Individual Internship Option. It is important to note that since this company is not an approved program at this installation your packet will go through the Legal, IMCOM, and CSP office for approval. Approval for individual internship packets can take **about a month** for all parties to review and approve. Moreover, you **must** get your packet to your CSP Installation Admin a **month BEFORE** the start date you and the employer have agreed on.
10. If I go to a different state for my CSP/Skillbridge will I get the BAH rate for that state?
 - No, you are still technically assigned to the installation where you are coming from. Therefore, all meals, transportation, and lodging to and from your CSP will be at your own expense. The government travel card is NOT allowed to be utilized.
11. Do other installations have Free Barracks space for me to stay in if my CSP is near or located at that installation?
 - Some installations do have barrack space available. We encourage you to reach out to that installation's CSP office to gather more information on their application process and if there is barrack space available.
12. Can I participate in a CSP before my 180 day window begins?
 - Unfortunately, you cannot. Please reference AR 600-81, 8-2, c (8) and AR 600-81, 8-4, f (3)
13. Am I allowed to be paid by a company while on CSP status?
 - No, you are not allowed to be paid, please reference AR 600-81, 8-2, c (10) for further guidance.
14. Can my commanders deny participation in the CSP Program?
 - Yes, please reference AR 600-81, 8-2, c (13)
15. Does CSP cost anything?
 - Training cannot charge out of pocket expenses
 - Some training can utilize the GI Bill
 - All training guarantee an interview in an open position that you trained for with no out of pocket expenses.
16. What if I still have questions or would like to schedule an appointment with the CSP team?
 - Contact us at usarmy.benning.imcom.mbx.g1hrd-tap@army.mil or call the CSPIA's at 706.545.3480 or 706.545.1789