



Military Service

and your MPERS Benefits

Military Service Credit

MPERS retirement benefits are calculated using a formula that includes credited service, a plan multiplier, and final average pay. You may be eligible to increase your credited service used to calculate your retirement benefits by purchasing active-duty military service.

If you were honorably discharged from one of the branches of the military listed below, you may be eligible to receive up to four years of service credit for your qualifying military service. For Closed Plan members, this includes active-duty service as well as active/inactive-duty training from which you were honorably discharged. For Year 2000 Plan members, this includes active-duty service.

- Military service includes the following:
- Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard.
- Members of the United States Public Health Service or any women's auxiliary thereof.
- Army and Air National Guard when engaged in active duty for training, inactive-duty training (Closed Plan only), or full-time National Guard duty.
- Service by any other category of persons designated by the President in time of war or emergency.

Service Credit for Active-Duty Military Leave

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) protects employment and benefit rights of those who volunteer for or are called to active-duty and meet eligibility requirements set forth by law.

When you return from active-duty military leave, you may be eligible to receive credited service for your military service. To receive credit for eligible military leave, you must:

- have been employed by the state of Missouri in a benefit-eligible position immediately prior to entering the armed forces,
- return to state employment within the time frame specified by USERRA,
- provide your employer with a copy of your military DD214 (or other acceptable documentation) showing your dates of active service and that you were honorably discharged or release to inactive status, and
- meet any other requirements under USERRA



Purchasing Military Service Credit

Active-duty military service performed prior to becoming a member of MPERS may be eligible for purchase if you are a member of the Closed Plan or Year 2000 Plan. Members of the 2011 Tier are not eligible to purchase prior military service.

If you do not have a copy of your DD214, NGB Form 23 or Army National Guard Current Annual Statement, you may obtain one by contacting the:

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
 9700 Page Avenue
 St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
 (314) 801-0800
<http://www.archives.gov/>

If you lived in Missouri when you were discharged from the service, you may obtain a copy of your discharge form by calling the:

Missouri National Guard
www.moguard.ngb.mil
 (573) 638-9890 or
 (573) 638-9683

The purchase must include all years and months served, total no more than four years, and the purchase must be completed prior to submitting the Notice of Retirement. Example: you have four years of active-duty military service, you cannot purchase only two years; you must purchase all four years.

Cost of a military service purchase is based on the following: annual salary rate when initially employed by the state in a benefit-eligible position, the contribution rate being paid by the employer on the hire date in a benefit-eligible position, and the elapsed time from the hire date in a benefit-eligible position to the date of the military service purchase.

Military service that overlaps with MoDOT, MSHP, or other state agency employment is not eligible to be purchased.

If you are interested in purchasing military service, please provide MPERS with the following:

- A copy of your military DD214 (showing you were honorably discharged),
- NGB Form 23, or
- Army National Guard Current Annual Statement

Once MPERS receives the applicable information listed above, a benefit specialist will provide a cost estimate and options regarding payment for the purchase. For more information, contact an MPERS benefit specialist at (573) 298-6080, (800) 270-1271, or benefits@mpers.org.

USERRA Guidelines

Length of Military Service	When You Must Report/Apply for State Employment
Less than 31 days service	By the beginning of the first regularly scheduled work period after the end of the calendar day of duty, plus time required to return home safely and an eight hour rest period. If this is impossible or unreasonable, then as soon as possible.
31-180 days	The employee must apply for reemployment no later than 14 days after completion of military service. If this is impossible or unreasonable through no fault of the employee, then as soon as possible.
181+ days	The employee must apply for reemployment no later than 90 days after completion of military service.
Service-connected injury or illness	Reporting or application deadlines are extended for up to two years for persons who are hospitalized or convalescing.

Differences between the information provided in this brochure and the laws or policies which govern MPERS, the laws and policies will prevail.

