The West Point Tax Center has received many questions this year from cadets and parents regarding Education Credits (American Opportunity Credit and Lifetime Learning Credit) and the Tuition and Fees Deduction. Unfortunately, neither cadets nor parents may claim any of these valuable credits or deductions for books and other education related expenses incurred at USMA. In order to claim an education credit or deduction, the student must attend an eligible educational institution. The IRS defines eligible educational institution as follows:

Eligible Educational Institution

An eligible educational institution is generally any accredited public, nonprofit, or proprietary (private) college, university, vocational school, or other postsecondary institution. Also, the institution must be eligible to participate in a student aid program administered by the Department of Education. Virtually all accredited postsecondary institutions meet this definition.

While USMA is an accredited postsecondary institution, it does not participate in a student aid program administered by the Department of Education (e.g., FAFSA). Therefore, it does not qualify as an eligible educational institution for education credit or deduction purposes. If you have any further questions, please contact the West Point Tax Center at 845-938-5920 or WPStaff_SJA_Tax@usma.edu. (the two space are underscore characters)

Additional notes – Cadets have access to their W2s via a website called “mypay”. They should also receive an INT form from Pentagon Federal as the Cadet Account (where their uniforms, technology fees, activity fees, etc. are deducted from) is a “savings” or interest bearing account. Pentagon Federal holds those accounts.

Cadet have access to the Tax Center – it is a free service.

The Tax Center is available to answer questions from both parents and cadets. Contact information can be found above.