

NOTE: 5 years in the Guard or Reserves for 1 year of service purchase; 10 years in the Guard or Reserves for 2 years; 15 years in the Guard or Reserves for 3 years.

A maximum of 5 years of total military service (active and inactive service) may be purchased by members. To document Armed Forces Reserve duty, members must submit a DD-Form 214. To document National Guard service, members must submit an NGB Form 22. After confirming the service, APERS will provide the member a cost statement.

Other Purchasable Service

Other types of service that may be purchased include: educational leave time; time lost due to Worker's Compensation Injury, and service to a public employer that was paid by a federal grant; service with a non-participating municipality; service with the U of A system not covered by another plan, and prior service with a participating employer before that employer joined APERS. Please contact APERS Member Services Section for specific information.

Purchase Procedures

Generally, the service purchase procedures, including the method of calculating the cost, depends on the type of service you are purchasing, whether you are repaying a refund of contributions to re-establish previous APERS service, purchasing out of state or federal government service, purchasing

military service, and so forth. In most cases you must have five years of APERS service, be an active member of APERS, or a reciprocal retirement system to be eligible to make the purchase. Service purchases can be bought with a rollover from another retirement plan. Generally, if the other plan allows rollovers, APERS can accept funds from that plan as a "Trustee to Trustee" rollover.

For more information contact:

**Arkansas Public Employees
Retirement System**

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Little Rock, AR 72201

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Or visit our website at

www.apers.org

"As much as possible, this brochure has been written in non-technical terms, avoiding the formal language of the retirement laws, rules and regulations. Any conflict between the information contained in this brochure and those retirement laws, rules and regulations must be resolved pursuant to the governing statutes, rules and regulations.

If questions about interpretation arise as a result of the attempt to make the retirement provisions easy to understand, Chapters 2, 4, and parts of 7 of Title 24 of the Arkansas Code Annotated (1987), as amended, must remain the final authority.

The information provided in this brochure is based on the Arkansas Retirement System laws and rules in existence at the time this brochure was published and is subject to future modification based on changes in the law."

Understanding Purchasing Service

Purchasing Service

As a member of the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System, you may be able to receive credited service for previous employment with other non-APERS agencies, or for previous contributory employment with APERS. While some service credit may be available at no cost, most prior service credit must be purchased. Purchasable service credit categories include:

- Repayment of a refund of contributions from previous employment covered by APERS.
- Out of State Government Service.
- Federal Government Service.
- Military service (active duty, Armed Forces Reserve duty, or Arkansas National Guard duty).
- Other Service (including educational leave time, time lost due to Worker's Compensation Injury, or service paid by a federal grant).
- Service with a City that does not belong to APERS.

Repayment Of Refund

If you received a refund of contributions when you left a job covered by the Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System, but you are now an active member of APERS or a reciprocal system, you may be able to repay your refund and re-establish the credited service you gave up when you took the refund. You can do so by paying into your account the amount withdrawn, plus regular compounded interest, from the date withdrawn to the date repaid.

You have to be re-employed for 90 days, work at least 80 hours per month, and have three (3) months of current service credit before you may

repay the refund. A partial-pay plan is available if the total cost to repay is more than \$500. If the cost is less than \$500, the refund must be repaid in one payment.

Out Of State Government Service

Act 1021 of 2005 established that APERS vested active members can purchase up to 5 years of credit for out of state government employment, provided that the worker seeking credit can show that the out of state employment (such as teaching, law enforcement) would have been covered by a state retirement system if the work had been in Arkansas.

Members must submit a completed APERS Application for Service Purchase-OOS to document their out of state service to be purchased.

APERS will then provide the cost of purchasing the service. Members cannot be receiving or be eligible for benefits from the out of state system.

Federal Government Service

Act 2091 of 2005 established that vested active members can purchase up to 5 years of federal government employment under the same conditions for out-of-state service.

However, APERS employees cannot purchase work as a federal contractor, or any other federal work, not eligible at one time for federal retirement benefits.

Members must submit a completed APERS Application for Service Purchase-FED to document their federal service to be purchased.

APERS will then provide the cost of purchasing the service. Members cannot be receiving or be eligible for benefits from the federal system.

Purchasable Military Service

Active Duty – Active or inactive members may purchase anywhere from one month to 5 years of active duty military time if you:

- a) Have 5 years of actual APERS service (or 5 years of combined service between reciprocal plans), and
- b) Have received an honorable discharge; and
- c) Aren't receiving federal military retirement pay based upon nineteen years or more of active duty.

Disability federal retirement pay won't disqualify a member from purchasing such credit.

To purchase active military duty service, members must submit a DD-Form 214 or other official documents of service that furnishes the beginning and ending dates of the active duty.

Arkansas National Guard & Armed Forces Reserve Duty

- Active members of APERS may purchase up to 3 years of Arkansas National Guard or Armed Forces Reserve duty if they:

- a) Have 5 years of actual APERS service (or 5 years of combined service between reciprocal plans);
- b) Aren't receiving or eligible to receive at time of purchase federal military retirement pay (other than disability) based on 19 or more years of Arkansas National Guard or Armed Forces Reserve duty, and you
- c) Are separated from the National Guard or Reserves.