Military-Connected Benefits and Certifications

Fall 2021 Open Forum
AGENDA

1. Meet The Team
2. Overview of VA Education Benefits
3. Questions
ZOOM TIPS

Not speaking?  
Please stay muted

Questions?  
Use the chat or raise your hand
The Military-Connected Benefits & Certifications (MCBC) office serves the University of Arizona’s military-connected students by:

- efficiently processing GI Bill® and Tuition Assistance
- ensuring students receive benefits to support their academic goals

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits is available on the VA website.
The Office of the Registrar uses Trellis Service Desk
- Cases are created during interactions with our team
- Service Desk allows multiple areas of our team to respond to inquiries without "bouncing" student

All users with access to Trellis Service Cases can view MCBC cases
- Service Cases are associated to student records

Trellis Service Cases are created using emails sent to:
- veterans@arizona.edu
- tuitionassistance@arizona.edu
TYPES OF BENEFITS

**GI Bill®**

**Who Can Use**
- veterans
- active-duty service members
- spouses and dependents

**What it Covers**
- benefit level varies by chapter

**DoD Tuition Assistance**

**Who Can Use**
- active-duty service members

**What it Covers**
- $250 per unit
- maximum amount varies by military branch
GI Bill®

Administered by the Veteran's Administration (VA)
Use WEAMS Institute Search to find which University of Arizona programs are approved for VA education benefits.

Use the GI Bill® Comparison Tool to compare benefits at all approved institutions.
### Dependents Educational Assistance Program | CH35

- **$1298/month**

### Montgomery | CH30

- **$2150/month** if 3+ years of active duty
- **$1744/month** if fewer than 3 years of active duty

### Montgomery: Selective Reserves | CH1606

- **$407/month**
GI BILL®

Tuition-Based Benefits

Veterans Readiness & Employment | CH31
- Net tuition after tuition specific aid being deducted
- Books/supplies
- Housing stipend

Post 9/11 | CH33
- Net tuition after tuition specific aid being deducted (50% - 100% determined by VA)
- Book/supply stipend ($1000/year at 100% rate, $900/year at 90%, etc.)
- Housing stipend based on rate of pursuit

Fry Scholarship | CH33
- Net tuition after tuition specific aid being deducted (100%)
- Book/supply stipend ($1000/academic year)
- Housing stipend based on rate of pursuit
Tuition Assistance

Department of Defense (DOD)
TUITION ASSISTANCE

“TA”

• authorized by the service-member’s military branch

• payable at a rate of $250.00 per unit

• NO active-duty military tuition rate; undergraduate students with approved TA Voucher receive TA Military Tuition Reduction Waiver for that term

• graduate students can use TA but are NOT eligible for the Tuition Reduction Waiver; they can choose to use their VA education benefits to pay what is not covered by TA

• amount paid by TA is applied to student’s bursar account and appears as a “Transfer to Third Party” credit

• TA is only applied toward tuition and does not cover mandatory fees; student is responsible for balance
Tips & Information
IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

• no veteran benefit certification request received = no benefits

• VA will only pay for courses required in student’s degree plan (undergraduate ADVIP and graduate Plan of Study)

• VA will NOT pay for repeat courses that were passed

• drop/withdrawal may create VA debt and/or UA debt for student

• debt is determined by VA and may equal partial or whole amount associated with the drop/withdrawal

• for classes that do not automatically populate into ADVIP, exceptions must be made proactively
MEETING WITH STUDENTS

Review
ADVIP with students

Encourage
students to speak with MCBC team before initiating drop or complete withdrawal so they understand the financial impact

Remind
students to utilize priority registration and submit veteran benefit certification request once their schedule is finalized
PROCESSING

1. MCBC team processes veteran benefit certification requests to VA within **10-15 business days**
2. VA processes claim in **3-6 weeks**

COMMON CAUSES OF PROCESSING DELAYS

**IF**

- student changed schedule since submitting request
- course does not appear on approved plan
- course does not appear to meet degree requirement on undergraduate ADVIP
- graduate student has not completed Plan of Study in GradPath

**THEN**

- MCBC will email student to resubmit request with new schedule
- MCBC will email student to update plan
- MCBC will email advisor for approval
- MCBC will email student to submit their plan of study
RATE OF PURSUIT

# of enrolled units for a session divided by full-time (FT) unit requirement for that session

Example

Undergraduate student enrolled in 9 units for 16wk session → rate of pursuit is 75%
- Stipend-Based Benefit → stipend is paid at 75% the maximum rate
- Tuition-Based Benefit → housing is paid at 80% rate (75% rounded to nearest 10%)

Important Notes

- VA pays education benefits based on rate of pursuit for each day of the term
- VA may consider a student’s rate of pursuit different on different days depending which sessions they are enrolled in within the term
- with tuition-based benefits, the rate of pursuit only affects housing rate
- to be eligible for a reduced housing stipend, student’s rate of pursuit MUST be 60% or higher
WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

Office of the Registrar website

Welcome to the Office of the Registrar

We are here to serve student, faculty, staff, and alumni through registration, records management, and academic support. Our mission is to support teaching, learning, and academic integrity and to provide the student with the best educational experiences.

Guide for certifying GI Bill® benefits

Request to Use your VA Benefits

Students should submit their Veteran Benefit Certification request only when their class schedule is final. Please allow 8-10 weeks for processing. The amount of benefits you will receive is determined by the number of credit hours for which you are certified. To certify your benefits in UAccess Student Center, Veteran Certification resource guide.

Resource Guide: UAccess Student—Veteran Certification
Questions?

Student Union Memorial Center, Rm 404
Phone: 520-621-9501
Fax: 520-621-3665
veterans@email.arizona.edu