



FAQ for VA BENEFITS – Cleveland State University

All new transfer and visiting students who are registered for at least one "on campus" or "online" class and wish to receive veteran's benefits must come to Campus 411 or the Veterans Affairs office to initiate benefit payments.

Completed forms can be faxed, mailed or hand delivered to Campus 411 (MC 116G) or the Veterans Affairs Office (KB 1300).

1) Who may be eligible to receive VA benefits?

- Active duty veterans who contributed to the GI Bill (i.e., set aside a portion of their pay during years of service, to be used for this purpose later)
- Active reservists (including Coast Guard)
- National Guard (those that have been called to Active Duty)
- Dependents of deceased or disabled (as a direct result of service) veterans
- Eligibility for benefits is ultimately determined by VA (Veterans' Administration), not CSU

2) For which chapter of benefits should I apply?

- Active Duty: Chapter 30 (using form 22-1990)
- Selected Reservists: Chapter 1606 (using form 22-1990)
- Mobilized National Guard and Reserves: Chapter 1607 (using form 22-1990)
- Dependents: Chapter 35 (using form 22-5490)

3) What is required in order for the application to be considered complete?

- Chapter 30: form 22-1990; copy of DD-214 (discharge document), bank account information to enroll for direct deposit
- Chapter 1606: form 22-1990; copy of NOBE (Notice of Basic Eligibility form available from unit); Kicker contract (if applicable), bank account information to enroll for direct deposit
- Chapter 1607: form 22-1990, copy of DD-214, bank account information to enroll for direct deposit
- Chapter 35: form 22-5490 (You cannot get direct deposit if you are using this chapter of benefits. A paper check will be mailed to you)

- On-line applications need to be printed and submitted to CSU. Since you must send the VA your signature page, you can turn it in to us and we will mail it to Buffalo for you.

4) What else needs to occur in order for my benefits to be activated?

- VA Office in Buffalo must process application (processing time takes 8-10 weeks; VA will send a certificate or notice of eligibility)
- VA Certifying Official (at CSU) MUST BE NOTIFIED OF APPLICATION in order to verify enrollment (once you are on our lists you will automatically be certified).

5) What if I have used my benefits previously at another college or university?

- Request for Change of Place of Training Form 22-1995 (for Chapter 30, 1606 or 1607) or 22-5495 (for Chapter 35) must be completed and submitted to Campus 411
- Certifications of enrollment are submitted by the CSU VA Certifying Official online to the Veterans' Administration

6) How much in benefits can I expect to receive?

- Benefits received depend upon chapter under which benefits are being awarded
- They are determined by the student's enrollment status (i.e., full-time, 3/4 time, 1/2 time, etc.)
- 12 hours a semester is required for full-time benefits at the undergraduate and law level; eight hours a semester is considered full-time for graduate level

7) How does VA pay out the benefits?

- Monthly installments, unless attending less than 1/2 time (in which case the VA pays only tuition and fees, and this is disbursed in one lump sum).
- Chapter 30, 1606 and 1607 students must self-verify enrollment each month (excluding first month the first time benefits are used) using VA's telephone number: 1-877-823-2378 or web site www.gibill.va.gov

8) Can I receive benefits retroactively?

- VA will issue benefits for work completed no more than one calendar year prior to submission of relevant paperwork and or documentation verifying enrollment.
- If paperwork is initiated after the start of the term, the VA will still issue benefits retroactive to the first day of the term (i.e. the first payment for that semester may include two or three months' worth of benefits).

9) Am I eligible to receive federal financial aid while I am collecting VA benefits?

- YES, VA students are eligible and encouraged to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and receive aid.
- The amount of federal aid available to a VA student may be reduced or adjusted based on the amount of benefits being received through VA, so you need to include the amount you would receive YEARLY.

10) Since I will not receive my first payment until at least a month or two into the term, how should I handle my account with the Office of Treasury Services (formerly Bursar's Office)?

- VA students are not exempt from customary billing procedures and cycles, as such, payment in full or initiation of BPP (Budget Payment Plan form) will be expected prior to the Payment Due Date that appears on the CSU Invoice.
- Veterans unable to make the full payment by the university's deadline should sign up for a Student Payment Plan. Special payment plans are available to veterans. Contact the CSU Veteran's Affairs Office for more information (216) 687-2053 or vabenefits@csuohio.edu.

11) I am in the National Guard and receive 100 percent tuition assistance; how do I activate the assistance, and can I still receive Montgomery GI Bill benefits in conjunction?

- Yes, you can still receive Montgomery GI Bill benefits under Chapter 30, 1606 or 1607 **if you have been called up to active duty**.
- Ohio National Guard will issue (to student) a letter verifying eligibility for scholarship; present the letter to Jan Niblock, Associate Director, Financial Aid Office, located in Keith Building 1300.
- CSU official responsible for information regarding National Guard scholarships is Jan Niblock; phone 216-687-5326.

12) What benefits are available to disabled veterans?

- Chapter 31 benefits are available to veterans with a service-connected disability; eligibility is determined through regional VA office downtown Cleveland.
- If eligible, student receives full tuition, books and parking.
- Contact Information: U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Division, 1240 East Ninth Street, Room 1029, Cleveland, OH 44199 phone: 216-522-3535;

Enrollment and VA Student Status

Fall and Spring Hours of Enrollment Undergraduate & Law	
Number of Credit Hours	VA Student Status
12 or More	Full Time
9-11	$\frac{3}{4}$ time
6-8	$\frac{1}{2}$ time
4-5	Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ time
1-3	$\frac{1}{4}$ time

Fall and Spring Hours of Enrollment Graduate	
Number of Credit Hours	VA Student Status
8 or More	Full Time
6-7	$\frac{3}{4}$ time
4-5	$\frac{1}{2}$ time
1-3	Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ time

Important Phone Numbers

- Campus 411: 216-687-5411
- CSU Veterans Affairs Office: 216-687-2053
- Monthly Verification: 877-823-2378
- Buffalo Processing Center: 888-442-4551
- Direct Deposit/Change of Address: 877-838-2778
- Veterans Administration Hotline: 800-827-1000