



FAQ for VA BENEFITS – Cleveland State University

- 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 National Guard and Coast Guard)
 - Dependents of deceased or disabled (as a direct result of service) veterans
 - Eligibility for benefits is ultimately determined by VA (Veterans' Administration), not C.S.U.
- 2) For which chapter of benefits should I apply?
 - Active Duty: Chapter 30 (using form 22-1990)
 - Reservists: Chapter 1606 (using form 22-1990)
 - Dependent: 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)
 - Chapter 1606: form 22-1990; copy of NOBE (Notice of Basic Eligibility form available from unit); Kicker contract (if applicable)
 - Chapter 35: form 22-5490
 - On-line applications need to be submitted with the signature page
- 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 C.S.U.) must verify enrollment (i.e., will automatically be reported by official)
- 5) What if I have used my benefits previously at another college or university?
 - Completion of form 22-1990 (application) is NOT necessary
 - Request for Change of Place of Training Form 22-1995 (for Chapter 30 or 1606) or 22-5495 (for Chapter 35) must be completed and submitted to Campus 411
 - Certifications of enrollment are submitted by C.S.U. VA Certifying Official (using web-based program VA-ONCE) to the Veterans' Administration

- 6) How much benefit can I expect to receive?
- Dependent upon chapter under which benefits are being awarded
 - Dependent on 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 level and law; 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 and 1606 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 still eligible to file FAFSA and receive aid
 - The amount of federal aid available to a VA student may be reduced or adjusted based on the amount of benefit being received through VA
- 10) Since I will not receive my first payment until at least a month 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 C.S.U. University Invoice

- 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?
- Ohio National Guard will issue (to student) a letter verifying eligibility for scholarship; present the letter to Tom Morrison, Assistant Director, Financial Aid Office, located in UC 560
 - Yes; you can still receive Montgomery GI Bill benefits under Chapter 1606
 - CSU official responsible for information regarding National Guard scholarships is: Mr. Tom Morrison, Financial Aid Office, UC 560, phone: 216-687-5531
- 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
 - If eligible, student receives full tuition, book and parking coverage
 - Contact person: Balinda Profitt, Case Manager, U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Division, 1240 East Ninth Street, Room 1029, Cleveland, OH 44199 phone: 216-522-3535, extension 3805;
- 13) Where can I get information on the status of my benefits?
- GI Bill Hotline: 1-888-442-4551
 - VA Website: www.gibill.va.gov