

Office of Financial Aid

Veterans Educational Benefits

Frequently Asked Questions



Contact Information

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Boulder, CO 80309

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Email: [vet-serv@colorado.edu](mailto:veter-serv@colorado.edu)

<http://colorado.edu/finaid/veteran.html>

How can I apply for VA benefits?

All forms can be completed and submitted using the Veterans Online Application (VONAPP) website. To access this application:

1. Go to <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>.
2. Click on "Start VONAPP."
3. Read all information and click on "continue" at the lower right of the screen (Expand/maximize the window if "continue" is not there).
4. Create a user account and log-in.
5. In the "Create a New Form" drop down menu, select Form 22-1990.
6. Read all information, follow each step, and answer each question carefully.

If transferring from an old benefit to Chapter 33, the Post 9-11 GI Bill, it is important to remember this election is IRREVOCABLE. There are many factors which affect your benefit. Please call the VA at 1-888-GIBILL-1 to ensure you are making an informed decision.

If you are unable to call the VA or if you still need to determine which benefit is best for you, select the "Unsure" box when filling out VA Form 22-1990. The VA will contact you to discuss the benefit which is best suited for your needs.

Some may need to submit supporting documentation, i.e. DD-214. Scanning and attaching them to the form is easiest; call the VA (1-888-GIBILL-1) if this option is not available.

If you decide to complete a paper application; mail to: VA Regional Office
P.O. Box 66830
St. Louis, MO 63166-6830

When is the best time to apply for benefits?

You can apply for your benefit before you are accepted to the University; therefore it is recommended that you apply 6 months before the start of your first term. Call the VA at 1-888-GIBILL-1 to determine which benefit is best for you. Once you have selected which benefit is best for you, follow the steps below.

1. Visit <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>.
2. Click on "Start VONAPP."
3. Read all the information and click on "Continue" in the lower right side of the screen. If "Continue" is not there, expand/maximize the window.
4. Create a user account and log-in.
5. In the "Create a New Form" drop down menu, select "Education Benefits Form 22-1990."
6. Read all the information, follow each step, and answer each question carefully.
7. Some may need to submit supporting documentation i.e. DD-214. Scanning and attaching them to the form is easiest; call the VA if this option is not available.

What are the benefits I am eligible for, and how do I apply?

NOTE: The following is only general eligibility information. Ultimately, the VA will be responsible for determining your eligibility for a particular benefit.

Chapter 33 (Post 9/11 GI Bill)

You may be eligible if

- you are receiving Chapter 30, 1606, or 1607 benefits or
- you have served 30 days of continuous active duty and have been discharged due to a service connected disability, or
- you have served 90 days active duty after September 10, 2001 and have been honorably discharged.

This new program will begin on August 1, 2009 and no payments will be made under this program before that date.

The benefits will be based on the length of active duty you served and will include:

- Tuition and fees (up to the most expensive public, in-state undergraduate tuition).
- A monthly housing allowance (E-5 BAH with dependents for zip code 80309 = \$1371 FY09).
- Yearly books and supplies of up to \$1000 per year.
- A one-time \$500 Rural Relocation benefit may be available for moving at least 500 miles.

Please visit the VA website for additional information: www.gibill.va.gov.

Process to start Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits:

1. Call the VA at 1-888-GIBILL-1 to determine which benefit is best for you.
2. Understand that transferring to Chapter 33 (Post 9-11) is IRREVOCABLE.
3. Visit <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>
4. Click on "Start VONAPP."
5. Read all the information and click on "Continue" in the lower right side of the screen.
6. Create a user account and log-in.
7. In the "Create a New Form" drop down menu, select "Education Benefits Form 22-1990."
8. Read all information, follow each step, and answer each question carefully.

Some may need to submit supporting documentation i.e. DD-214. Scanning and attaching them to the form is easiest; call the VA if this option is not available.

Chapter 30

You may be eligible if you contributed \$1200 to the Montgomery GI Bill, and

- you completed 20 or more months with a 2 year enlistment, or
- you completed 30 or more months with a 3 year enlistment, or
- you are currently on active duty.

Process to start Chapter 30 benefits:

1. Get a copy of the "Member Copy 4" of your DD-214.
2. Visit <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>
3. Click on "Start VONAPP."
4. Read all the information and click on "continue" in the lower right side of the screen.
5. Create a user account and log-in.
6. In the "Create a New Form" drop down menu, select "Education Benefits Form 22-1990."
7. The VA will mail you a "Certificate of Eligibility". Bring this document to the Veterans Educational Benefits Office in the Regent Administration Building room 205
8. Fill out a Course Load Summary Form.

You may need to submit supporting documentation i.e. DD-214. Scanning and attaching them to the form is easiest; call the VA if this option is not available.

Chapter 1606 Selected Reserve/National Guard

You may be eligible if you currently have Selected Reserve/National Guard status.

Tuition Assistance may also be available to National Guard members and Reservists. Contact the Education Assistance Officer at your unit for more information.

Process to start Chapter 1606 benefits:

1. Get a VA Form DD-2384 (Notice Of Basic Eligibility -- NOBE) from your unit.
2. Visit <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>
3. Click on "Start VONAPP."
4. Read all information and click on "continue" in the lower right side of the screen.
5. Create a user account and log-in.
6. In the "Create a New Form" drop down menu, select "Education Benefits Form 22-1990."
7. The VA will mail you a "Certificate of Eligibility". Bring this document to the Veterans Educational Benefits Office at 205 Regent Administration Building
8. Fill out a Course Load Summary Form.

Some may need to submit supporting documentation i.e. DD-2384. Scanning and attaching them to the form is easiest; call the VA if this option is not available.

Chapter 1607 Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)

You may be eligible if you currently have Selected Reserve/National Guard status and were activated for 90 days or more after September 11, 2001.

Tuition Assistance may also be available to National Guard members and Reservists. Contact the Education Assistance Officer at your unit for more information.

Process to start Chapter 1607 benefits:

1. Get a copy of the "Member Copy 4" of your DD-214.
2. Get a DD Form 2384 (Notice Of Basic Eligibility -- NOBE) from your unit.
3. Visit <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>
4. Click on "Start VONAPP."

5. Read all information and click on "Continue" in the lower right side of the screen.
6. Create a user account and log-in.
7. In the "Create a New Form" drop down menu, select "Education Benefits Form 22-1990."
8. The VA will mail you a "Certificate of Eligibility". Bring this document to the Veterans Educational Benefits Office in the Regent Administration Building room 205
9. Fill out a Course Load Summary Form.

Some may need to submit supporting documentation i.e. DD-214. Scanning and attaching them to the form is easiest; call the VA if this option is not available.

NOTE: If were previously receiving Chapter 1606 benefits and believe you are eligible for Chapter 1607 benefits:

1. Call the VA at 1-888-442-4551 to verify eligibility to request
2. Fill out a VA Form 22-1995 (online at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>).

Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation

You may be eligible if you are a veteran with a service-connected disability. Contact the VA at 1-800-827-1000 to determine your eligibility and to apply for this program.

Chapter 35 Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program

You may be eligible if you are the spouse or child of a deceased or a 100% permanently disabled Veteran.

Process to start Chapter 35 benefits:

1. Visit <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>
2. Click on "Start VONAPP."
3. Read all information and click on "Continue" in the lower right side of the screen.
4. Create a user account and log-in.
5. In the "Create a New Form" drop down menu, select VA Form 22-5490 (online at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>).
6. The VA will mail you a "Certificate of Eligibility". Bring this document to the Veterans Educational Benefits Office in the Regent Administration Building room 205
7. Fill out a Course Load Summary Form.

The chart below estimates how much money you will receive, depending on your benefit.

The following pay rates are effective from October 2007 to September 2008 with the exception of Chapters 30 and 1607. Those rates are effective starting August 1, 2008:

CHAPTER	TIME ON ACTIVE DUTY	MONTHLY BENEFIT FOR FULL TIME
30	3 or more years	\$1,321
30	2 years to less than 3 years	\$1,073
30	Currently on Active Duty	Tuition and Fees Only
35	N/A	\$881
1606	N/A	\$317
1607	90 days to less than a 1 year	\$528.40

1607	1 year to less than 2 years	\$792.60
1607	More than 2 years	\$1056.80

NOTE: You may be eligible for additional monthly educational benefits if you have a “Kicker” in your original contract or paid additional money (over the minimum of \$1200) towards your GI Bill benefits. If you feel that you are eligible for a “Kicker” or other additional payment that you have not been receiving, you will need to contact the VA at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (888-442-4551) or visit their website at www.gibill.va.gov.

The following link will direct you to an updated, more in depth breakdown of the education benefit payment rates.

http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm

For Chapter 33 benefits, it’s best to contact the VA to determine eligibility and your percentage of maximum benefit. Below are links to an informational pamphlet and a VA letter with more information regarding these stipulations. There is also a chart to use as a *guideline* to what you may be eligible to receive under Chapter 33. Again, please contact the VA to determine *your* eligibility (1-888-442-4551).

Pamphlet: http://www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/CH33/CH33_Pamphlet.pdf

Letter: http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/CH33_veteran_outreach_letter.pdf

Individuals serving an aggregate period of active duty after September 10, 2001, of:	Includes entry level and skill training?	Percentage of Maximum Benefit
At least 36 months	Yes	100
At least 30 continuous days on active duty (Discharged due to service-connected disability)	Yes	100
At least 30 months, but less than 36 months	Yes	90
At least 24 months, but less than 30 months	Yes	80
At least 18 months, but less than 24 months	No	70
At least 12 months, but less than 18 months	No	60
At least 06 months, but less than 12 months	No	50
At least 90 days, but less than 06 months	No	40

I am a continuing student; when is the best time to submit a Course Load Summary form for the next term?

As soon as you have registered for classes, you should fill out a Course Load Summary form. You can do this online at http://www.colorado.edu/finaid/veterans_forms.html. Once you have filled out and printed the form, you can fax it, mail it, scan/e-mail it, or drop it off at the Veteran Educational Benefits Office at Regent Administrative Building, room 205. You may also complete this form in our office. All contact information can be found on the cover of this document.

What personal information will be needed to complete my application?

Personal information will depend on the chapter of benefits that you are applying for. Personal information may include, but is not limited to, a copy of your DD-214, NOBE, Birth Certificate, and a voided check for direct deposit. After filling for your benefit online, contact the VA at 1-888-GIBILL-1 to determine if you are missing any documents.

How do I contact the VA Regional Office?

The VA can be reached via telephone at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) or electronically through the “Ask a Question” feature at www.gibill.va.gov.

If I receive Chapter 30, Chapter 1607, or Chapter 1606 benefit how do I verify my enrollment each month?

You will use the Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) at www.gibill.va.gov/wave or you can call 1-877-823-2378.

What do I do if I am called up for Active Duty?

Stop in the Veteran Educational Benefits Office with a copy of your orders or a letter from your unit. You will also want to visit the Time Out Program (TOP) Office located within the Registrar’s Office. The TOP coordinator is Kristi Chapin, and she can be reached at withdraw@colorado.edu; timeout@colorado.edu, or by phone at 303-492-8673.

What are the state residency requirements?

These are complicated and can vary by situation. Please contact the Residency Classification department in the Registrar’s Office at 303-492-0907 for further information. You can also view more information at registrar.colorado.edu/students/tuition_classification.html.

Does the number of credit hours I take influence the percentage of benefits I receive?

Yes, you can be considered full-time, $\frac{3}{4}$ time, $\frac{1}{2}$ time, or $\frac{1}{4}$ time depending on your course load and whether you are an undergraduate, graduate, or law student. For undergraduates during spring/fall: full-time = 12 credits; $\frac{3}{4}$ time = 9 credits; $\frac{1}{2}$ time = 6 credits; $\frac{1}{4}$ time = 3 credits. Graduate and law students are encouraged to contact our office for enrollment classification. Call our office (303-492-7322) for summer rates.

What should I do if I withdraw/drop from a class?

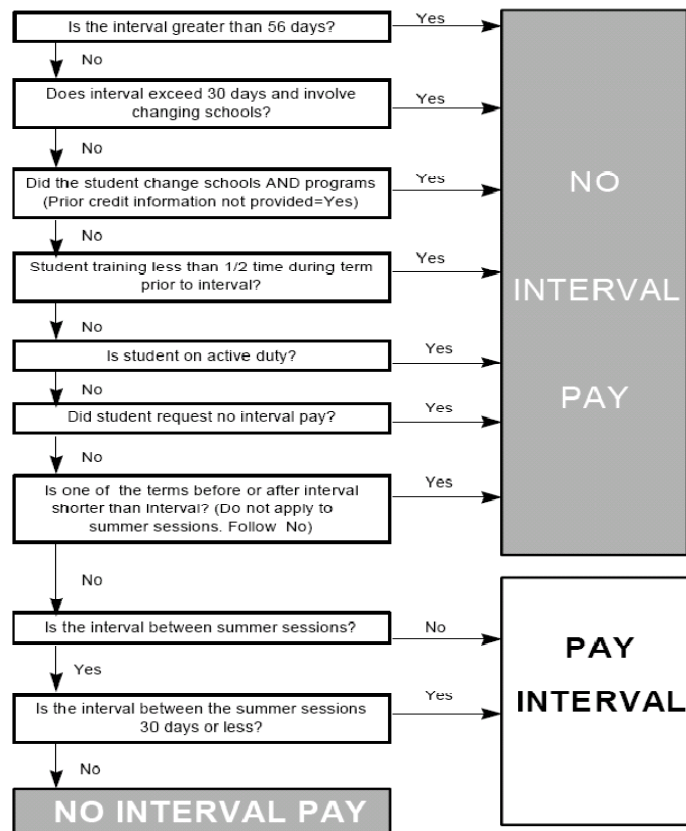
Contact the Veterans Educational Benefits Office as soon as you formally drop a class. A change in your enrollment may affect the amount of monthly benefits you receive, and could result in an overpayment from the VA that you will have to payback.

Where can I find information on scholarships?

Contact the Office of Veteran's Affairs at <http://www.colorado.edu/StudentAffairs/VA/index.html>. Veterans can contact of office for a more comprehensive list of veteran related scholarships. The application for these scholarships and others offered by the Office of Financial Aid can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/finaid/scholarships.html>. Information on private scholarships offered outside of the University can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/finaid/scholarship_searches.html.

What is break pay?

Also known as "interval pay," break pay is money that you may be eligible to receive for breaks in your enrollment that do not exceed 56 days. It is paid between quarters, semesters, and sessions according to the flow chart that follows. Intervals are paid at the rate in effect on the ending date preceding the interval.



Interval Pay Flowchart
March 2003