



Office of Financial Aid and Veteran Services

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Chapter 35 Information

CHAPTER 35—Survivor and Dependent Educational Benefits

- For spouses or dependents of active duty military who were either killed in action, missing in action, prisoner of war or 100% totally and permanently disabled due to service-connected causes.
- Dependents must be between the ages of 18 and 26
- Spouses have 10 years from the date the VA establishes disability or 20 years from the date of death to use the benefit
- 45 months of full-time eligibility

Basic Benefits

- Monthly living stipend
- Amounts vary depending on enrolled hours and benefit eligibility
- Amounts available online at: www.gibill.va.gov

Initial Application

- Complete VA form 22-5490.
- PLEASE READ THE APPLICATION CAREFULLY AND ANSWER IN FULL. The application is available at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>.
- A meeting with a financial aid advisor will be necessary as part of your initial application process.
- Submit initial certification request form to the Office of Financial Aid and Veteran Services.

Certification

- Each semester after registering for classes, and after submitting a **Veterans' Benefit Request Form**, you will be certified after it is confirmed that the classes that you are enrolled in will count towards your certificate or degree program.

Prior Credit Evaluation

If you have previously attended any other colleges

- You must have academic transcripts submitted to the Parkland Office of Admissions and Records so that previous credit can be evaluated—no exceptions.
- The transcript must come directly from the previous institution. It cannot be hand carried by you.

Enrollment Guidelines and Helpful Hints

- It may take up to twelve weeks to process your initial claim for benefits with the VA.
- When you apply for VA educational benefits, you must declare your educational goal in the form of a specific academic major.
- Parkland College academic counselors are available to you for personal discussion and advisement of our educational goals and course selection.
- The VA is prohibited from paying you for any courses in which you enroll that do not apply to the academic major you specified when applying for benefits.
- If you are enrolled less than half time you will not receive a "living stipend". You will only receive a onetime payment for the amount of tuition.
- A repeat class can only be certified if it was failed or if a grade was earned that precludes you from moving to the next level.
- You must be certificate or degree-seeking to receive this benefit.

- If you withdraw from any classes, you can be charged with a financial “overpayment” retroactive to the Beginning of the semester. Before withdrawing from any classes, you should speak with a financial aid advisor.
- You cannot remain on academic probation longer than two consecutive terms without your enrollment certification being interrupted for “lack of satisfactory academic progress.” (See college catalog, “Veterans Affairs (VA): Policy on Satisfactory Academic Progress.”)
- You have the right to file a “Statement in Support Claim” (VA form 21-4138).
- It is your responsibility to inform the Office of Financial Aid in a timely manner of any changes in your address and Parkland College enrollment status.
- Never make assumptions when it comes to your academic program or VA benefits. If you have any questions about educational benefits, contact the Office of Financial Aid. If you have any academic questions, contact your academic advisor/counselor.

VA Contact Information

Federal Benefit Information
U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Regional Office
P. O. Box 66830
St. Louis, Missouri 63166-6830
Telephone: 1-888-442-4551

E-mail: go to www.gjbill.va.gov, and click on “ask a question.”