

Veteran & Military Benefits

Frequently Asked Questions

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Useful Links

- [University at Albany – Veteran & Military Student Services](#)
- [Veteran Affairs Home](#)
- [Veteran Affairs Educational Benefits](#)

1. How do I receive my veteran, National Guard or Reserve educational benefits?

Veterans (and those transferring their GI Bill to their dependents). Begin by reviewing <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>. Detailed information is available here as well as the portal to apply for veteran educational benefits.

New Students:

Once a veteran (or authorized dependent) has received confirmation from the VA (via a Certificate of Eligibility), and been accepted at the University at Albany, please contact the Office of Veteran & Military Student Services (Director; Joel Davis) at uaveteran@albany.edu.

National Guard and Reserve: You must work through your respective military unit to obtain information related to applying for your respective military educational benefit.

NOTE: Military students must contact their respective military unit and education support servicing unit (e.g., Education Service Officer (ESO), Military Counselor and supervisor) to obtain necessary approval for utilizing respective educational benefits.

Once approved, those benefits will certified and applied to your account if authorized via the Student Account unit her at the University at Albany.

Returning Students:

In order to certify your GI Bill benefits I need the statement listed below each term.

Request Template:

Name:

Albany ID:

Benefit (e.g., Chapter 33, 35, 31, 1606)

% of eligibility (Chapter 33 only)

Please certify my GI Bill benefits for the _____ term.

I understand GI Bill can only be certified for applicable credits towards my degree.

I also understand that changes in my enrollment after certification may adversely impact my GI Bill benefits (e.g., dropping below full-time, impacting BAH).

Finally, I understand that I must notify uaveteran@albany.edu if I change my registration status after submitting this request and that I am encouraged to seek advisement prior to registration changes whenever possible.

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2. How long will it be before I receive my first check after applying for veterans' educational benefits for the first time?

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that continuing students will take roughly 6 to 8 weeks for processing, while new students or continuing students who have changed schools will take 8 to 10 weeks for processing. These ranges are increased during peak processing time (from 6 to 8 weeks to 8 to 10 weeks, and from 8 to 10 weeks to 10 to 12 weeks respectively).

To check on the status of benefits, call the Department of Veterans Affairs call center at 1-888-442-4551.

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3. Does UAlbany offer a Payment Plan while I wait for my benefits?

Yes!

Please email uaveteran@albany.edu prior to each term you wish to be enrolled for Fall or Spring term. Plan details are as follows:

- FREE for Veteran students and authorized dependents using GI Bill benefits!
- Payments will be due on the 15th of each month noted below (paid via epay.albany.edu):
 - Fall: October/November/December

- Spring: March/April/May
- Summer: There is no Veteran Payment Plan for summer, however, there is a payment plan offered by Student Accounts for Summer at https://www.albany.edu/studentaccounts/payment_plan.php

4. What are the current rates for veterans' educational benefits?

Education rates vary based on the education benefits the student receives. Please review

https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits_resources/rates/ch33/ch33rates080118.asp for detailed information.

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5. How long will I receive veterans' benefits?

Your entitlement period varies based on the educational program you are using. Students initially applying for education benefits typically can receive up to 36 months of benefits. This number varies based on credible service time (VA will advise you on your Certificate of Eligibility). In addition, some veterans are eligible for multiple programs; again, please contact the VA for specific questions and review visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>

Students looking for specific details about their records should call the Department of Veterans Affairs at (888) 442-4451

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6. What documents do I need in order to start receiving veterans' educational benefits?

Certificate of Eligibility (provided by the Department of Veteran Affairs after applying as noted above).

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7. Once approved for benefits, what do I need to do to renew my veteran's benefits for the following semesters?

You will need to email uaveteran@albany.edu prior to each term AND after you have finalized your term registration.

Please monitor your UAlbany email! You will be contacted if there are any questions or concerns regarding course registration. As a reminder, only those courses that are “degree-applicable” (required for your degree completion) are counted for certification credit totals.

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8. Do I get veteran's benefit payments during small breaks in school attendance?

Please note effective August 1, 2011, the Department of Veterans Affairs will be changing the policy regarding break (interval) pay to the following:

"Break or interval pay is no longer payable under *any* VA education benefit program unless under an Executive Order of the President or due to an emergency, such as a natural disaster or strike. This means that when your semester ends (e.g. December 15th), your housing allowance is paid for the first 15 days of December only and begins again when your next semester begins (e.g. January 10th) and is paid for the remaining days of January.

Students using other VA education programs are included in this change. Monthly benefits will be pro-rated in the same manner. Entitlement that previously would have been used for break pay will be available for use during a future enrollment."

For small breaks that fall within the term (i.e. Spring Break, Thanksgiving Break), payment will be given, but for breaks between terms payments will not be given effective August 1, 2011.

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9. What should I do regarding veterans benefits if I decide to withdraw from a class or change my enrollment?

You should contact the Office of Veteran & Military Student Service immediately; and whenever possible prior to dropping courses or withdrawing!

All registration changes (or withdrawals) are updated with the Department of Veterans Affairs as soon as possible. Some registration changes will result in overpayment and subsequent debt that the veteran will be responsible for.

Mitigating circumstances: There is a provision to submit an appeal to the VA on withdrawals that create debt for a veteran that included a situation beyond the student's control. Please email uaveteran@albany.edu to research more.

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10. Can I have my monthly veteran's benefit check sent directly to my checking account?

You can set up direct deposit with the Department of Veterans Affairs. You can supply this information when filling out the initial application for education benefits, or you can call the Department of Veterans Affairs 1-877-838-2778.

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11. What must I do if I am transferring from another institution where I previously received veteran's educational benefits?

You will need to notify the Department of Veterans Affairs that you are changing institutions.

This is done by completing an online form found here:
<https://www.va.gov/education/change-gi-bill-benefits/>

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12. I paid the extra buy up towards my GI Bill. How much will I receive in addition to the base amount?

Please review the information found on the Department of Veterans Affairs website: <https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/montgomery-active-duty/buy-up/>

Please note that students using the Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits are not eligible to receive the additional "buy up" amount.

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13. Who qualifies for VA benefits under the Vocational Rehabilitation Program (Chapter 31)?

Chapter 31 is separate from the GI Bill. Eligibility based on a service-connected disability. Veterans who are looking to receive Vocational Rehabilitation benefits should view the webpage below: <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/index.htm>

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14. Will I receive the future increases in the GI Bill?

The Department of Veterans Affairs typically increases their payment rates for each program every October; rates found here: https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/resources/benefits_resources/rate_tables.asp

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15. Can I receive GI money while attending classes during the summer?

Students can use their GI Bill during the summer term. Enrollment is **reported and paid based only on the actual dates of the courses you are attending.**

This means your status (full-time, part-time, etc.) will vary based on the length of the course you are taking.

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Less than standard / full term length examples;

- A course worth 3 credits that is being taught for 4 weeks will be considered full-time enrollment.
- A course worth 4 credits that is being taught for 6 weeks will be considered full-time enrollment.

You should contact the Office of Veteran & Military Student Services at uaveteran@albany.edu to determine your exact status during the summer term. Please provide as much advance notice prior to the summer to allow adequate time to review before liability begins.