

Veterans Guide to Education Benefits



Military and Veteran Success



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Department of Veterans Affairs

www.va.gov

1-888-442-4551 (GI Bill® Hotline)

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET

Louisiana National Guard Tuition Exemption

Who is eligible?

- Actively drilling members of the LA National Guard- Army or Air (cannot be in the Inactive National Guard- ING)
- Must be in good standing with the University (Cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher)
- Must be in good standing with the Louisiana National Guard (no flags for PT, HTWT, drug test failure, etc.)
- Must have a home of record in Louisiana

How does it work?

- If you are eligible, you will receive free tuition at all in-state, public colleges or universities in Louisiana
- You are still responsible for all fees associated with attending, such as:
 - Books
 - Housing
 - Meal plan
 - All other university/state sanctioned fees
- You may use it to pay for an Associate's, Bachelor's, or Master's Degree
 - You may only use it to earn one degree
 - It will not pay for Doctorate level courses

Best Practices

- Submit your VCR to the OMVS right after completing priority registration. This will ensure your benefits are applied in a timely manner.
- Stay in good-standing with your National Guard unit and maintain good PT scores and Height/weight.
- Pay the balance on your LEONET account on-time to ensure you do not lose classes. Set up a payment plan if needed to split the payments up throughout the semester.
- Consider utilizing the Chapter 1606 monthly stipend while enrolled in school. The current monthly rate for full-time enrollment is \$439. This money can help you pay for fees, books, etc. Contact Mr. Leonard Acker at leonard.c.acker.civ@army.mil to see if you are eligible for this benefit.

Note: If you do become ineligible at any point, that does not mean you lose it permanently. Once you are back in good standing, you may begin using the benefit again.

Chapter 33- Post 9/11 GI Bill®

Who is eligible?

- Current and former service members who have:
 - Completed at least 90 days of qualifying Active-Duty service on or after September 11, 2001
 - Received a Purple Heart on or after September 11, 2001 and were honorably discharged
 - Served for at least 30 consecutive days on or after September 11, 2001 and were honorably discharged with a service-connected disability
 - You're a dependent child or spouse using benefits transferred by a qualifying Veteran or service member
- Go on to www.va.gov and click "apply for education benefits". You will apply for Post 9/11 GI Bill®. Complete the application and wait for your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to come in the mail. We must have a copy of the COE on file in our office in order for you to use benefits at Southeastern.
 - If you are the dependent, you will need the Social Security # of the person who transferred their benefits to you when you apply online.

How does it work?

- If you are eligible, you will receive:
 - A percentage of your tuition and fee bill paid directly to the school. If you are 100%, they pay 100%. If you are only 60%, they will only pay 60% of the total.
 - The VA will not pay the school for vehicle registration fees, meal plans, on-campus housing or book fees because the monthly housing allowance and book stipend come directly to you for that purpose.
 - Monthly housing allowance for your zip code
 - Book stipend (up to \$1,000 per academic year)
- You must verify your enrollment with the VA every month or **you will not be paid**. If you opted-in to receiving text messages from VA, then you will receive a monthly text message that you must respond to. Otherwise, call 1-888-442-4551 to verify over the phone.
- Keep in mind that the money you receive from the VA is pro-rated based on the number of days you were enrolled in school that month. The first and last month of the semester are usually only half of the month, so expect to receive a partial payment during those months.

Chapter 1606- Montgomery GI Bill® Selected Reserve

Who is eligible?

- Actively drilling members of the National Guard and Reserves (Enlisted or Officers) who are serving on a six-year contract that:
 - Have completed Initial Active-Duty Training (Basic and AIT/BOLC)
 - Have a high school diploma or GED
 - Are in good standing with their unit
- You must contact Mr. Leonard Acker at leonard.c.acker.civ@army.mil to see if you are eligible before applying on the VA website.
- Go on to www.va.gov and click “apply for education benefits”. You will apply for Montgomery GI Bill® Selected Reserve Chapter 1606. Complete the application and wait for your Certificate of Eligibility (COE) to come in the mail. We must have a copy of the COE on file in our office in order for you to use benefits at Southeastern.
- This benefit can be combined with National Guard Tuition Exemption.

How does it work?

- Once we have received your COE, we will certify your enrollment with the VA.
- You must verify your enrollment each month with the VA by doing one of the following:
 - Visiting <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do>
 - Calling 1-877-823-2378
- You will then receive a monthly stipend directly to your bank account at the rate comparable to your enrollment in school:
 - Full time (12 hours or more): \$439 per month
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ time: \$329 per month
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ time: \$219 per month
 - Less than $\frac{1}{2}$: 109.75 per month
 - Full time enrollment for summer is 6 hours
- Keep in mind that the money you receive from the VA is pro-rated based on the number of days you were enrolled in school that month. The first and last month of the semester are usually only half of the month, so expect to receive a partial payment during those months.

Title 29- Louisiana Dependents Tuition Waiver

Who is eligible?

- Surviving spouses and children of deceased Veterans
- Children of Veterans rated with 90% or more service-connected disability
- Children of Veterans rated with 100% service-connected disability due to unemployability
- Veterans must meet residency requirements under La.R.S. 29:288. The Veteran must hold a valid Louisiana driver's license that is at least two years old.
- Those who believe they are eligible may apply at their local parish Veterans office. This must be done in-person and should be completed at least one month before the start of the school semester.
 - Find local VSO office and apply in-person: <https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov/locations/>

How does it work?

- At the beginning of your enrollment at Southeastern, you must bring the **original** Title 29 certificate to the school so we can keep it on file.
- You must also submit the VCR form to our office every semester that you are enrolled. We will use this form to apply the tuition waiver to your account. This will remove the tuition and fees from your account.
- You must maintain full-time enrollment for the entire semester or your waiver will be removed and you will have to pay the University for the classes you took.
- Many students who qualify for Title 29 also qualify for a Federal VA benefit called Chapter 35, which is a monthly stipend for dependents.
- You can use the waiver for four academic years, which includes Fall, Spring AND Summer.
- You lose eligibility for the waiver once you reach the age of 25 or have completed four years of schooling, whichever comes first.

Chapter 30- Montgomery GI Bill® Active Duty

Who is eligible?

- Active-duty service members who served at least two years on active-duty who have a high school diploma and contributed the \$1200 to participate in the program.
- The full list of eligibility requirements can be found at:
<https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/montgomery-active-duty/>

How does it work?

- Active-duty with at least three continuous years of service will receive:
 - Full-time: \$2,358 per month
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ time: \$1,768.50 per month
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ time: \$1,179.00 per month
- Active-duty with between two and three years of service will receive:
 - Full time: \$1,913.00 per month
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ time: \$1,434.75 per month
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ time: \$956.50 per month
- Chapter 30 will also pay for flight training. They will cover 60% of the program cost.

Chapter 31- Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)

If you have a service-connected disability that limits your ability to work or prevents you from working, Veteran Readiness and Employment (formerly called Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment) can help. This program—also known as Chapter 31 or VR&E—helps you explore employment options and address education or training needs. In some cases, your family members may also qualify for certain benefits.

Who is eligible?

- Active-duty service members who:
 - Did not receive a dishonorable discharge and
 - Have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10% from the VA
- If you qualify for Post 9/11 **and** VR&E, you may be able to receive Post 9/11 subsistence

How does it work?

- You must apply for Ch. 31 benefits at www.va.gov
- Once approved and working with a VR&E counselor, you must submit your VCR paperwork to our office each semester.
- All of your classes must be approved by your advisor and your VR&E Counselor. You may not make schedule adjustments without getting prior approval from your counselor.

For more information, visit: <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/eligibility/>

Ch. 35- Federal Dependents Education Assistance

Who is eligible?

One of the descriptions listed below must be true:

- The Veteran or service member is permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability, **or**
- The Veteran or service member died while on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability, **or**
- The Veteran or service member is missing in action or was captured in the line of duty by a hostile force, **or**
- The Veteran or service member was forcibly detained (held) or interned in the line of duty by a foreign entity, **or**
- The Veteran or service member is in the hospital or getting outpatient treatment for a service-connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability (effective December 23, 2006)

If you're the child of a Veteran or service member

- You can get benefits if you're between the ages of 18 and 26, except in certain cases. You may be married or unmarried.
- If you're over 18 years old and using DEA, you can't get Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from us.
[Learn about DIC](#)
- If you join the military, you can't use this benefit while on active duty. And if you want to use this benefit after you leave the service, you can't have a dishonorable discharge. Military service can extend your eligibility, but this increase doesn't usually go past your 31st birthday.

If you're the spouse of a Veteran or service member

- Your benefits start on the date we conclude that you qualify or on the date of the Veteran's death, and last for 10 years.
- If we rated the Veteran as permanently and totally disabled, with an effective date that's 3 years after discharge from active duty, you'll qualify for benefits for 20 years from that effective date. This new policy began on October 10, 2008. We won't pay benefits for training you started before this date.
- If the service member died on active duty, your benefits end 20 years from the date of death.
- You can get DIC payments from us and use DEA benefits.

How does it work?

- You must submit a VCR form to our office prior to the start of the semester. We will certify your courses with the VA.
- The VA will send you a monthly payment based on your enrollment status:
 - Full time (12 hours or more): \$1,488 per month
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ time: \$1,176 per month
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ time: \$862 per month

Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA)

Who is eligible?

- Actively drilling members of the Army National Guard and Army & Air Reserves
- Active-duty members of the Air Force and Space Force

Army and Air- National Guard & Reserves

- You must be pursuing an Associate's, Bachelor's or Master's Degree. The Army or Air Force will pay up to \$250 per semester hour, with an annual cap of \$4,000. You may also receive funding to obtain special job licenses and certifications, such as Certified Personal Trainer, Welding, Project Management, etc.
- Go to www.armyignited.army.mil to create an account. You will need your CAC for the initial login.
- Create an education goal based on your degree path desired. Once the goal is approved in the system, you may create a Tuition Assistance Request (TAR). This process can take up to seven days.
- Create a Tuition Assistance Request (TAR) for each class you are taking. This must be submitted NO LATER than 7 days prior to the start of the semester. **If you submit the request late, it will not be approved and the Army will not pay.** Get them turned in early so there are no issues with your funding.
- **The Army will NOT reimburse you for courses you've already paid for. The request for funding must always be done in advance.**
- This benefit can be combined with Chapter 1606 monthly stipend. (See page 10)
- If you fail one of these classes or withdraw, you must pay back the Army.

Active-duty Air Force and Space Force

- Pays up to \$250 per semester hour and no more than \$4,500 per year.
- You must submit the tuition request on <https://afvec.us.af.mil/afvec/public/welcome> no earlier than 45 days before classes start and no later than 7 days before classes begin.
- The Air Force will also pay for you to obtain special job licenses/certifications. You can find more information here: <https://afvec.us.af.mil/afvec/af-cool/welcome>

Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship

Who is eligible?

- You may be eligible for Fry Scholarship benefits if you're the child or surviving spouse of:
 - A member of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty while serving on active duty on or after September 11, 2001, or
 - A member of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty while not on active duty on or after September 11, 2001, or
 - A member of the Selected Reserve who died from a service-connected disability on or after September 11, 2001

How does it work?

- You may be able to get up to 36 months of benefit including:
 - Money for tuition (paid directly to the school)
 - Money for housing (paid to you)
 - Money for books and supplies (paid to you)
- You must verify your enrollment with the VA each month to confirm you are still in school. You may call 1-888-442-4551 to verify manually or respond to the monthly text message. You must OPT-IN to text messages on the VA website in order to be eligible for the text message option.
- Keep in mind that the money you receive from the VA is pro-rated based on the number of days you were enrolled in school that month. The first and last month of the semester are usually only half of the month, so expect to receive a partial payment during those months.

Louisiana National Guard Patriot Scholarship

Actively drilling members of the Louisiana National Guard who are pursuing an undergraduate degree (Associate's or Bachelor's) are now eligible to have all mandatory fees paid for through the Patriot Scholarship, which went into effect through House Bill 485, effective August 1, 2023. This scholarship is not available for guardsmen pursuing a graduate degree (Master's or Doctorate)

At Southeastern Louisiana University, the fees that do not fall under "mandatory" are:

- Textbook rental fee- \$60 per class
- ID Fee- \$18 per semester
- On-campus housing fees
- Meal plans
- Parking pass fees

In order to have this scholarship applied to your account each semester, please make sure you check the box on the VCR Form.

If your cumulative GPA falls below a 2.0, you will be on probation and no longer be eligible for this program. Once you get your GPA above a 2.0, you can have the scholarship back for future semesters.

You must also stay in good standing with your National Guard unit and maintain a passing PT score, height and weight, no drug test failures, etc.

The table below reflects the amount of money that will be covered if you receive both tuition exemption and Patriot Scholarship from the National Guard. This is a fantastic program for guardsmen, so make sure you take care of business so you don't lose eligibility.

Credit Hours	3	6	9	12	15	18
Tuition \$	722.15	1444.30	2166.45	2888.60	2888.60	2888.60
Mandatory Fees \$	659.45	872.55	1085.45	1298.10	1391.10	1838.10
Total \$	1381.60	2316.85	3251.90	4186.70	4279.70	4726.70

Folds of Honor Scholarships

Folds of Honor offers scholarships (in the amount of \$5,000 per academic year) to the children of service members who have a VA disability rating, those who died due to service-related issues, or those who died in the line of duty. The following scholarships are available:

- **Military Children's Fund**
 - Applicant must be: enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited private school OR tutoring institution (must be fully enrolled before accepting a scholarship award offer).
 - At least age 5 (by September 1st of calendar year applying in) and enrolled in full-time Kindergarten program.
 - The parent must have a 90% VA disability rating or higher, be KIA, killed in the line of duty, or deceased with a VA disability rating.
- **Higher Education Fund**
 - Applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a program of study at an accredited college or university (2-year, 4-year, or post-graduate program), or enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited technical or trade school program, which results in a certificate or license.
 - The parent must have a 10% VA disability rating or higher, be KIA, killed in the line of duty, or deceased with a VA disability rating.

Applications must be submitted online at www.foldsofhonor.org/scholarships and the deadline to apply is March 31st for the 2024-2025 award year.



FOLDS *of* HONOR

Joint Services Transcript (JST)

As a member of the United States military, you may be eligible to receive college credits for training completed in the military. In order to get credit, you must visit <https://jst.doded.mil/official.html> to view your Joint Services Transcript. You must request for an official copy of your JST be sent directly to Southeastern through the JST website. If you do not submit the transcript, then we cannot give you credit for military training. This is a VA Requirement, because they do not want to pay for you to take a class you could've already received credit for.

Request Forms and Contact Information

Army and National Guard:

Toll Free: 1.888.276.9472

Log in at <https://jst.doded.mil> to order your transcript

Only if your institute is not listed should you use the following form: Official Transcript Request Form (Army)

Coast Guard

USCG ETQC

E-Mail: ETQC-SMB-RO@USCG.MIL

Fax: (757)366-6575

Log in at <https://jst.doded.mil> to order your transcript

In cases where an official transcript should go to a future employer, to a program manager, or to a special college program, please complete the special mailing form. Official Transcript Special Mailing Request Form

Marine Corps

JST Technology Operations Center

E-Mail: jst@doded.mil

Fax: Comm: 850.473.6013 DSN: 753.6013

Log in at <https://jst.doded.mil> to order your transcript

If you have problems ordering online, use the form located at: Official Transcript Request Form (Special Mail)

Navy

JST Technology Operations Center

E-Mail: jst@doded.mil

Fax: Comm: 850.473.6013 DSN: 753.6013

Log in at <https://jst.doded.mil> to order your transcript

If you have problems ordering online, use the form located at: Official Transcript Request Form (Navy)

Air Force

<https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/32882/institution> (Community College of the Air Force)