

Veterans Educational Benefits

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What should I do to get my Veterans Affairs benefits started? Contact the Veterans Affairs Coordinator, located in Moss Hall, Room 204 803.536.8826 or 803.536.7185.

When will my enrollment certification be submitted to the DVA? All enrollment certifications are electronically submitted to the DVA. No certification will be submitted until the student is officially registered in the University's Student Information System.

How do I contact the Department of Veterans Affairs? Students may inquire about the status of a pending claim through the Muskogee Regional Office Claim inquiry at 1.888.442.4551.

How will the DVA pay tuition and my tuition reimbursement? All students who receive veterans educational benefits are responsible for the same tuition policies as other SCSU students. Tuition policies are in the semester schedule and catalog policies are in the semester schedule and catalog which are distributed by SCSU. The DVA will not send money to SCSU for a student's tuition reimbursement. Money for educational benefits will be mailed directly to the student or deposited into the student's bank account. Direct deposit is not available for Chapter 35 students.

Does the Coordinator for Veterans Affairs determines or knows the specific dollar amount of a student's entitlement? NO. Please consult the following DVA website for benefit pay charts: <http://www.va.gov/education/benefits.htm> For specific information, the student should contact the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1.888.442.4551.

Does the Coordinator of Veterans Affairs knows when money is sent to students? NO For specific information, the student should contact the Muskogee Regional Office at 1.888.442.4551.

Do changes in enrollment status or address can delay payment? YES. An Enrollment Certification Request must be turned in every semester with a stamped copy of the student's schedule.

Do students have to report all changes (drop/add)? YES. Students must report any changes in class schedule within two business days to avoid over/ under payment of benefits. This is mandatory for all VA students.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCSU Veterans Affairs Office	803.536-8826
	803.536.7185
SCSU Veterans Affairs Fax	803.536.8602
SCSU Registrar's Office	803.536.7185
Department of Veterans Affairs	888.442.4551
Chapter 30/1606 Attendance Verification	877.823.2378

IMPORTANT NOTES

Veterans or students eligible for VA benefits are not allowed to enroll in any courses that do not apply toward the degree program, even if the courses do not extend the time it takes to complete the degree. It is strictly forbidden by law to enroll in extra courses to boost monthly benefits.

Veterans or students eligible for VA benefits are not allowed to repeat courses wherein the grade letter "D" is passing. Be advised that these classes will be deducted from your credits hours because the Department of Veterans Affairs will not issue payment for repeated classes with a passing grade.





Please Note: Through the Department of Veterans Affairs there can be a 6 to 8 weeks processing time to determine your eligibility for VA benefits.

SC State University is committed to assisting veterans in taking advantage of their educational benefits and providing them and their family members with opportunities for educational and career growth.

FIRST-TIME STUDENTS/ TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students who are initially applying for veterans benefits should complete VA Form 22-1990, Application for Educational Benefits. If not on active duty, the copy 4 of DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, must be submitted with the VA Form 22-1990. Students eligible under Chapter 1606 will submit DD Form 2384. DD Form 2384 is issued to the students by their Reserve Unit. Students eligible under Chapter 35 will complete VA Form 22-5490.

CHAPTER 34: OLD GI BILL

This program was discontinued on December 31, 1989. Generally, veteran students under this chapter entered active duty prior to January 1, 1977. Certain students eligible under this chapter on December 31, 1989, may also be eligible for Chapter 30 educational benefits if they have additional active duty service from October 19, 1984 through June 30, 1985, and meet other criteria as established under Chapter 30 guidelines.

CHAPTER 32: VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

You are eligible to receive educational benefits under this chapter, if you entered active duty for the first time after December 31, 1976 and before July 1, 1985 and contributed at least \$25 per month or made a lump sum payment to establish eligibility. You must have enrolled in and contributed to the VEAP program prior to April 1, 1987.

CHAPTER 35: SURVIVOR'S AND DEPENDANTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Children, spouses and surviving spouses of veterans who died of service-connected disabilities or who are permanently and totally disabled because of military duty, may be eligible for educational benefits under this program.

CHAPTER 30: MONTGOMERY GI BILL— ACTIVE DUTY

The Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty, also called MGIB, provides up to 36 months of education benefits to eligible veterans. Eligible veterans must have an honorable discharge and a high school diploma or GED. Benefit entitlement ends 10 years after separation from active duty. The VA pays a monthly stipend based on the number of credits taken in an academic program.

CHAPTER 1606: MONTGOMERY GI BILL — SELECTED RESERVE

The Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve program may be available to veterans who are members of the Selected Reserve. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, the Army National Guard, and the Air National Guard. Veterans may be entitled to receive up to 36 months of education benefits. Benefit entitlement ends 14 years from the date of eligibility for the program, or on the day one has left the Selected Reserve. The VA pays a monthly stipend based on the number of credits taken in the academic program.

CHAPTER 1607(REAP): THE RESERVE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Reserve Education Assistance Program is a Department of Defense education benefit program designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the President of the United States or Congress. The Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security will determine who is eligible for this program. The Department of Veterans Affairs will administer the program and pay benefits from funds contributed by the Department of Defense. The VA pays a percentage of the Montgomery GI Bill based on the aggregate length of service on active duty and the number of credits the veteran taken in the academic program.

CHAPTER 33: THE POST 9/11 GI BILL

On July 4, 2008, President George W. Bush signed historic legislation into law, significantly changing the GI Bill. The Post-9/11 GI Bill, commonly referred to as Chapter 33, effective August 1,

2009, offers the following benefits to veterans:

- **tuition and fees**—based on the maximum in-state rate for South Carolina; paid directly to SC State
- **housing allowance**—based on the ZIP code where the school is located; certain limitations apply
- **funds for books and supplies**—up to \$1,000 a year
- **longer periods to exercise benefits**—up to 15 years from release date, following a minimum of 90 days on active duty

CHAPTER 31: VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment is a Department of Veteran Affairs program designed to help veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs. The VA will pay 100 percent tuition and fees, 100 percent of required books and supplies, and a living allowance. To qualify for this program, a veteran must be approved by a vocational rehabilitation case manager. Veterans who think they may qualify for this assistance should contact the Department of Veterans Affairs information and counseling at **1.888.442.4551**.

VETERANS AFFAIRS WORKSTUDY

Students eligible for VA educational benefits and attending classes at a full-time level qualify for a VA-funded work-study position. All work-study positions are related to veterans' benefits, and there are a variety of work-study positions available in Columbia and Orangeburg. Applications for work-study are accepted on a first come first serve basis.

SOUTH CAROLINA FREE TUITION PROGRAM This program is offered by the State of South Carolina. No funds are appropriated for this program since its benefits are simply tuition waivers at any of the state supported universities, colleges, and post-high school technical educational institutions. All children who qualify may receive benefits, regardless of financial needs, up to and including their twenty-sixth (26) birthday.

Applications can be obtained from any County Veterans Affairs Office, the SCSU Veterans Affairs Office, or the Governor's Office, Division of Veterans Affairs Office, VA Regional Office Room 230, 1801 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201 or call **803.255.317/803.255.4256**. Collect calls cannot be accepted.



Veterans Educational Benefits