

Veterans Programs

CHAPTER 33 - POST 9/11 GI BILL®

Individuals who have served at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after September 11, 2001 may be eligible for this program. Individuals who were in a selected reserve component and served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001 for at least 90 consecutive days may be eligible for this program.

Application package includes:

- Form 22-1990 – Application of Education Benefits (Can be found online at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/vonapp>)
- Certificate of Eligibility

CHAPTER 31 - VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

This benefit is designed to assist veterans with a service-related disability in obtaining and maintaining employment. A service-related disability rating of 20% or more is required as part of the eligibility requirements.

- Veterans should apply for vocational rehabilitation through the County Veterans Service Office and must follow guidelines from the Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Division of the DVA regarding application and admission requirements

CHAPTER 1606 - SELECTED RESERVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Individuals who have agreed to serve six years, on or after July 1, 1985, or extended an enlistment for a period of at least six years in the selected reserve may be eligible for this program.

Application package includes:

- Form 22-1990 – Application of Education Benefits (Can be found online at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/vonapp>)
- Certificate of Eligibility or Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE) (Copies are obtained from your National Guard or Reserve component)

CHAPTER 35 - SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENT'S EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Surviving spouses and children of veterans who meet the following criteria may be eligible for this program:

- Suffered a service-related death,
- Died as a result of a service-related disability or
- Receive a 100% permanent and total service-related disability.

Application package includes:

- Form 22-5490 -- Application for Survivor's and Dependent's Educational Assistance (Can be found online at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/vonapp>)

- Certificate of Eligibility

ALABAMA G.I. DEPENDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Children and spouses of veterans who meet the following criteria may be eligible for this program:

- Must have honorably served at least 90 or more days of continuous active federal military service or be honorably discharged by reason of service-connected disability after serving less than 90 days of continuous active federal military service during wartime
- Must be rated 20% or more disabled due to service-connected disabilities or have held the qualifying rating at the time of death, a former Prisoner of War (POW), declared Missing in Action (MIA), died as a result of a service-connected disability, or died while on active military service in the line of duty
- Must be a permanent civilian resident of the State of Alabama for at least one year immediately prior to (a) the initial entry into active military service, or (b) any subsequent period of military service in which a break (one year or more) in service occurred and the Alabama civilian residency was established.

To Apply:

Contact your county's Veterans Affairs Office, or call 334- 242-5077.

- If the student is deemed eligible, the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs will send a certificate of eligibility to the student and to the approved school

ALABAMA NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ANGEAP)

Students in the Alabama National Guard may be eligible for up to \$5,232.00 per semester minus other aid. All Alabama National Guard Members are encouraged to apply by filling out the ANGEAP request each semester and turning it in to the VA School Certifying Official in the Office of Student Financial Services. The stipend is not set for any period of time during the semester, and the Office of Student Financial Services cannot provide information regarding the time of payment.

Once the ANGEAP request is turned in, the SCO will forward it to the Alabama National Guard office. When all required channels have approved the request, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) will send the school a check for the approved amount. The ANGEAP is a Limited Funded Program, and submission of this application does not ensure that funds will be available when application arrives at ACHE.

TUITION ASSISTANCE (TA)

Tuition assistance (TA) is a Department of Defense (DOD) program. GoArmyEd is the virtual gateway for all eligible Active Duty, National Guard, and Army Reserve soldiers to request tuition assistance (TA) online, anytime, anywhere, for classroom and distance learning. It allows soldiers to manage their education records, including college classes, testing, on-duty classes, and Army education counselor support. Soldiers may request TA through www.GoArmyEd.com prior to the course start date. GoArmyEd will notify the soldier whether the TA is approved or not. If the TA request is not approved, GoArmyEd will advise the soldier of the reason and next steps. All drops/withdrawals must be handled through GoArmyEd. Soldiers who do not successfully complete a class due to military reasons must request a Withdrawal for Military Reasons through GoArmyEd and complete all required steps to ensure that they will not be charged. Students have 14 days from the start of the semester to input information into the GoArmyEd system for TA approval.

VA POLICY ON TUITION AND FEE RATE

The following individuals shall be charged a rate of tuition not to exceed the in-state rate for tuition and fees purposes:

- A Veteran using educational assistance under either chapter 30 or chapter 33, of title 38, United States Code, who lives in Alabama while attending a school located in Alabama (regardless of his/her formal State of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge or release from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- Anyone using transferred chapter 33 benefits (38 U.S.C. 3319) who lives in Alabama while attending a school located in Alabama (regardless of his/her formal State of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the transferor's discharge or release from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more.
- Anyone described above while her or she remains continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters, or terms) at the same school. The person so described must have enrolled in the school prior to the expiration of the three-year period following discharge or release as described above and must be using educational benefits under either chapter 30 or chapter 33, of title 38, United States Code.
- Anyone using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (38 U.S.C. 3311 (b)(9)) who lives in Alabama while attending a school located in Alabama (regardless of his/her formal State of residence).
- Anyone using transferred chapter 33 benefits (38 U.S.C. 3319) who lives in Alabama while attending a school located in Alabama (regardless of his/her formal State of residence) and the transferor is a member of the uniformed service who is serving on active duty.

The policy shall be read to be amended as necessary to be compliant with the requirements of 38 U.S.C. 3679 as amended.

VA COMPLAINT POLICY

- "Any VA Complaint against the school should be routed through the VA / GI Bill® Feedback System by going to the following link: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/Feedback.asp>. The VA will then follow up through the appropriate channels to investigate the complaint and resolve it satisfactorily."

CERTIFYING ENROLLMENT

Certification is the process by which the College verifies to the VA a student's dates of attendance, degree program and number of credit hours taken. The VA will not pay any student without receiving this certification. VA students must submit their "concise" schedule each semester to Student Financial Services and complete the Enrollment Certification Request before being certified for that semester to ensure all classes meet requirements. VA students must also notify the School Certifying Official of any changes in their schedule (adding/ dropping courses).

The VA Certifying Official will process all certifications in a timely manner. The Vaonce web based system will email students certification information.

NOTE: All courses taken must be in your selected program. VA students will not be certified for, nor paid by the VA, for courses that are not in their program, audited classes, repeats, withdrawals or non-required courses.

CHANGES IN SCHEDULE

All add/drop changes after initial certification should be reported by the student to the Northwest-Shoals Community College Student Financial Services and are forwarded to the VA Regional Office. Withdrawing or adding classes may change the eligible monthly rate received by the student, and if not reported in a timely manner could lead to an underpayment or overpayment of benefits. Students are encouraged to report these changes in a timely manner to avoid these situations. The VA Certifying Official should report all changes to the VA within 30 days of the date of the change.

CHANGING MAJOR

Students must report a change of major to the VA Certifying Official in the College's Student Financial Services at the beginning of the semester in which the change occurs. Students will be required to complete a change of program request, VA Form 22-1995 (chapters 33, 30, 1606 and 1607) or 22-5495 (chapter 35). For chapter 31 students, see your case manager.

PAYMENT OF TUITION AND FEES

All VA students are responsible for making payment for tuition and fees by the payment due date to avoid being dropped from courses. Chapter 33, Chapter 31 and Alabama G.I. students will only have to pay the balance of what their benefit level does not cover at the time tuition and fee payment is due.

Students utilizing VA education benefits shall not be charged a penalty, including assessment of late fees, denial of access to classes, Libraries, or other institutional facilities, or be required to borrow additional funds because of the individual's inability to meet their financial obligations due to the delayed disbursement of a payment to be provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.