

Dependents: Chapter 35, Fry Scholarship, and VMSDEP

Office of Veteran Services
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Blacksburg, VA 24061
540-231-5815
Email: veteran@vt.edu

Welcome Military-Connected Students

We are pleased you selected Virginia Tech to continue your education. Welcome to Hokie nation! Virginia Tech is proud of its long military history and has a strong commitment to supporting the success of our military-connected students, which includes dependents. The information below will guide you through the application process so you can utilize your Veterans Affairs education benefits. If you are unsure of which benefit to apply for, please review the program descriptions on the back of this sheet, consult the VA's dependent programs page at (<https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/DEA.asp>), or call the Office of Veteran Services for assistance.

Step 1: Apply for Benefits

To utilize the Chapter 35 Dependent Education Assistance (DEA) Program, the student must apply for the benefit. Go to (www.va.gov), select "Apply for Education Benefits" then answer the questions under "Find your Education Benefits Form". You will be routed to form 22-5490. Complete this form and submit. The VA will process your request in about 30-45 days. *When applying, make sure to give the VA your banking information for direct deposit, provide a good mailing address for the VA to send a COE, list Virginia Tech as your place of attendance, and list your intended major if known.*

Step 2: Submit COE to Virginia Tech

The dependent will receive in the mail a **Certificate of Eligibility (COE)**. The COE will be mailed after the application is processed online. Once you receive your COE, please send a **copy** of this letter to the Office of Veteran Services by mail, email, or in-person.

Step 3: Register for Classes

Most new freshman and transfer students will register for classes during summer orientation. Be sure to register only for classes that are required for your degree. ***The VA will not pay for classes that are not required!***

Step 4: Complete Veterans Enrollment Certification Form

The "Veterans Enrollment Certification Form" is an online form found on the student's Hokie Spa. After registering for classes, complete and submit this form to use VA benefits. This form must be completed every semester a student wants to utilize benefits, and must be redone within 7 days of every change of enrollment, i.e., add, drop, or withdrawal during the semester. ***Benefits will not be certified if this form is not completed.***

Important Reminders

Apply for benefits early!

Set up an E-benefits account with the VA

Students transferring must complete the VA Form 22-5495 Dependent's Change of Place or Program or Training



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There are two main VA programs offering education assistance to survivors and dependents of veterans:

- The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program (Chapter 35) offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans. For a dependent to qualify, eligibility is based on veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition, or who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.
- The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) is available for children and spouses of service members who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001.

You may be eligible for more than one of these (federal) programs. In most situations, you will be required to make **an irrevocable election between the DEA program and Fry Scholarship when you apply**. Additionally, if you are a Virginia resident, please review your eligibility for the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program (VMSDEP) prior to making your decision. *See information below*

Chapter 35 Payment Info

- Chapter 35 payments are made directly to the student and based on level of enrollment (i.e. full-time vs. part-time). Current payment rates are found at:
https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/resources/benefits_resources/rates/ch35/ch35rates100118.asp
Virginia Tech enrollment status by credit hours are found at:
<https://www.registrar.vt.edu/registration-enrollment.html>
- Since this program provides a monthly amount paid to the student directly, ***students will be required to pay all tuition, fees, housing, and meals charges (if living on campus) by the bill due date***. If charges are not paid by the bill due date, the student will be subject to late fees and holds. There is a payment plan available through the Bursar's office called the Budget Tuition Plan.

Fry Scholarship Payment Info

- The Fry scholarship provides: in-state tuition and fee costs, monthly housing allowances (BAH), and a books and supplies stipend. Please review the VA website for details, https://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/Fry_scholarship.asp

Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP)

The VMSDEP provides education benefits to spouses and children of military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or who became at least 90 percent disabled as a result of military service in an armed conflict. The purpose of VMSDEP is to provide undergraduate or other postsecondary education to eligible participants by providing a waiver of tuition and all required fees at any public institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution that grants a degree, diploma, or certificate in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Benefits are available for up to 4 academic years. There are very specific requirements to be eligible for this program. A dependent must apply directly with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. Please visit <http://www.dvs.virginia.gov/education-employment/virginia-military-survivors-and-dependents-education-program/> for more details and contact information.



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