

Military Service & Veterans' Benefits

Allowing Veterans to Attend or Participate in Courses Pending VA Payment

Section 103 of Public Law (PL) 115-407, 'Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018,' amends Title 38 US Code 3679 by adding a new subsection (e) that requires disapproval of courses of education, beginning August 1, 2019, at any educational institution that does not have a policy in place that will allow an individual to attend or participate in a course of education, pending VA payment, providing the individual submits a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to educational assistance under Chapter 31 or 33.

Pending Payment Compliance

In accordance with Title 38 US Code 3679(e), Dutchess Community College adopts the following additional provisions for any students using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Post-9/11 G.I. Bill® (Ch. 33) or Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (Ch. 31) benefits, while payment to the institution is pending from VA. Dutchess Community College will not:

- Prevent the student's enrollment;
- Assess a late penalty fee to the student;
- Require the student to secure alternative or additional funding;
- Deny the student access to any resources (access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities) available to other students who have satisfied their tuition and fee bills to the institution.

However, to qualify for this provision, such students may be required to:

- Produce the VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE) by the first day of class;
- Provide a written request to be certified;
- Provide additional information needed to properly certify the enrollment as described in other institutional policies

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The ***Veterans Resource Coordinator*** actively works with Student Financial Services staff regarding implementation and the processing of third-party payments, veteran benefits and financial aid awards. Student Financial Services staff members will assist for military service, veterans and dependent family members:

1. Monitoring/processing in-state residency requirement
2. Assisting veterans with tuition/payment information related to the G.I. Bill®
3. Processing Veteran's Payment Plan
4. Review financial aid, scholarship, work-study and student loan information
5. Administer financial aid policy for G.I. Bill and VR&E beneficiaries

[The Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020](#) requires educational institutions to make certain disclosures to students using federal military and/or VA educational benefits. To view and print a copy of an estimated personalized cost of attendance you can visit [the SUNY Net Price Cost Calculator](#) and select "Buff Univ" from the dropdown. Additional financial information can be found at the [NCES College Navigator](#) site.

Transfer Credits for Basic Military Training

Dutchess Community College follows the recommendations of the American Council on Education for granting credit for military courses and educational experiences for full-time or part-time matriculated students:

Request your official free transcript of ACE credit recommendations for military training at: *Joint Services Transcript* web-link: <https://jst.doded.mil/>

Students who served in the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard may receive transfer credits with the submission of their DD 214 for DCC course WFE 101 (3 credits), Lifetime Wellness and Fitness.

Please visit DCC's new Student Veteran Resource Center/lounge in Hudson rm.212. All registered students are allowed to use this room, and utilize all resources available. Contact Veteran's Resource Coordinator, Stewart Dawes at (845) 431-8339 or e-mail: dawes@sunydutchess.edu.

CHECKLIST FOR STUDENTS WITH MILITARY BACKGROUNDS

1. Contact the Financial Aid Office and **Certifying VA Official** to apply for your VA Educational Benefits. Please bring:
 - a) Your Application for VA or **Certificate of Eligibility** (C.O.E.)
 - b) Long form DD214 listing honorable discharge
 - c) Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE) form if Active Reserves
 - d) Change of Program or Place of Training form if you are a transfer student (VA Form 22-1995)
2. Apply for FAFSA- See below
3. Not using the GI Bill®, apply for NYS TAP (Tuition assistance)- See below with HESC
4. Visit <http://www.veterans.ny.gov> to use the NYS Veterans Education Benefits Calculator and learn about NY State specific benefits.
5. Military Tuition Assistance (T/A):
 - For program approval, please seek assistance from your military unit/retention officer
 - Provide proof of eligibility for military T/A
 - If you have a third party paying their bill (such as Navy Militia, Marines, Go Army Ed, etc.), DCC will need a voucher, or authorization letter from the student's third party as soon as possible
 - Student Financial Services will code your account for "tuition only," you will be required to pay the ancillary fees (i.e. student activities fees, etc.) as military T/A does not cover this
 - Apply for financial aid to cover these ancillary fees. Please complete all educational grant applications (Pell Grant & NYS TAP)
6. Contact the **VA Hotline** for additional information: **1 888-442-4551** **Fax: 1 716-857-3192**

GENERAL INFORMATION about VA Benefits can be found on www.gibill.va.gov.

To apply for benefits: www.vets.gov → **Apply for Educational Benefits**→ **Ed Benefits Application**

Federal Student Aid (Pell Grant) provides student financial aid based on family income. Students can apply on-line for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

NYS Higher Education Services Corp (HESC) provides financial assistance to eligible veterans and limited assistance to a child of a veteran. Please call 1-888-697-4372, to get current information. Also see website HESC.org. Please link to HESC's Military Corner: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/military-corner.html>

For MyCAA Benefits, please visit www.MilitaryOneSource.com for free resources and consultations for Active Duty Service Members, Veterans, and their families.

Directing Service members to visit the respective Military Service's educational portals:

AIR FORCE:

[https://www.myairforcebenefits.us.af.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal-Benefits/Military-Tuition-Assistance-\(MilTA\)?serv=24](https://www.myairforcebenefits.us.af.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal-Benefits/Military-Tuition-Assistance-(MilTA)?serv=24)
https://www.airforce.com/ways-to-serve/air-force-reserve?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwhb60BhCIARIsABGGtw_BxedjDq4zDU2I-sy6jhasipMhh3DWu3vAj14EinmcHLurmVBuVssaAv33EALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds

ARMY:

[https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal-Benefits/Tuition-Assistance-\(TA\)](https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/Federal-Benefits/Tuition-Assistance-(TA))
<https://www.goarmy.com/benefits/while-you-serve/education-training>

COAST GUARD:

<https://www.forcecom.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/FORCECOM-UNITS/ETQC/VOLUNTARY-EDUCATION/Tuition-Assistance/>
https://www.cool.osd.mil/uscg/costs_and_funding/index.html?TuitionAssistance

NAVY:

<https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/sailors/tuition-assistance>
https://www.cool.osd.mil/usn/costs_and_funding/index.html?TuitionAssistance#:~:text=Navy%20TA%20pays%2C%20up%2Dfront,school%20diploma%20or%20equivalency%20certificate.

MARINE CORP:

<https://albany.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/education/tuition-assistance>
<https://www.marforres.marines.mil/Staff-Sections/Special-Staff/Marine-Corps-Community-Services/Personal-Professional-Development/Voluntary-Education-Program/tuition-assistance/>

CHAPTER 30 - NEW G.I. BILL

Eligibility Requirements:

Serviceperson who served between July 1, 1985 - Present, and contributed \$100.00 per month for 12 months. Education and training are available up to 36 months of benefits. Time Limit: 10 year from release from last period of active duty. Limited extensions available.

CHAPTER 31 VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

Eligibility Requirements:

A veteran who has received, or will receive, a discharge that is other than dishonorable and has a service-connected disability rating of at least 10%, or a memorandum rating of 20% or more from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) may apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) VetSuccess services. The basic period of eligibility in which services may be used is 12 years from the latter of: the date of separation from active military service, or the date the veteran was first notified by VA of a service-connected disability rating. For additional information contact 1-212-807-3175 or 1-212-807-3080 <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/>

CHAPTER 33 – POST 9/11 GI BILL

Eligibility Requirements:

An individual who served on active duty after September 10, 2001 may be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill® if the individual served for an aggregate period of at least 90 days or was *discharged due to a service-connected disability after serving at least 30 continuous days on active duty after September 10, 2001*. Education and training are

available up to 36 months of benefits.

CHAPTER 35 SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS

Eligibility Requirements:

Sons, daughters, spouses of Veterans who have died or are permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability arising out of active service in the Armed Forces. *Note: Please submit a copy of the Veterans Social Security number to the VA Representative.*

CHAPTER 1606 MONTGOMERY G.I. BILL (Selected Reserve)

Eligibility Requirements:

Serviceperson who enlists, reenlists, or extends an enlistment in the Selected Reserves with an obligation to serve for a period of not less than 6 years in addition to any other period of obligated Selected Reserve service they are required to perform. Education and training are available up to 36 months of benefits. Time Limit: 14 year from the date eligibility for the program, or until release from the Selective Reserve or National Guard, whichever occurs first. Limited extensions available if activated.

NATIONAL GUARD & NAVAL MILITIA TUITION INCENTIVE

Eligibility Requirements:

NY State sponsored tuition awards to NY Army & Air National Guard & NY Naval Militia persons on active duty. Members must first apply for financial aid; TAP, Pell, APTS, etc. Any remaining tuition costs will be covered if funds are available. (Monies received from active duty Chapter 30 or Chapter 1606 are not counted as financial aid). Students must enroll for at least six credits per semester.

Additional Entitlements: *Note: additional entitlements may vary due to active status and/or transfer of entitlements*

VA Benefits for Summer Sessions:

3-week Winter session

3 credits = full-time

2 credits = ½ time

Less than 2 credits = tuition & fees

6-week session

5 credits = full-time

4 credits = ¾ time

3 credits = ½ time

Less than 3 credits = tuition & fees

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Buffalo Service Center VA Regional Processing Office
130 South Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202

Hotline: 1-888-442-4551
Fax: 1-716-857-3192