

Chapter 35: Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program

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Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance is an education benefit for eligible spouses and children of certain veterans. Eligible persons can receive up to 45 months of full-time or equivalent benefits for

- College, business, technical, or vocational school
- On-the-job training and apprenticeship programs
- Correspondence courses
- Flight training (in some cases)
- National tests
- Remedial, deficiency, and refresher training (in some cases)
- Cost of tests for licenses or certifications needed to get, keep, or advance in a job

Eligibility Information

To be eligible for Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance you must be the son, daughter, or spouse of

- A veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability. The disability must arise out of active service in the armed forces.
- A veteran who died from any cause while such service-connected disability was in existence
- A service member missing in action or captured in the line of duty by a hostile force
- A service member forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power
- A service member hospitalized or receiving outpatient care for a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-determined service-connected permanent and total disability may be eligible for these benefits.

Spouses and surviving spouses have 10 years from the date the VA establishes eligibility to use the benefit; however, surviving spouses of veterans who died while on active duty have 20 years from the date of the veteran's death to use the benefit.

Children may use the benefit while they are between the ages of 18 and 26.

Authoritative information about the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program is available online at gibill.va.gov or by calling the VA at 1-888-GIBILL1.

Tuition Coverage

The monthly benefit paid to you is based on the type of training program and training time you take.

Institutional Training

<i>Training Time</i>	<i>Monthly Rate</i>
Full time	\$925
Three-quarters time	\$694
Half time	\$461
Less than half time but more than...	\$461*
Quarter time or less	\$231.25*

*Tuition and fees **only**. Payment cannot exceed the listed amount.

Getting Started

To receive education benefits, you must have a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). You can apply for your COE by going to the VA web site at gibill.va.gov and applying for your federal education benefits using the Veteran Online Application (VONAPP).

Please submit completed forms or document copies to either the VA or the Registrar's Office, according to your circumstances.

If you have never applied for benefits, submit

- An Application for VA Benefits (VA Form 22-5490) through VONAPP
- A COE to the Registrar's Office
- A Veterans Registration Reporting Form to the Registrar's Office

If you have had a one-year break in attendance at Mason or if you used your benefit at another institution, submit

- A Change of Program or Place of Training (VA Form 22-5495) through VONAPP
- A COE to the Registrar's Office
- A Veterans Registration Reporting Form to the Registrar's Office

If you received your benefit at Mason within the last year, submit

- A Veterans Registration Reporting Form to the Registrar's Office
- The Veteran Registration Reporting Form is available online at military.gmu.edu.

Payment Policies

George Mason University realizes that today's student veterans should not be penalized because their federal education benefits are received in a manner inconsistent with other students receiving federal education benefits. As such, Mason implemented a Veteran Payment Plan for those student veterans who were receiving VA education benefits on a monthly basis.

Virginia's Military Survivors and Dependents Program

Virginia's Military Survivors and Dependents Program (MSDEP) provides education benefits to spouses and children of military service members killed, missing in action, taken prisoner, or at least 90 percent disabled as a result of military service in an armed conflict. This program may pay for tuition and fees at any state-supported college or university.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible, children and spouses of qualifying military service members must meet the following requirements:

The child must be between the ages of 16 and 29. There are no age restrictions for spouses.

The military service member is and must have been a Virginia citizen at the time he or she entered active duty or must have been a Virginia citizen for at least five years immediately prior to the date of the application for admission.

In the case of a deceased military service member, the veteran's surviving spouse can meet the residency requirements if he or she lived in Virginia for at least five years prior to marrying the military service member or has been a citizen of Virginia for at least five years immediately prior to the date of application.

Applications for the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Program are available through the Virginia Department of Veteran Services web site at dvs.virginia.gov.

Setting Your Azimuth to Graduation:

Step-by-Step Instructions

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.ed.gov. For more information on financial aid, go to the Office of Student Financial Aid. The application should be filed as soon as possible after January 1.

Apply! You can find information on admission to George Mason University and an online application at the Office of Admissions web site. Ensure you complete the attached Application for In-State Tuition and provide supporting documents. For more information on domicile issues, go to the Registrar's Office web site.

Apply for your federal GI Bill education benefits using the Veteran Online Application web site in order to receive a Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation Authorization Form.

Submit a copy of your authorization form to the Registrar's Office to complete the application process.

Complete the Veterans Registration Reporting Form each semester after registration is finalized to continue receiving benefits. The form is available online at military.gmu.edu.

Attend student orientation. University Orientation is offered over the summer for students enrolling in the fall semester and December through January for students enrolling in the spring semester. Information can be found on the Office of Orientation and Family Programs and Services web site.

Stop in and say hi! Visit the Office of Military Services to learn about more benefits you may be eligible to receive and meet other veterans attending Mason.

*George Mason University
is a proud participant in
the Yellow Ribbon Program.*



George Mason University

Where Innovation Is Tradition

Office of Military Services

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