

# VA Education Benefits

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How do I apply for VA education benefits?

- You must apply for your educational benefits through the VA in Muskogee, OK online at [vabenefits.vba.va.gov](http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov). Please call the VA education hotline for eligibility or payment history questions at 1-888-442-4551, or visit <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>.

### I have a parent who is a veteran. How can I receive VA education benefits because of their service time?

- See [Chapter 35 Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program](#) and [Chapter 33 Transfer of Eligibility for Dependents and Spouse](#). Eligibility must be determined with the VA before you can be certified by Baylor College of Medicine.

### How does Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) know I want to use my benefits?

- All VA Education Benefit students must submit a BCM Enrollment Certification Request to the School Certifying Official (SCO) every semester that you want to use your benefits. Enrollment Certification Requests should be turned in at least 6 weeks before the start of the next semester so that there is little to no delay in payment.

### How long does it take for me to start receiving money from my VA benefits?

- The Office of the Registrar certifies students' enrollments to the VA in the order requests are received. After you submit your paperwork it takes approximately 5 business days for the university to certify it to the VA. Afterwards, it takes the VA another 30 – 45 days to process your GI Bill award. It may take additional time for payments to post to your student account.

### What courses can be certified to the VA?

- Classes certified to the VA are classes required in your degree plan. If you are not registered in all degree applicable classes, your benefits from the VA may be affected.

### What fees can be certified to the VA?

- The VA specifies that only mandatory fees can be reported to the VA. Mandatory fees are fees that are charged to all students with no option to opt out. These fees do not include parking or health insurance. If not needed, students must opt out of the University Health Insurance. Health Insurance Fees will not be reported to the VA and will need to be paid out of pocket by you, the student, if not waived. (This process occurs every Academic Year with the BCM Benefits Office.)

### Does my financial aid tuition scholarship impact my Chapter 33 (Post 9/11) benefits?

- Your tuition amount will be sent to the VA reducing any tuition based scholarships received. The net cost of tuition and fees are assessed at Baylor College of Medicine after the application of any waiver of, or

reduction in, tuition and fees; and any scholarship, or other Federal, State, institutional, or employer-based aid or assistance (excluding loans). These regulations are outlined in [Public Law 111-377](#).

#### **What happens if there is a change in my schedule?**

- If you alter your enrollment after your original coursework has been certified, you must report this change to the SCO. The SCO will review your schedule to verify all courses are eligible for educational benefits. If our review results in a change in status, we will report the change to the VA. The VA will determine if they have overpaid you benefits for that semester and may request repayment. Repayment may include tuition, fees, book stipend, and basic allowance for housing (BAH).

#### **If I change academic programs, do I need to let the VA know?**

- Change in programs are the responsibility of the student and the institution to be reported to the VA. If you change programs mid semester this can cause classes you are registered for not to be certified to the VA. You must report any program changes to your SCO as soon as possible.

#### **Does Baylor College of Medicine accept Texas Hazlewood benefits?**

- Baylor College of Medicine is not a public institution and therefore is not eligible for participation in this Texas Program. For more information about the Hazlewood Act please visit: <http://www.tvc.texas.gov/Hazlewood-Act.aspx>

#### **Does Baylor College of Medicine participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program?**

- Baylor College of Medicine does not participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

#### **Since I receive VA benefits, will the anticipated payments be reflected on my Account Statement?**

- Tuition and fee payments under Ch. 33 and Ch. 31 from the VA are sent directly to Baylor College of Medicine to pay on your student account. Your account is flagged as anticipated aid to reduce your amount due on your bill until the payment is received. It may take additional processing time for the funds to appear on your student statement.

Books, supplies, housing stipends, and monthly stipends are all sent directly to the student and therefore will not be flagged on your student account.

#### **Can I use 2 different VA Educational Benefits at the same time?**

- No, although you may be entitled to several chapter benefits, you may only use one VA education benefit program at a time.

#### **Can a course that I have already taken be certified to the VA again?**

- If you previously took a course and received the required grade for graduation, the class cannot be certified to the VA again. If you previously took a class and did not receive the required grade for graduation, the class can be certified to the VA again.