



# EDUCATION BENEFITS ORIENTATION

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**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**



@gmu\_militaryservices



military.gmu.edu

# Follow us on Social Media

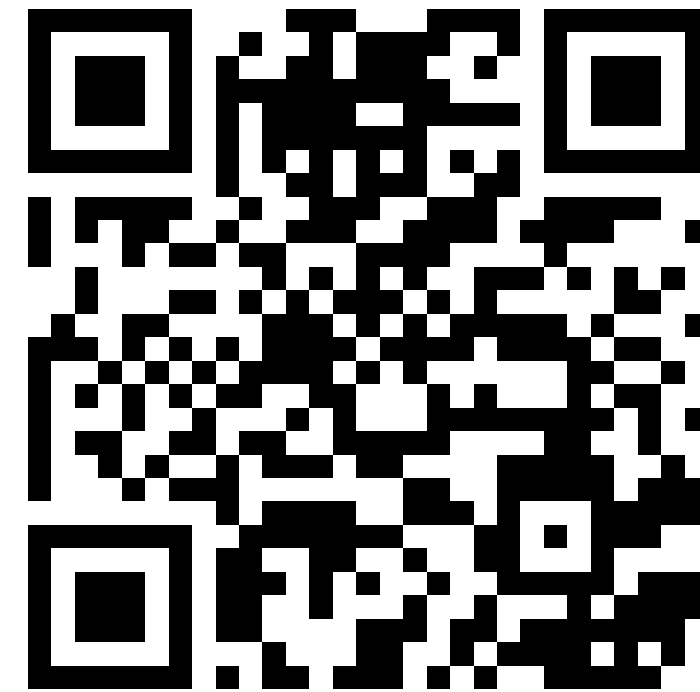
**Facebook**



**Instagram**



**LinkedIn**



**Mason360**





# What we'll cover

- Who We Are
- Steps for Success
- Benefits Overview
- Using Benefits at Mason
- Reminders & Resources
- Survey & Social Media

# Who We Are

## History

- Established August 2009

## Location

- Fairfax Campus
  - Student Union Building I (SUBI)
  - Room 1510, lower-level
- Office Hours: 0900-1700

## Contact Info

- Tel: 703-993-1316
- E-mail: [military@gmu.edu](mailto:military@gmu.edu)

## Leadership

Director	Associate Director	VMSDEP Coordinator
Jennifer Connors	Ryan Barnett	Fernando Aguila
Air Force	Marine Corps	Marine Corps

## Support Team

Senior Transition Coordinator	Transition Coordinator	Assistance Transition Coordinator
Rylee	Briannah	Kyle
Air Force	Air Force	Army





# Setup for Success

## Student Accounts

- Direct Deposit
- Authorized User
- Payment Plans
- Refund Requests
- Tuition Insurance

## Registrar

- FERPA Release
- Domicile Appeals
- School Certifying Officials

## Financial Aid

- FAFSA
- Outside Scholarships
- Out of State Merit Aid adjustments

Student  
Accounts

University  
Registrar

Financial  
Aid

Office of  
Military  
Services



# Student Accounts Office

## Services Provided

- Forms
- Direct Deposit Guide
- Payment Plan Guide
- Authorized User Setup

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

Student Accounts Office

APPLY GIVE MYMASON PATRIOTWEB PEOPLEFINDER ATHLETICS NEWS CALENDAR LIBRARY GRADUATION

HOME APPROVED TUITION & FEES PAYMENTS CALENDAR **FORMS** POLICIES FAQ CONTACT

**Finance Offices**

- Third Party Billing Office
- Cashiers Office
- Account & Loan Management

**Bill + Payment PDF Guides**

- Payment Instructions
- Direct Deposit Guide**
- MSSC Portal Guide
- Payment Plan Guide**
- Authorized User Setup**

The mission of the Student Accounts Office is to provide excellent service for our students, staff, and faculty, while maintaining internal controls that ensure financial transactions are accurately processed and proper records are maintained.

**ATTENTION STUDENTS** — The Secure Payment Portal at TouchNet has moved to Single Sign On (SSO) to enhance security. The change will require you to enter your NetID and Password into the standard SSO login screen before accessing TouchNet. If you have any saved bookmarks please be aware they will need to be updated as well.

We look forward to seeing you at Mason, whether in person or virtually, and are here to assist where we can. If you need assistance related to a Student Accounts Office question (tuition/fee charges, payment information, 1098-T), your first stop is the [Mason Student Services Center](#). The MSSC team is cross trained to provide help to new and continuing students on matters related to billing, as well as registration, enrollment,

**Pay Online**

Online payment is available through a secure portal at [\[Bill+Payment for Students\]](#) or [\[Bill+Payment for Authorized Users\]](#)

**The system is unavailable nightly from 10:30 pm - 12:00 am**

Having trouble logging in? [Try FAQ for help.](#)

**Reminders**

# Student Accounts Office: GradGuard

**GradGuard GMU offers tuition insurance specifically for students attending George Mason University (GMU).**

**Tuition insurance provides financial reimbursement if a student has to withdraw from school due to a covered reason:**

- ✓ **serious illness/injury**
- ✓ **mental health condition**
- ✓ **chronic illness**





# Office of University Registrar



Office of the University Registrar

ADMISSIONS  
CLASS SCHEDULE  
FINANCIAL AID  
MILITARY SERVICES  
PATRIOT WEB  
STUDENT ACCOUNTS

About Students Parents Faculty & Staff Alumni Calendars **Forms** Catalog Contact Search

## Announcements: Repeating a Course

There is a limit of three graded attempts for all Mason undergraduate courses not designated as repeatable for credit. Please see AP 1.3.4 in the University Catalog and consult with your academic advisor if you have any questions.



Academic Calendar

Order a Transcript

Register for Classes

Ready to Graduate?

Appeal Out-of-State Classification

## Important Dates



2024

Thursday, December 19

Winter Commencement

Saturday, December 21

Degree Conferral Date



Events calendar powered by  
25Live

## About Us

### Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 9 am - 5 pm

Campus Map & Directions

Contact Us

## Did you know?

When a student turns 18, or attends a post-secondary institution, FERPA rights belong to the student, not the parent.

## Important Dates - Academic Calendar

- Review Calendars for the Spring, Summer, and Fall terms.

## FERPA Release - Forms

- For students to grant the University permission to release FERPA protected student information to a third party.

## Domicile Appeals - Appeal Out-of-State

- Information regarding eligibility requirements and exceptions available.



# Financial Aid

## Financial Aid Services

All financial aid services are now available through the Mason Student Services Center.

[ACCESS FINANCIAL AID SERVICES](#) →

### Complete the FAFSA

Your First Step in Applying for Financial Aid

[PatriotWeb](#)

[Financial Aid Handbook](#)

[Verification Process](#)

## Out-of-State Merit Aid Reductions

- Reduction to in-state is always more valuable
- Merit aid is removed when reduced to in-state
- Merit award can be re-instated if you revert to out-of-state

## Always Submit the FAFSA

- Grants do not have to be paid back
- Loans are money that you borrow and repay with interest

## Financial Aid Package

- Adjusted based on the cost of attendance
- Disbursed 10 days prior to the term
- Total package split between Fall & Spring



[gmu.edu/financial-aid](https://gmu.edu/financial-aid)



**Now, let's talk BENEFITS!**



# Understanding your Benefits

Steps to take:

**Determine  
eligibility**

**What benefit  
you're eligible for**

**Complete &  
Submit  
Application**

**Depends on  
benefit**

**Change of  
program**

**Submit change of  
program form  
(benefit specific).**

Money  
Paid to  
Student

**Chapter 30 -**  
Montgomery GI Bill

**Chapter 35 -**  
Dependents  
Education  
Assistance

**Chapter 1606 -**  
Selected Reserves

Money  
Paid to  
School

**Chapter 31 -**  
Veteran Readiness  
and Employment  
◦Formerly known as  
"Voc Rehab"

**Chapter 33 -**  
Post-9/11 GI Bill  
◦Fry Scholars and  
STEM



# Paying for School

Using VA federal benefits such as CH 33 Post 9-11 GI Bill, CH 31 (VR&E), CH 35 (DEA), etc.

## Apply for Benefits

See VA website for correct application (based on benefit)



## VA sends Certificate of Eligibility (COE)

after approval



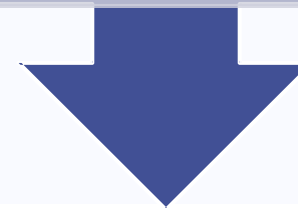
## Submit COE to school

See [military.gmu.edu](http://military.gmu.edu)

## VR&E

Complete Academic Worksheet

With Academic Advisor



Counselor sends PO#s

Email [ch31@gmu.edu](mailto:ch31@gmu.edu)

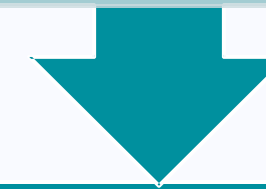
## Register for classes

Via [patriotweb.gmu.edu](http://patriotweb.gmu.edu)



## Submit VRRF

**Every semester** and if/when making schedule changes



## Submit enrollment verification with VA

Monthly text message (Chapter 33 and STEM)



# Paying for School

# Additional Info

Review these steps in-detail on our website!



## How to use VA Benefits

Step by Step instructions for VA Beneficiaries



### Upload Your COE

The COE is a one-time requirement for each benefit type prior to certification



### Submit VRRF

VA benefits certification request system Required every semester and upon any schedule changes. Only courses required on your degree plan can be certified.



### VMSDEP

Add term to the VMSDEP portal prior to the start of every term



### Out of State Tuition Exemption Request

Section 702/Veterans Choice Act  
First Semester Requirement

## Register for classes

Via patriotweb.gmu.edu

Submit Tuition Assistance (TA) request with appropriate Branch

## Submit VRRF

Every semester and when amending your schedule

Identify TA usage on form

## Setup Payment Plan

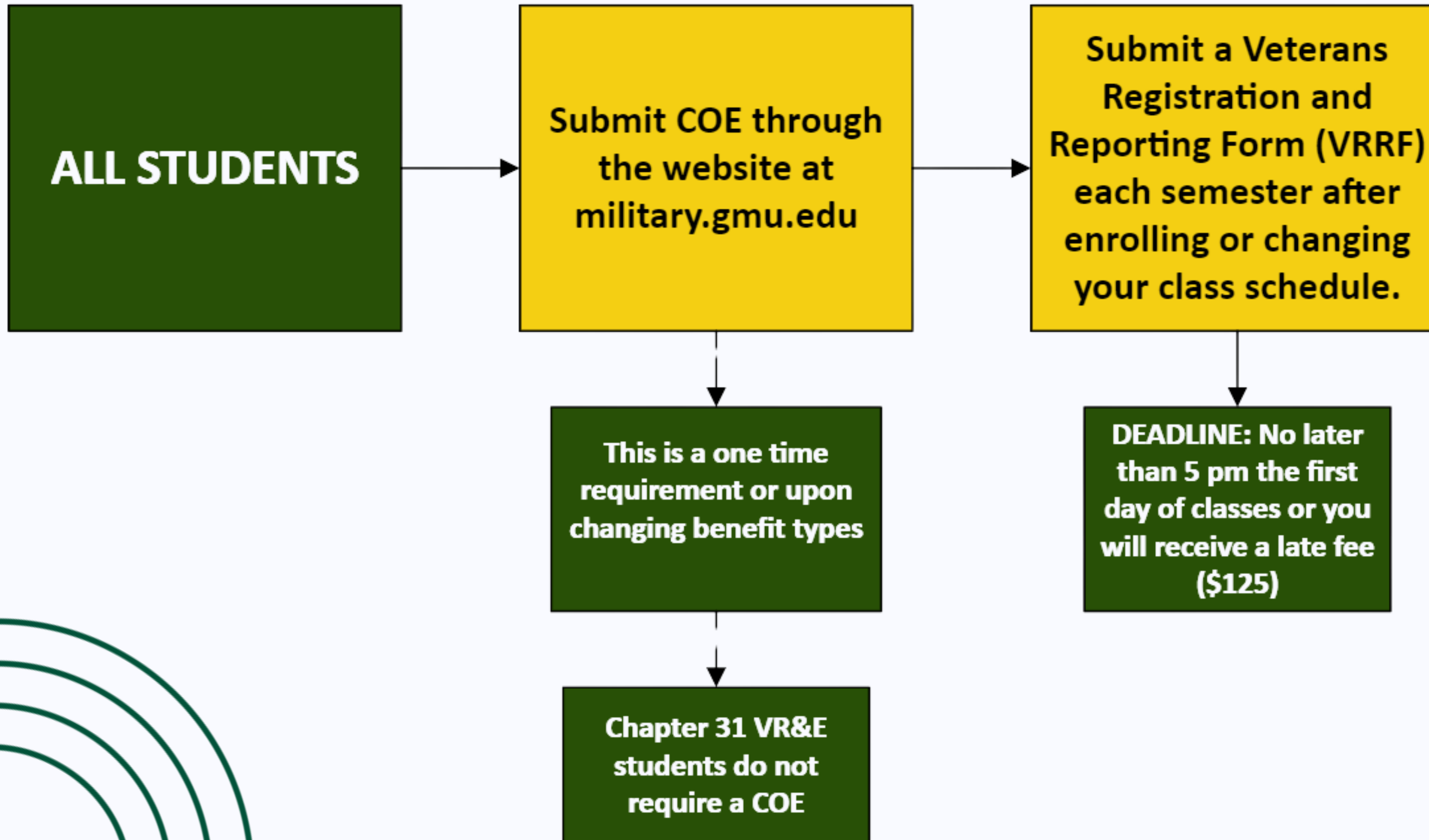
Directly with GMU Office of Student Accounts

## Submit enrollment verification with VA

WAVE verification (Chapter 30 and 1606)

Text message for Chapter 33 and 35

# Using Benefits at Mason



**How to use VA Benefits**





# Section 702

Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014

## What is Section 702?

- Allows in-state tuition rates for eligible out-of-state students.
- **Does not change** domicile status to "in-state."
- Students must:
  - Use VA education benefits.
  - Reside in Virginia and submit a waiver before the first term.
- **Not eligible** for Virginia scholarships or out-of-state grants.
- Registrar audits to ensure eligibility; tuition status reverts if criteria are not met.

### Verify Eligibility

- Student must be actively using Ch. 30, Ch 31, Ch. 33, or Ch. 35.

### Submit 702 OS waiver application

- Submit Section 702 Application

### Submit Documentation

- Deed, Lease or other proof
- COE

**Veterans should use SCHEV guidelines for in-state tuition rates**

# **Chapter 33 - Post 9/11 GI Bill®**



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

**You may be eligible for this program, which provides up to 36 months of educational benefits, if you have at least 90 days of active duty service after September 10, 2001.**

**Through the Post 9/11 GI Bill you are provided the following:**

- **In-State Tuition and Mandatory Fees**
- **Monthly Housing Allowance**
- **Book Stipend**
- **Yellow Ribbon Program**





# Ch. 33 - Tuition & Fees

Percentage of Eligibility	What the VA should cover
100%	<u>100%</u> of the in-state tuition and fees
90%	<u>90%</u> of the in-state tuition and fees
80%	<u>80%</u> of the in-state tuition and fees
70%	<u>70%</u> of the in-state tuition and fees
60%	<u>60%</u> of the in-state tuition and fees
50%	<u>50%</u> of the in-state tuition and fees
40%	<u>40%</u> of the in-state tuition and fees

## Calculating Cost - The Memo

- The Veterans Registration Reporting Form (VRRF) is submitted.
- A memo is placed on your student account for the expected VA payment.
- This reduces your balance—you are only responsible for housing, meal plans, and non-mandatory fees (if applicable). And any charges not covered by VA-classes not needed for degree.

## Calculating Cost - Rates & Percentages

- Tuition and Fees are invoiced based on **percentage (%) of eligibility**
- VA covers your Tuition and Fees at the **in-state rate only**.

# Chapter 33

## Housing Allowance

*\*Based on E-5 with Dependents. Where majority of credit hours are taken (zip code). On 1 August 2025, Fairfax campus MHA is \$2952.*

Paid directly to you (the student)

Based on percentage (%) of eligibility and # of credits taken

Undergraduates must have **at least 7 credits** in the standard term (Fall/Spring) to receive any stipend

Graduates must have **at least 5 credits** in the standard term (Fall/Spring) to receive any stipend. This calculation does not apply to modular based 8 week sessions.

For summer and modular based 8-week sessions, please contact the office or visit our website for info.  
Reminder: MHA requires monthly verification

Number of Credits Required (Fall/Spring**)	Percentage of Housing Stipend Eligibility*	
	Undergrad.	Grad.
12+	100%	100%
11	90%	100%
10	80%	100%
9	80%	100%
8	70%	90%
7	60%	80%
6	0%	70%
5	0%	60%

# Chapter 33

# Book Stipend

Percentage of Eligibility Based on your COE from the VA	Yearly Maximum Book Stipend Renews each year
100%	\$1,000
90%	\$900
80%	\$800
70%	\$700
60%	\$600
50%	\$500
40%	\$400

\$41.67 per credit up to  
**your** maximum



# Yellow Ribbon Program

## How does it work?

- **Must have 100% eligibility and Out-of-State domiciled**
- **Maximum of \$10,000 per academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer)**
- **Unlimited number of slots/students**
- **Click the New YR or Continuing YR applicant**
- **Applies towards Tuition & Mandatory Fees**

Find more information at:



### Covers the Difference

- What you need in your first semester will be used to cover your tuition difference.

### Remainder Rolls

- The remaining amount will be available for the following semester.

### Annual Reset

- Each fall, the money renews back to \$10,000.

# Chapter 30 - Montgomery GI Bill

## Payments

- **Pays a stipend to the student;** does not cover tuition and fees

## Rates as of 1 October 2024

- Full-time: \$2,438.00/month
- $\frac{3}{4}$  time: \$1,828.50/month
- $\frac{1}{2}$  time to more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  time: \$1,219.00/month
- $\frac{1}{4}$  time or less: \$609.50/month

All students using  
Montgomery GI Bill  
must:

Submit WAVE verification each  
month to the VA

either via the VA website or  
telephone

# Chapter 35 - Dependents Education Assistance (DEA) Program

## Stipend only

- **Paid directly to the student**, does not cover tuition and fees

## Payments

- Full time: \$1,536.00/month
- $\frac{3}{4}$  time: \$1,214.00/month
- $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $> \frac{1}{4}$  Time: \$890.00/month
- $\frac{1}{4}$  time or less: \$384.00/month

May be eligible for the  
**Virginia Military and  
Survivor Dependent  
Education Assistance  
Program**

100% Service  
Connected Disability



# Chapter 1606

## Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve

### Institutional Training

- **Pays a stipend to the student;** does not cover tuition and fees

### Rates as of 1 Oct 2024

- Full-time: \$481/month
- $\frac{3}{4}$  time: \$360/month
- $\frac{1}{2}$  time: \$240/month
- Less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  time: \$120.25/month

# Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP)

## Tier 1

- 8 Semesters T&F waiver

## Tier 2

- 8 Semesters T&F waiver
- One time stipend each semester
  - Amount varies term to term
  - Disbursed to student account through financial aid

### Enrollment Open/Close Dates

TERMS	OPEN	CLOSE (DUE BY)
Fall	July 01	October 31
Spring (Winter credits hours are combined with Spring)	November 01	March 31
Summer	April 01	June 30

# Federal Tuition Assistance

## Steps to take

- Submit **Tuition Assistance approval form**
  - See Student Account webpage for updated costs.

## Where

- Financial Guarantee/Authorizations Student Portal
  - Third Party Billing ([tpbill@gmu.edu](mailto:tpbill@gmu.edu))

## When (Deadline)

- No earlier than 60 days & no later than 7 days prior to the first day of the semester.

**\$250 per credit hour, up to \$4,500 per academic year**

Example **out-of-pocket** costs for in-state students

◦ *Not including course-specific fees.*

Credits	Tuition + MSF	TA	Out-of-Pocket
1	\$592.50	\$250.00	\$342.50
6	\$3,555.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,055.00
12	\$7,110.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,110.00





# Fun Facts: Q&A

- What happens if you don't go to class?
- What happens if you FAIL a class?
- Can I add and drop classes?
- Can I Study Abroad?
- Can I take classes over the summer?
- Can I use VA benefits in an undeclared major?
- Are first day books and parking considered mandatory fees?







**SURVEY**  
Thank you for your time!

