



OFFICE OF
MILITARY SERVICES
George Mason University®

EDUCATION BENEFITS ORIENTATION

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY



@gmu_militaryservices



military.gmu.edu



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

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	Chris	Carlos
Air Force	Marine Corps	Marine Corps

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 and renters insurance specifically for students attending George Mason University (GMU).

Tuition insurance provides financial protection if a student needs to withdraw from school due to a covered illness, injury, or other reason. Renters insurance covers personal belongings and potential liability for damage or accidents in university housing.



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



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

VR&E

Complete Academic Worksheet

With Academic Advisor



Counselor sends PO#s

Email ch31@gmu.edu

Register for classes

Via 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

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

Additional Info

Register for classes

Via patriotweb.gmu.edu

Submit Tuition Assistance (TA) request with appropriate Branch (if applicable)

Submit VRRF

Every semester and if/when making schedule changes

Identify TA usage on form

Setup Payment Plan

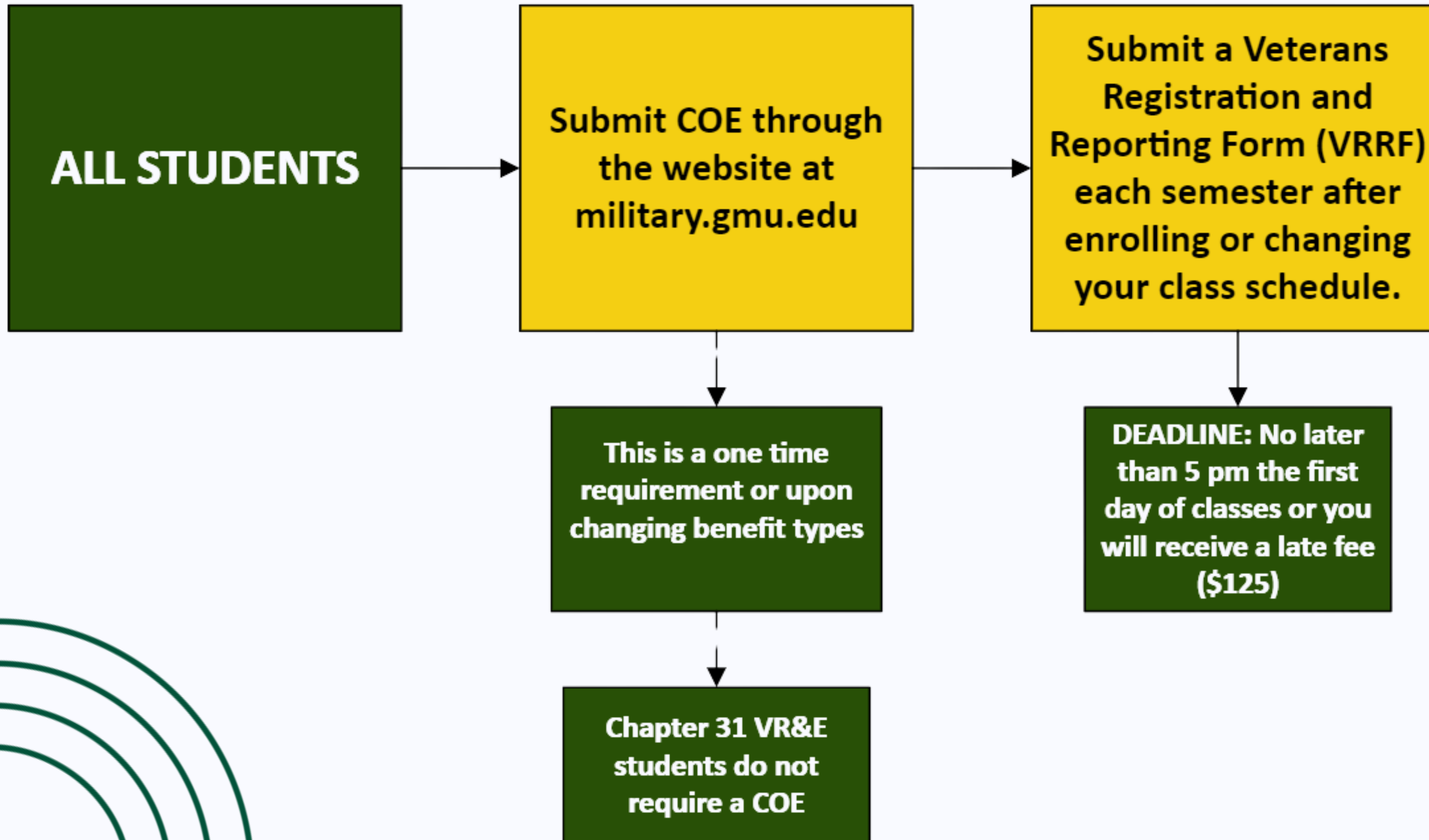
Directly with GMU Office of Student Accounts

Submit enrollment verification with VA

WAVE verification (Chapter 30 and 1606)

Text message for Chapter 33

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, Ch. 35, or Ch 1606

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.

Special features related to the Post-9/11 GI Bill® include the:

Yellow Ribbon Program:

- A VA partnership with schools to help cover out-of-state tuition costs not covered by the Post-9/11 GI Bill®. Available only to 100% Post-9/11 GI Bill® eligible students.

Monthly Housing Allowance:

- Paid to eligible students using the Post-9/11 GI Bill®.
- Based on the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for an E-5 with dependents.
- Amount depends on school location and rate of pursuit
- Must be enrolled greater than half-time to qualify.

Book Stipend

- Available to students using the Post-9/11 GI Bill®.
- \$41.67 per credit, up to 24 credits annually.
- Up to \$1,000 per academic year.



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

- Payments are made directly to Mason after 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).

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**.

Yellow Ribbon Program

How does it work?

- **Must be 100% eligible and Out-of-State Domiciled to be eligible**
- **Maximum of \$10,000 per academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer)**
- **Unlimited number of slots/students**
- **Click the New YR or Continuing YR applicant**
- **Paid directly to school**

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 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

Chapter 33 - Housing Stipend

Paid directly to you (the student)

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

Undergraduates must have **at least 7 credits** to receive
any stipend

Graduates must have **at least 5 credits** to receive any
stipend

For summer term rates, please contact our office. MHA
requires monthly verification!

**Based on E-5 with Dependents. Where majority of credit hours
are taken (zip code). On 1 August 2024, Fairfax campus MHA is
\$2880*

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 30 - Montgomery GI Bill

Payments

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

Rates as of 1 October 2025

- Full-time: \$2,518.00/month
- $\frac{3}{4}$ time: \$1,888.50/month
- $\frac{1}{2}$ time to more than $\frac{1}{4}$ time: \$1,259.00/month
- $\frac{1}{4}$ time or less: \$629.50/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: \$1,574.00/month
- $\frac{3}{4}$ time: \$1,244.00/month
- $\frac{1}{2}$ to $> \frac{1}{4}$ Time: \$912.00/month
- $\frac{1}{4}$ time or less: \$393.00/month

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

90-100% 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: \$493/month
- $\frac{3}{4}$ time: \$369/month
- $\frac{1}{2}$ time: \$246/month
- Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ time: \$123.25/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**

Where

- Third Party Billing (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?



- **What happens if you don't go to class?**

If you stop attending a class, the VA requires the class be terminated to the beginning of term, as if you never were enrolled. This can impact your MHA, book stipend, and tuition and fees; resulting in a debt to both the school and VA.

- **What happens if you FAIL a class?**

If you earn the "F", nothing will happen to your benefits. But you must complete the course. The VA will pay for you to retake a course.

- **Can I add and drop classes?**

Yes, you can add and drop classes but be mindful of tuition liability dates. If you drop a class during tuition liability, the VA will not pay for the class. This could cause a debt to the school for tuition/fees and a debt to the VA for the book stipend and overpayment of MHA if you drop below full-time or change to exclusively on-line modality.

- **Can I Study Abroad?**

It depends! Make sure to complete an Intent to Use VA Benefits form to have the information needed to make a good decision.

- **Can I take classes over the summer?**

Of course! However, the summer is a series of non-standard terms. So, the calculation for full-time status will differ. We will have information available prior to summer registration so you can see how your benefits will work.

- **Can I use VA benefits in an undeclared major?**

VA benefits can't be certified for undeclared majors beyond the sophomore year. Additionally, Va benefits can't be typically certified in non-degree status. There is a small exception for graduate students that are non-degree and taking a class that is required for a degree-seeking program that the student has already applied to and is pending decision (at the same institution). Please reach out regarding this situation.

- **Are first day books and parking considered mandatory fees?**

No. This is an opt-in materials fee and is not considered mandatory.

Resources for Success

Applying for Benefits

Veterans Affairs

www.va.gov

Veteran completes the application for initial benefits

GI Bill FAQs

Veterans Affairs

www.gibill.va.gov

VA Benefits Admin

Veterans Affairs

www.ebenefits.va.gov

Transferring Benefits

Department of Defense

MilConnect.dmdc.osd.mil

GI Bill & Academic Planning at Mason

Office of Military Services

www.military.gmu.edu



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