



## **General Information for Veteran Students**

### **Chapters of education benefits**

Chapter 33: Post 9/11

Chapter 30: Regular Service Prior to 9/11

Chapter 35: Survivor Benefits of 100% disabled or killed on active duty service member.

Chapter 1606: Reservist/National Guard

Chapter 1607: Survivor Benefits of 100% disabled or killed on active duty

### **Benefit eligibility**

- Remedial classes (those under the 100 level) being taken online are not eligible for veterans' educational benefits. Remedial classes are only eligible for benefits when taken as a traditional, face-to-face class.
- Health and physical Education (HPE) classes are recreational and are not eligible for Veteran Educational benefits, unless specifically called for in a degree plan.
- The VA does not pay out-of-state tuition for students. See Admissions for residency requirements for Veteran students.

### **Full-time enrollment**

Students only receive educational benefits while they are attending classes. 12 credits during the semester does not make the student full-time for benefits. If a student takes nine credits in the first 8-week session and three credits in the second 8-week session, 12 hours for the semester, he or she would only be full-time for the first 8-week session, and halftime enrollment beginning the first day of the second 8-week session.

### **Payment rates**

Rates for all chapters of VA education benefits:

8-week term:

6+ is full-time

4-5 is three-quarter time\*

3 is halftime

Below 3 is quarter-time and a student will only receive tuition and fees.

\* In the second 8-week session in the spring semester, 4 credits reduces to half time because of spring break.

16-week term:

12+ is fulltime

9-11 is three-quarter time

6-8 is halftime

Below 6 is quarter time and a student will only receive tuition and fees.

To qualify for any BAH payment, Post 9/11 students must be attending at least 51% of full-time. That means in a 16-week semester, the minimum is 7 credits. In an 8-week term, it is 4 credits. Post 9/11 students are paid their rated benefits to the nearest 10th, meaning if their enrollment is at 51% of fulltime, their payment rate will be 50 percent of monthly BAH payment, if qualified.

Ch33 students who are taking online only classes will be paid at half the national average of BAH payments at a 51 percent or more enrollment level times their rated percentage.

### **Change of enrollment**

Report any changes, such as adding classes, dropping classes, changes of your academic major, address changes, and course substitutions, to the Veterans Affairs Office.

### **Reporting non-punitive grades**

Non-punitive grades are W (Withdrawal), ID (Instructor Drop), RD (Roster Drop) and AU (Audit). The DVA does not pay benefits for non-punitive grades. Cochise College reports these grades to the DVA when found. Any of these grades could result in a student going into an overpayment with the DVA.

Students do have the opportunity to provide mitigating circumstances — those which directly hinder a student's pursuit of a course(s) and which are judged to be beyond the student's control, such as serious illness of the student, serious illness or death of an immediate family member, immediate family or financial obligations, discontinuance of a course by the school — to the VA for their non-attendance. Proof of mitigating circumstances can be turned into the Cochise College VA office. If veteran students do not turn in mitigating circumstances, the VA certifying official will follow VA regulations and automatically report the last date of attendance for the "W" grade as the last official date to drop the course.

### **Repeating classes**

If you have received a grade of "F" or "D," you may repeat a class and receive benefits for that class.

Change in education or degree plan.

Once students receiving veterans' benefits start on a degree plan, they can change degrees by turning in a new degree plan from advising. The student must make an appointment with advising and complete a new degree map from the Veteran's Prior Training Review. The Veterans Affairs Office cannot certify enrollment for a class that does not fit a degree plan.