

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE GI BILL BENEFITS, THERE MAY BE OTHER PROGRAMS THAT CAN HELP!

Check with the campus Worker Retraining office to determine what services are available.

Check with the Financial Aid office to find scholarships, veterans waivers or related programs.

Visit the website of the school you plan to attend. Follow them on your social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter so you receive the latest news, issues, and resources.

Contact your Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs about your State and Federal Veterans Benefits.

MAKE SURE TO ASK ABOUT:

- Your veterans benefits.
- Claims for service connected disabilities and non-service connected pension.
- Applying for healthcare at your local VA Medical Center/ Clinic.
- Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation and GI Bill benefits.
- VA work-study positions or how to gain other employment.
- Veterans' Service Organizations.
- Counseling for transition and or Trauma (Combat/Military Sexual Trauma/ Taumatic Brain Injury/Transition).



Contact the school certifying official or veterans representative even if your planned start date is months away.

- Ask how long it will take to receive your GI Bill funds for tuition, living stipends, and book stipends.
- Payments are often received after you've already started school.
- Ask if there are programs to assist you with this delay in payment.
- Find out exactly what the GI Bill will pay for, especially if you are a returning student.

"NOT SURE WHERE TO START? ASK WDVA!"

IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED ASSISTANCE...

WASHINGTON STATE GUIDE FOR VETERANS ATTENDING COLLEGE



"Serving Those Who Served"



800-562-2308

BENEFITS@DVA.WA.GOV

WWW.DVA.WA.GOV

PO Box 41155, Olympia, WA 98504-1155

800-562-2308

WWW.DVA.WA.GOV

SUGGESTED ACTIONS FOR STUDENT VETERANS

This brochure was created by veterans with first-hand experience using the GI Bill and other education benefits to offer insights and lessons learned. We hope it will be helpful as you pursue your higher education goals!

Remember each school has people to assist you, always consult with the college.

As a student, you can take these steps to be better prepared:

STEP 1: RESEARCH

- Contact the Admissions Office. Meet with the staff veterans' representative at different colleges.
- Ask questions, about transfer credit, the programs you are interested in, and their veterans' benefits.

Use all available online resources to learn about educational benefits.

- US Department of Veterans Affairs: www.gibill.va.gov
- Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs: www.dva.wa.gov
- State Board Community and Tech Colleges: www.sbctc.edu
- Washington Student Achievement Council: www.wsac.wa.gov
- Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board: www.wtb.wa.gov

STEP 2: APPLY

- Some colleges are able to waive the application fee for student veterans.
- Have a member copy 4 of your DD214.

STEP 3: APPLY FOR VA EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

- Apply online at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill using the "Veterans Online Application."

*Your application will generate a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). **This will be required for education benefits.***

STEP 4: SUBMIT A FEDERAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION (FAFSA)

- Apply online at fafsa.ed.gov, complete the application annually.

Your G.I. bill is separate from financial aid. It is common to use a combination of both to cover all costs to include living expenses. FAFSA is your ability to gain grants, as well as student loans.

STEP 5: SEND FOR TRANSCRIPTS

- Request a joint military transcript from your branch of service:
 - Army, Navy, Marines, & Coast Guard <https://jst.doded.mil>
 - Air Force www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/
 - Request transcripts from any college or university you have attended. Have them sent to the proper office at the college you are applying.

- Check with campus registrar to find the best way to apply the credits you earned.

STEP 6: SCHEDULE & ATTEND COLLEGE'S ORIENTATION

At orientation will you most likely:

- Take placement exams (if required).
- Speak with an academic advisor to make a plan for your program.
- Register for classes.
- Speak to the VA certifying official.
- Meet the veterans support team.

STEP 7: CONTACT DISABILITY SERVICES (IF APPLICABLE)

- Make an appointment if you have any service-connected or learning disability needs. Services are private and confidential, and are there to ensure your success

STEP 8: GET INVOLVED

- Join a student group. Many colleges have veterans' organizations.
- Network with other veterans and students. Compare notes, and ask questions!

STEP 9: KEEP IN TOUCH WITH STAFF, FACULTY

- Your school certifying official/veterans representative will be a great resource but generally they are not academic or program advisors.
- Find out who your academic or program advisor is and ask for details about class offerings, what order to take classes in and other important information as you pursue your degree.
- Meet with your WDVA Vet Corps Navigator

