

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What should I do to get my Veterans Affairs benefits started?** Contact the Veterans Affairs Coordinator, located in Moss Hall, Room 106 (803)536-8405 or (803) 536-7185.

**When will my enrollment certification be submitted to the DVA?** All enrollment certifications are electronically submitted to the DVA. No certification will be submitted until the student is officially registered in the University's Student Information System.

**How do I contact the Department of Veterans Affairs?** Students may inquire about the status of a pending claim through the Atlanta Regional Office Claim inquiry at 1-888-442-4551.

**How will the DVA pay and tuition?** All students who receive veterans educational benefits are responsible for the same tuition policies as other SCSU students. Tuition policies are in the semester schedule and catalog which are distributed by SCSU. The DVA will not send money to SCSU for a student's tuition reimbursement. Money for educational benefits will be mailed directly to the student or deposited into the student's bank account. Direct deposit is not available for Chapter 35 students.

**Does the Coordinator for Veterans Affairs determine or know the specific dollar amount of a student's entitlement?**

**NO** Please consult the following DVA website for benefit pay charts:

<http://www.va.gov/education/benefits.htm> For specific information, the student should contact the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-888-442-4551.

**Does the Coordinator of Veterans Affairs know when money is sent to students?** NO. For specific information, the student should contact the Atlanta Regional Processing

Office at 1-888-442-551. Changes in enrollment status or address can delay payment. YES. An Enrollment Certification Request must be turned in every semester with a stamped copy of the student's schedule.

**Do students have to report all changes (drop/add)?**

YES. Students must report any changes in class schedule within two business days to avoid over/ under payment of benefits. This is mandatory for all VA students

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

SCSU Veterans Affairs Office      803.536.8405  
803.536-7185

SCSU Veterans Affairs Fax      803.533.3724  
SCSU Registrar's Office      803.536.7185  
Department of Veterans Affairs      888.442.4551  
Chapter 30.1606 Attendance      877.823.2378  
Verification

## IMPORTANT NOTES

Veterans or students eligible for VA benefits are not allowed to enroll in any courses that do not apply toward the degree program, even if the courses do not extend the time it takes to complete the degree. It is strictly forbidden by law to enroll in extra courses to boost monthly benefits.

Veterans or students eligible for VA benefits are not allowed to repeat courses wherein the grade letter "D" is passing. Be advised that these classes will be deducted from your credits hours because the Department of Veterans Affairs will not issue payment for repeated classes with a passing grade.

Veterans Affairs Information  
Courtesy of  
South Carolina State University  
Office of Veterans Affairs



MOSS HALL  
ROOM 106

POST OFFICE BOX 8104  
300 COLLEGE STREET, NE  
ORANGEBURG, SC 29117

(803) 536-8405  
(803) 536-7185  
(803) 536-8602 (FAX)

## **FIRST-TIME STUDENTS/ TRANSFER STUDENTS**

Students who are initially applying for veterans benefits should complete VA Form 22-1990, Application for Educational Benefits. If not on active duty, the copy 4 of DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, must be submitted with the VA Form 22-1990. Students eligible under Chapter 1606 will submit DD Form 2384. DD Form 2384 is issued to the students by their Reserve Unit. Students eligible under Chapter 35 will complete VA Form 22-5490.

**Please Note:** Through the Department of Veterans Affairs there is a 6 to 8 weeks processing time to determine your eligibility for VA benefits.

## **CHAPTER 34: OLD GI BILL**

This program was discontinued on December 31, 1989. Generally, veteran students under this chapter entered active duty prior to January 1, 1977. Certain students eligible under this chapter on December 31, 1989, may also be eligible for Chapter 30 educational benefits if they have additional active duty service from October 19, 1984 through June 30, 1985, and meet other criteria as established under Chapter 30 guidelines.

## **CHAPTER 32: VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

You are eligible to receive educational benefits under this chapter, if you entered active duty for the first time after December 31, 1976 and before July 1, 1985 and contributed at least \$25 per month or made a lump sum payment to establish eligibility. You must have enrolled in and contributed to the VEAP program prior to April 1, 1987.

## **CHAPTER 35: DEPENDENTS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Children, spouses and surviving spouses of veterans who died of service-connected disabilities or who are permanently and totally disabled because of military duty, may be eligible for educational benefits under this program.

## **CHAPTER 30: NEW GI BILL (MONTGOMERY GI BILL)**

You may be eligible for educational benefits as a veteran or service person if you entered active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985. Under this chapter, a person's military pay is reduced by \$100 per month for the first 12 months of service. (Chapter 34 veterans who are eligible under this program do not have their pay reduced). You must obtain a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate before your first period of active duty ends. Completing 12 credit hours toward a college degree meets the requirements.

## **CHAPTER 1606: NEW GI BILL (SELECTED RESERVE)**

In order to qualify, you must meet the following requirements: You must have a 6-year obligation to serve in the Selected Reserve signed after June 30, 1985. If you are an officer, you must agree to serve an additional 6-years in addition to your current obligation. You must complete Initial Active Duty for Training (IADT). You must meet the requirement to receive a high school diploma or equivalent certificate before you complete IADT. You must serve in a drilling Selected Reserve unit and remain in good standing.

## **CHAPTER 31: VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

You are entitled to vocational rehabilitation services and benefits if you meet all the following conditions:

Veterans who have service-connected disabilities and are eligible for disability compensation may qualify for vocational rehabilitation. Veterans who think they may qualify for this assistance should contact the Department of Veterans Affairs information and counseling. Tel. **(888) 442-4551**.

## **CHAPTER 33: The POST 9/11 GI BILL**

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is for individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001 or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. **Benefits for Chapter 33 are not payable until after August 1, 2009.**

You may receive an advance payment for the initial month or partial month and the following month, if you are enrolled ½ or more and if VA receives your enrollment certification at least 30 days before classes start. To request advance payment, you must sign in Block 16 of the Enrollment Certification Form (VA Form 22-1999). A separate document or sheet of paper requesting Advance Payment, signed and dated by the student and attached to the Enrollment Certification, is also acceptable. Students should be aware that if they receive Advance Payment for example, for September and October at the beginning of a Fall term starting in September, they will not receive their November benefit check until December. The Advance Payment will be sent to the educational institution for the student. The Department of Veterans Affairs will send an award letter directly to the student that advises him or her that an Advance Payment will be sent to the school.

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS WORKSTUDY**

Students eligible for VA educational benefits and attending classes at a full-time level qualify for a VA-funded work-study position. All work-study positions are related to veterans' benefits, and there are a variety of work-study positions available in Columbia and Orangeburg. Applications for work-study are accepted on a first come first serve basis.

## **SOUTH CAROLINA FREE TUITION PROGRAM**

This program is offered by the State of South Carolina. No funds are appropriated for this program since its benefits are simply tuition waivers at any of the state supported universities, colleges, and post-high school technical educational institutions. All children who qualify may receive benefits, regardless of financial needs, up to and including their twenty-sixth (26) birthday. Applications can be obtained from any County Veterans Affairs Office, the SCSU Veterans Affairs Office, or the Governor's Office, Division of Veterans Affairs Office, VA Regional Office Room 230, 1801 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201. **(803) 255-4317** or **(803) 255-4256**. Collect calls cannot be accepted.