



**TULSA
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

**Veteran Education
Benefit Office
Veteran Information
Bulletin**

(2023-20)

Welcome to TCC!

We're so glad you have chosen Tulsa Community College as the place you wish to pursue your education and use your veteran benefits.

Office Hours:

9:00 AM to 6:00 PM (Mon. – Thurs.)

10:00AM to 5:00PM (Friday)

Summer Hours Vary

School Certifying Officials:

James Dodson, Veteran Services Coordinator
918-595-7279
james.dodson@tulsacc.edu

Carissa Nichols, Veteran Services Advisor
918-595-7279
carissa.nichols@tulsacc.edu

If you have questions regarding your pay, contact the VA Regional Education Office for assistance:

Toll Free Phone #: 1-888-442-4551

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 888

Muskogee, OK 74402-8888

Chapter Eligibility

The information below discusses the different chapters along with who is eligible for each one.

Chapter 30 - Member of Full Time Active Duty Armed Forces

Eligible 10 years from date of separation from active duty with 36 months of education benefits

Chapter 31 - Member of Armed Forces who is Receiving Disability from VA at 20% or higher.

Eligible Usually 12 years from date of disability rating with 45 months of education benefits

Chapter 33 - Member of Armed Forces Serving Active Duty Time after 9/11/01

Dependents of Eligible Service Members*

Guard and Reserve with active time under Title 32 orders

Eligible 15 years from separation from active duty military with 36 months of education benefits

Elimination of the 15 year delimiting date for Post 9/11 GI Bill® beneficiaries discharged after January 1, 2013

Chapter 35 - Dependent of 100% Disabled or Deceased Veteran

Eligible 10 years from date of disability or death (spouse) or 8 years (child) with 45 months of educational benefits

Chapter 1606 - Actively a Member of Reserves or National Guard

Eligible 14 years from date of eligibility and must be actively drilling as an M-Day service member with 36 months of educational benefits

Special Notes About Eligibility

You may be eligible for more than one chapter. It is important to take various factors into consideration when choosing which chapter as your choice may be irrevocable, leaving you with less compensation than is possible. Special attention must be given when considering chapter 33 as it has the most variables in compensation. It is advisable to consult with both the Veterans Affairs staff at the university and with the Regional offices to get a clear understanding on the amount of compensation that you will receive to make an informed decision on which chapter will work best for you.

*Service Members seeking to transfer their Post 9/11 Eligibility please consult:
https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_transfer.asp

Required Documents

To apply for VA Education Benefits please visit:

<https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/how-to-apply/>

After submission of all required documents there is a typical lead time of 4-6 weeks, but may be as much as 12 weeks during peak processing times before receiving approval from the VA.

Documents you may need when applying:

Chapter 30:

DD-214

Personal Banking Routing & Account Numbers

Chapter 31(Veteran's Readiness and Employment):

Contact Your Vocational Rehabilitation Case Manager

Chapter 33(Post 9/11):

DD-214

Bank Routing & Account Numbers

Chapter 35 Disabled Vet (Dependent):

DD-214

Document Showing 100% Disability of Veteran or
Death Certificate

Marriage Certificate (spouse) or Birth Certificate (child)

Chapter 1606:

DD-214

Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE)

Personal Banking Routing & Account Numbers

If you have already applied for benefits and are seeking to update your biographical information, banking information, or change schools then please call the Regional Office in Muskogee at 1-888-442-4551. If you need to apply for an increase in your pay rate due to more active duty time acquired, you will need to provide your latest DD-214 to the VA Education Regional Office.

How to Get VA Documents

DD-214: issued to veteran during separation from any active duty service. They may also be retrieved from your branch's online personnel archive. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has also provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD- 214 online at:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

NOBE: or Notice of Basic Eligibility (DD Form 2384-1) is maintained by your unit based on your satisfactory drilling status. You may obtain a copy from your unit, though National Guard members may access theirs online at:

<https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits>

Disability Rating: contact the VA to receive a copy of your disability rating.

Enrollment Certification

Every semester students seeking VA Education Benefits must present to the Veteran's Education office digitally or physically at the Metro Campus (909 S. Boston Ave.) Each student must complete the checklist below, each semester, in order to be certified by the school.

Checklist for Returning and New Students

- Apply at <http://www.tulsacc.edu/> (First-time TCC students only)
- Apply or Transfer Benefits (First-time TCC students only)
- Talk to Academic Advisor
- Enroll for desired semester/classes

***You must contact the Veteran's Office the same day you enroll or your classes will be dropped!**

- Fill out Confirmation of Enrollment with the following documents:
 - Certificate of eligibility (First-time TCC students only)
 - NOBE (for first time Guard Members only)
- Request Joint-Service Transcript (<https://jst.doded.mil>) or CCAF transcript (First-time TCC students only)
- Visit <https://fafsa.ed.gov> for grants or loans, and speak to financial aid about awards

Currently chapters 30, 33 and 1606 are required to verify enrollment to the VA. They must verify on the last day of each month, or any day following. Payments will not be processed until this is complete. You may verify by phone by calling 1-877-823-2378. It is an automated system that requires that you enter your social security number to access your file and your zip code to verify your enrollment. You may also verify online at: <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do> Instructions are provided on the website. WAVE also provides increased services such as benefit status, changing direct deposit information, changing address, and emailing monthly reminders to verify.

****NOTICE****

Students are required to notify the Veterans' Coordinator of any changes made to their schedule once it has been certified to the VA. Changes in enrollment can affect your benefit pay, including BAH or other types of pay outside of tuition and fees. Changes to an academic schedule that are not reported can cause a delay in payment or can result in an overpayment to the student. Students who receive an overpayment from the VA will be required to reimburse the VA for the total amount of overpayment before they can continue using their benefits.

Enrollment & Payment Rates

General VA payment rates are based on a 30-day standard month and for the most part follow the guidelines presented in the following table:

	16 weeks	8 weeks	4 weeks
3 credit hours	¼ time	½ time	Full time
6 credit hours	½ time	Full time	Full time
9 credit hours	¾ time	Full time	Full time
12 credit hours	Full time	Full time	Full time

Chapter 33 (Post 9/11)

Tuition and fees are paid directly to the school. This amount is based on the number of credit hours along with any additional fees. We report the full amount of tuition for all eligible classes then the VA will calculate the amount to be paid to the school based on the student's percentage rating. It is the student's responsibility to pay the remaining balance owed to the school.

The student's monthly stipend or BAH (basic allowance for housing) is based on the location of the school and the rate of attendance. Each class is identified by campus and the zip code of the campus of the class taken. It is calculated according to the DOD BAH for an E-5 with dependents. The VA then applies the student's percentage rating to calculate the monthly payment made to the student.

The book stipend is paid based on the number of credit hours being taken. The amount is calculated by the student's percentage rate of \$41.67 per credit hour, at a maximum of the student's percentage of \$1000 per year (24 credit hours). The total reimbursement stipend is paid on or around the time of the student's first BAH payment.

Billing information for Ch. 31 (VR&E) and Ch. 33 (Post-9/11 GIBill):

TCC will send billing statements to students on a monthly basis. If you receive Ch. 31 or Ch.33 benefits paid directly from the VA to TCC, you will continue to receive a bill until the school receives the payment for your tuition and fees from the VA.

If you have questions on the status of your payment, please contact the VA at 1-888-442-4551. If you need to register for the next semester and have a billing or Bursar hold, please contact the Veterans Office at 918-595-7279 and we will happily assist you.

Expenses: The GI Bill **does not** pay your tuition, fees, and books or supplies unless you are a Chapter 31 (VocRehab) or Chapter 33 (Post 9/11). Books are paid at a rate of \$41.67 per credit hour for Chapter 33. Your GI Bill educational benefits are paid because you are attending school. When not attending school you will not be paid, and dropping classes or being dropped from class will result in a reduction of your benefits.

Things That Can Influence Your Benefits

- The student **MUST fill out** forms in **each** semester. If the student has not filled out the Y-1 before each semester then benefits will not be processed.
- TCC is not a yellow ribbon school
- Full-time for all chapters is 12 hours for Spring and Fall semesters and 6 hours for Summer semester.
- Post 9/11 vets must be enrolled in at least one hour over half time to receive BAH.
- Non-pertinent classes **WILL NOT** be certified and you will not be paid for those classes. These classes must be in your degree plan or it will not be certified. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they are in the right class.
- The Veteran Services Office will not call or attempt to contact the student if in a non-pertinent class.
- Students **WILL NOT** be paid for any course for which the student previously received a passing grade ("D" or above) or a recent incomplete (grade of "I"). These classes cannot be certified. After a year "I" grades revert to non-punitive and that course can be certified again.
- Students **WILL NOT** be paid for any course not included, or substituted, by the Academic Advisement Office or Division Office in the student's degree plan.
- Students are responsible to report **ALL** changes to their schedule (Drop, Add, Audit, Withdrawals, class cancellation, etc.) to TCC Veterans Services Office. Any of the above changes could result in an overpayment requiring the student to owe money back to the DVA.
- Failure to attend and maintain satisfactory progress in classes will cause disruption in benefits and/or overpayment. If student becomes academically suspended there will be an overpayment for any classes in that semester and the VA will recover some or all of that educational benefit.
- **Fast-track courses** (short courses) will only pay while they are in session.
- The student is responsible for any debts incurred with TCC.
- Students **WILL NOT** be paid for developmental ("0" level) courses unless placement test scores are provided.
- Students **WILL NOT** be paid for any online developmental class. All developmental courses must be "live" classes in an actual classroom.
- It is the student's responsibility to follow up with admissions to insure that transcripts have been received and will be processed.

- All notifications in an official capacity by the Veteran's office will be conducted via the student's school email address. The Veteran Services Office will not use your personal email address for official communication.
- Chapter 33 (Post 9/11) tuition and fee claims will not be processed until after the drop/add period.
- Chapter 33 (Post 9/11) will not pay out of state tuition costs.
- Computer proficiency requirement must be taken as part of your degree either as part of the student's degree requirements or as an elective. If all elective slots are filled except one we cannot certify any other class except for the Computer Proficiency course.

Helpful Tips / Hints / Info

Parent School Letters: Students wishing to attend classes at TCC that will be applied to a degree at another institution must provide a Parent School Letter stating that the courses will be accepted at the parent institution. The form must be provided before the classes can be certified with the VA. We will contact the Parent institution on your behalf but you should also let them know of your plans.

Direct Deposit: All chapters are eligible for direct deposit of their benefits to their accounts. To initiate or change banking information there are three options. You can call 1-888-442-4551, fill out the appropriate data update form, or log into the online WAVE site below and update the information there.

<https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do>

Remedial Courses: The VA will only count remedial courses towards their enrollment level if the student's placement test requires those courses for their degree. Remember: The VA will not pay for online remedial courses.

Federal Tuition Assistance: Army National Guardsman, Coast Guardsman, Army Reservists, and Air Force Reservists are all eligible to receive Federal Tuition Assistance through their respective service branches. Check with your unit administrator for details on the program offered through your branch.

National Guard Tuition Waiver: Oklahoma National Guardsman are eligible for a tuition waiver granted through the Oklahoma Military Department. Requests must be submitted through the service member's Unit Administrator.

VA Work-study: Work-study programs are available through the VA to students receiving their GI Bill at a $\frac{3}{4}$ or greater enrollment level. Limited positions are available at the school, certified businesses, and many VA locations. Work-studies are paid tax free minimum wage and allotted 25 hours per week they are in school. Please inquire with the VA counselors at the school for more information.

Military Transcripts & Credit: Credit hours for military training are available with official transcripts from veteran's respective service branch. They will be applied to your academic record after completing 12 hours at the university with an enrollment in an additional semester.

Transcripts may be obtained from the Joint Services Transcript website:

jst.doded.mil/official.html.