



**Veteran Education
Office
Veteran Information
Bulletin**

(201910)

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 veterans benefits.

Contact Our Office:

Office Hours:

9:00 AM to 6:00 PM (Mon. – Thurs.)

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

School Certifying Officials:

Matt Hopkins, Veteran Services Coordinator

918-595-7279

matt.hopkins@tulsacc.edu

James Dodson, Veteran Services Advisor

918-595-7279

james.dodson@tulsacc.edu

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

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

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 888

Muskogee, OK 74402-8888

Eligibility, Chapter Selection and Length of Benefits

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

Dependants 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 - Dependant 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

Chapter 1607 - Actively a Member of Reserves or National Guard with Deployment

****Special note about Chapter 1607****

Current REAP beneficiaries -- Veterans who were attending an educational institution on November 24, 2015, or during the last semester, quarter, or term ending prior to that date, are eligible to continue to receive REAP benefits until November 25, 2019.

REAP beneficiaries not attending school -- Veterans who applied for REAP but were not attending an educational institution on November 24, 2015, or during the last semester, quarter, or term ending prior to that date, are no longer eligible to receive REAP benefits. You may be eligible to receive benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

New REAP applicants – Veterans who have not enrolled in school and applied for REAP benefits prior to November 25, 2015, are no longer eligible for REAP benefits. However, in most cases, you will be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Eligibility, Chapter Selection and Length of Benefits (cont'd)

It may be possible to 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 in order to get a clear understanding on the amount of compensation that you will receive in order to make an informed decision on which chapter will work best for you.

*Eligibility of service members to transfer their benefits must first be determined by the VA through the online application found at: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/> Following approval of the transfer dependents must fill out the modified VA form 1990E. Additional information is available from your VA coordinator and online at:

http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/CH33/Transfer.htm

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.

Required Documents and How to Get Them

When you first apply for benefits there are a many documents that you must be submit in order for Veteran Affairs to consider you claim based on which chapter you are applying for. It is important to turn in these documents as soon as possible to avoid delays in processing your claim. After submission there is a typical lead time of 4-6 weeks, but may be as much as 12 weeks during peak processing times. Below is a list of the documents required for each chapter.

Required Documents:

Chapter 30:

- VA form 22-1990
- DD-214
- Personal Banking Routing & Account Numbers

Chapter 31(Vocational Rehab):

- Contact Your Vocational Rehabilitation Case Manager

Chapter 33(Post 9/11):

- VA form 22-1990
- DD-214
- Bank Routing & Account Numbers

Chapter 35 Disabled Vet (Dependent):

- VA form 22-5490
- Document Showing 100% Disability of Veteran or Death Certificate
- Marriage Certificate (spouse) or Birth Certificate (child)

Chapter 1606 & 1607 (REAP):

- VA form 22-1990
- 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 you need to fill out form 22-1995 or 22-5495 for dependents. 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 as well.

Required Documents and How to Get Them (cont'd)

VA Forms: will be provided at the school, they may also be found at:

<https://www.vets.gov/education/>

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.

Application, Certification, & Verification

Checklist for Returning and New Students

- Apply at <http://www.tulsacc.edu/>
- Apply or Transfer Benefits
- Talk to Academic Advisor
- Come to VA Office to fill out Confirmation of Enrollment
 - You must do this **BEFORE** you register or your classes will be dropped!
- Bring in copy of DD214 and NOBE or Certificate of eligibility
- Enroll for desired semester/classes
- Bring a Degree Audit from the Advisement desk, to the VA office
- Request Joint-Service Transcript (<https://jst.doded.mil>) or CCAF transcript
- Visit <https://fafsa.ed.gov> for grants or loans, and speak to financial aid about awards

Currently chapters 30, 1606, and 1607 (REAP) 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 his or her 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 he or she can continue using his or her 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 (VAVR) 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.

Things That Can Influence Your Benefits

- The student **MUST** bring forms in each semester. **No fax, no mail, no email.** If the student has not filled out the Y-1 and brought a degree audit 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 in at least 7 hours for the Fall/Spring or 4 hours for the Summer to receive even part time 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 an incomplete (grade of "I"). These classes cannot be certified
- 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 my classes will cause disruption in benefits and/or overpayment. If student becomes academically suspended there will be 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 Compass test scores are provided.
- Students **WILL NOT** be paid for any online developmental class. Blended classes are considered on-line. All developmental courses must be "live" classes in an actual classroom.

- Certification of your benefits require a degree audit from academic advising. We will not process your benefits unless you provide your degree audit **every semester**.
- Education benefits can only be processed for one semester without official transcripts from all previous colleges and military service.
- 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.
- Certifications will not be submitted until after grades are posted for the previous semester.
- 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.